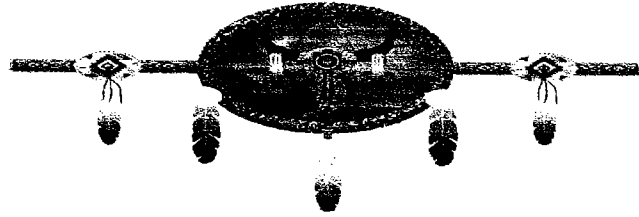


War Dance of Our Children



I counted seventeen ravens as they circled above. Their rehearsal of aerial acrobatic warfare captivated my attention. I watched as they continued their war dance. On a branch of a dead pine tree, a young eagle watched with nonchalant interest, eating his morning meal. As they approached the eagle, the ravens boasted of their bravery. Closer and closer, the raven came to Eagle's breakfast table.

Harassing the young eagle, the ravens tried to intrude upon his nourishment. Although the strong Wind Spirits, helped spiral their black feathers into blurs of rolling balls. Ravens did not intimidate Eagle this day, Eagle finished his meal and flew into another important moment. The tree limb was immediately overtaken by the ravens and the remains of the predator's kill was scavenged upon.

The raven played their part and kept the natural order clean. Both the eagle and the ravens won this day. Ravens displayed integrity and purpose. Eagle

displayed tolerance and generosity. War is the breakdown of order. And There was no aerial combat this day, for the order of nature remained intact. Violence is the extreme outcome of this break down.

Civilization has accelerated the occurrence of war. For with progress and special interest groups the gap of the haves and the have-nots continues to widen.

Motivated by greed, power, and control, nations of warring individuals determine who will get the spoils. Motivated by hunger, poverty, oppression and resentment, groups are fighting back the only way they can. Listen carefully and you will hear oppressed segments of society screaming with Raven's voice.

Watch the news and you will see gangs scavenge the ghettos. Look around and you will witness the war dance of our children.

Stop and wonder if gang activity may be an attempt at scavenger survival.

Yet, see the difference. As the eyes of the raven reflect the natural reflect the natural order and their rightful place on the Hoop of Life, the eyes of our children reflect their circumstance and social neglect. Look into the eyes of our children. What order do you see? Hierarchy or equality? Who determines their food chain? As green trees are sacrificed for green paper in wallets , philosophies like "me" and "mine" dominate the world. When the "me" is

prioritized the "we" is sacrificed. "We" need to become a world family in order to transcend to the heights of both Raven and Eagle— where all are respected as members of the Sacred Hoop. Raven respects Eagle. Eagle respects Raven. Can we say the same of civilization. Does civilization promote mutual respect? The "me" focus of this world fosters competition and more greed. Are prisons the only limb we can extend to our children? Can prison be built and supported fast enough to sustain a forgotten population? What can we share? How can we become united in spirit and in truth? What have we to offer our children?

Look to the lesson of Eagle and Ravens. Eagle feasts and returns to Sky Father, then Ravens descend to share this feast. Feasting is integral in the natural order. Wolves share a kill. Deer graze together. Geese feed in flocks. Bees and ants share storage mounds . Humans have feasted after hunts for thousands of years.

We must learn from the natural and prepare and offer a feast for our children. All our children. We must make this a priority. Although many organizations understand that we must feed our children and distribute food world wide, come to see that children need other nourishment, as well.

Children thirst for our love, time, and touch. They hunger for wide opportunities and narrow limits. They become malnourished when they grow without values. They may starve of a lack of meaning. This is the food of the heart. This is the food of the spirit. This is the food we must share.

Come to see that there is an abundance of all of this! Just as food goes to waste each day, much of what could offer to our children's mental, emotional and spiritual diet also thrown away. There is no need to be greedy when love, time, touch, opportunities, limits, values and meaning are bountiful. When we give of these things, the rewards multiply and strengthen society. More seeds are planted, more fruits are harvested, more health pervades.

What nourishment can you afford from your high treetop view? Give freely to the children of the world. Make a concentrated effort to offer sustenance to Earth's children you encounter each day. Like Ravens, people are searching for internal nourishment. May we come to truly understand the food chain that we spearhead. Like brother Eagle, may we offer the gift of nourishment to others.

