

Introduction

Outward Silence and Inner Stillness

In 1992, I attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, popularly known as the Earth Summit. I was struck by the criticism of existing models of leadership and development and the need to develop global community and interdependence among people of all nations.

Later that year, I met Thomas Banyacya, a Hopi Elder, who addressed the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, Human Rights Day, in the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City. He delivered his Hopi Prophecy on the need to change our consciousness and come into right relationship with the earth and its resources.

Afterwards, I was asked to escort him to the reception and we became friends. The next year we both attended the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Though Thomas died in 1999, I continue to listen to his message as well as share it with others. [(to view <https://vimeo.com/20313287>)] I believe we are still connected. Thomas emphasized the need for each of us to develop a relationship with the Great Spirit and reverence for the earth.

I thought of him and his message as I became a Reconciliation Leader and developed the process and training for others in the United Nations community. Through the program, I help people develop a deeper relationship with their higher power, the earth and its resources.

The Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will (hereafter the Peacebuilding Process) is my offering for a new development model, lightly facilitated by Reconciliation Leaders to help participants and ordinary people voice and reconcile their concerns in an emotionally safe environment. Drawing on Rousseau's political philosophy of the general will of the people, the Reconciliation Leader is a politician who facilitates the will of the people in a Peacebuilding Process.

The pages of this book tell the story of my soul journey to redefine leadership. I offer my contribution to new leadership and development models in response to the Hopi Prophecy to change consciousness in America, according to the need I perceived at the Earth Summit to develop global community, international cooperation, interdependence, and a personal mission and purpose in partnership with a Higher Power.

Almost nine years after hearing Thomas' Hopi prophecy and sharing it with many others, I had a dream of a Phoenix rising out of the ashes of Ground Zero while I was asleep in New York City the night after the World Trade Center attack. The Phoenix signaled a new era for me and a way for America to enact the Hopi Prophecy.

It all began when I was in a spiritual emergency.

I am an ordinary woman with extraordinary experiences. My story begins in 1979. Within a fifteen-month period, I had lost three people in my life and did not think I had the inner resources to endure my grief and rage.

Like many others in crisis, forced to slow down against their will, I cried for six months, emptying myself before reflecting, facing and walking through uncertainty, grief and chaos. It took years to come to clarity.

In that clarity, I found my life's work, marriage, a new perspective on death and my own worth and contribution to society. A spirituality beyond my wildest imaginings was revealed to me in personal meditative experiences with spiritual figures--Mary, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Sophia, The Grandmothers, White Buffalo Woman, Mt. Tamalpais itself, and on 9/11, the Phoenix.

Through these experiences, I gained hope by having power over my life that resulted in my transformation--incorporating the teachings of Christ. I learned that true power comes from having self-confidence and trust in my personal relationship with God. Because I have a reassuring and deep experience of being loved and spoken to by Him through my inner Voice, I now know how to discern my outer life path to make a difference in the world.

I recount in this book how I claimed and followed my inner Voice of Love in my work and action on five continents as educator, counselor, coach, mediator and trainer; adjunct professor at seven colleges and universities; and leadership coach and trainer for twenty-five years in the United Nations community.

Besides learning from the Hopi Nation teachings through Elder Thomas Banyacya, I found inspiration in the life and words of the late second UN Secretary, General Dag Hammarskjöld. From the very beginning of my time at the United Nations, I was drawn to study his life, pray and meditate at the UN as well as invite both UN staff and Reconciliation Leader trainees to join me in prayer in his Meditation Room. [www.un.org/depts/dhl/dag/meditationroom.htm].

I trained Reconciliation Leaders to incorporate prayer, meditation, and reflection into their action life. I believe in the need to be reflective, meditative and vocationally called to bring strength, resources and true power to the work of leadership.

Hammarskjöld's words inscribed outside his Meditation Room still move me. It is his introduction to the need claim one's inner life as the way to peace and feeling safe in the world. Hammarskjöld's words redefine security as being within each person. This is an important step for UN reform as it requires changing the use of armed force to soul force.

We all have within us a center of stillness surrounded by silence. This House dedicated to work and debate in the service of peace should have one room dedicated to outward silence and inner stillness. Join in this work of peace and enter this small room where doors may be opened to the infinite land of thought and prayer.

As a gift to you, dear Reader, I have enclosed questions at the end of each chapter for you to begin your own spiritual memoir. Use the questions to first reflect and then write in your journal.

Here is my first question: *Where would you begin to reflect on the state of your soul if you were beginning your own spiritual memoir?*