



Indigenous Wisdom

FOR THE EARTH with
Woman Stands Shining - Pat McCabe
SEEING BEYOND THE ILLUSIONS



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Welcome, everyone, and thank you so much for joining us for the Indigenous Wisdom for the Earth series. This series is a place for indigenous people to share their wisdom, their cultural heritage, their beliefs, and the challenges that they face. It is also for groups who work to help indigenous people to bring a voice to their needs and offer ways that you can get involved.

The purpose of the series is to open our hearts and minds to cultures who have treasured our planet and could share with us insights that we can use to become more connected with nature and each other. We hope that you will be inspired, informed and intrigued.

This month our honoured guest is Woman Stands Shining (Pat McCabe). On this call, she speaks of human relations with Mother Earth, how we've been deceived, Trickster energy and the power of healing these dis-illusions. Woman Stands Shining (Pat McCabe) takes us through a heartfelt look at what these deceptions are and how it has affected women and all humanity. She speaks of what we need to do to go beyond these limitations and asks us all to remember that we are all born in Original Beauty.



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Clare: Welcome everyone and many, many blessings and so much gratitude that in our over busy lives you have taken the time to come together. We are here from all over the world and I'm still watching women pouring in. I am so, so grateful. We have a woman with us, who it's hard for me to articulate how deeply I respect.

I respect the individuals of this world who are willing to literally stand in the fire of the truth of what we all have gone through and alchemize it through their bodies. And come ever more into the place of truth and alignment with what is and what needs to be and to open themselves to that challenge. And I know few in this world who do that as strongly, as resolutely and courageously as Pat McCabe. Pat, I just want to say thank you so, so much for being with us.

Pat: Thank you, Clare. Such an honor to be on this call today. And at this time, on this Mother Earth.

Clare: Pat's name is "Woman Stands Shining" and I know that we're going to get the story of that name and I can't wait to finally know; I've already been curious. And I called her talk 'Women Stands Shining' because to me, her name is the invitation and the invocation for all of us. I feel like she is a gateway to a level of authentic beingness for all of us. And it's strange, I feel a little bit like I'm standing in a very high place like on top of a mountain, with Pat and with all of you. And my hope on this high place is that we can call upon the energy of the Earth and we can call upon the limitlessness of the sky. And together as Pat opens for us, we will be able to connect to what most profoundly matters and what most connects us all. And come into ceremony as the beginning of everything that we are about to do.

So, I invite you in whatever way feels true or you see in your mind and your heart to come to this high place, this high place with a 360 degree view of splendor and sky, to be in circle with Pat and I and the TreeSisters team.

And I'm going to invite you, Pat, please to bless us with an opening that can seed the energetic quality within which we will make this journey together.

Pat: (Speaking in Diné language) ... Holy people all around, take a good look at your children gathered here today in heart, mind, body and spirit. We're coming together today out of a great love and also a deep feeling.

A deep feeling of interrelatedness, interconnectedness. Of commitment in a love affair that we have this life, with this Mother Earth, with all of the spiritual help and the seen and unseen body of this creation. And I ask that through the course of this call that you help us to really understand that we are, we are creation. We are not apart from it. And I want to call in some spiritual help here for this, not just for today, but for this whole intention. (Sings in Diné language). Thank you.



Clare: Pat, your voice makes me weep and anyone who's been reading my Facebook post since the Bioneers Conference will know that my world just got rocked again with more and more understanding about what the native people, the First Nations people of Turtle Island have been put through and are still going through.

And I find it heartbreaking and inconceivable that in my awareness now those people who are most connected, most respectful, most reverent, most of the Earth, most Earth loving, most vital for any human being, understanding what it means to be part of Nature, rather than dominant and subjugating that the peoples, the first peoples of places all over the world, actually the indigenous peoples of these places know how to be in relationship and yet, they are being the most attacked and harmed and condemned and treated as if they are less than nothing.



Photograph by Daniel Seßler

And I don't know how to hold that grief in my heart. And, Pat, you are extraordinary because you also have so much deeper awareness of what the European women have gone through and we'll touch on that later. But it's like there's a bigger picture here. There's a bigger picture that includes our karma, it includes lineages that includes... you know, I sometimes wonder whether those of us that are most subjugated go through that, because with the intense shadow, that intensity of light gets to reverse itself. And I wonder when I watch Standing Rock, whether or not it's taking this level of subjugation almost in the same way that Tibet was ripped asunder, to bring the actual purity of native wisdom to the world. I'm just going to hand you the talking stick and invite you to start wherever you feel like starting in this moment, and I am going to follow you.

Pat: Well, what an interesting thing to bring up is Tibet. I had an opportunity to meet with a group of Tibetans come to my home. I live in Taos, New Mexico here in the United States and I've lived here for 30 years. so grateful that that's true. We have a lot of visitors come through here. It's traditionally, this is the home of the Red Willow people, the Taos Pueblo people. And they have managed to hold a space of Crossroads for, for many different native peoples and, and throughout the America.

So it's just traditionally that kind of a place. But the Tibetans come through here, usually every year and they do a performance, a musical performance. And I had a chance to have breakfast with them one time and just really listening to their story of the atrocity, the violence, the... just horrendous, right? And just to see their beaming faces, and to see really, just as you've indicated that it was the... it was supposed to be the, the destruction and the suppression of these people and instead it just exploded and sent them all over the world to start these beautiful sacred fires of prayer and intention, like everywhere on the planet. So, I love that. I mean, as difficult as the history is, I really feel like that's a fabulous example and template for us at this time and for indigenous people worldwide.

Not an easy road to get to and so, you know, I feel like my work is twofold at least, but in terms of what you were just bringing up. So on the one hand one of my sort of tag lines and maybe people have heard me say, if you've heard me speak anywhere, is collectively I want to talk about why. Why I'm willing to take up room here in the conversation.

It's not just to be of a cultural show and tell. An exotic exoticism. I really do feel like there's profound purpose and in fact it's in the prophecies that, you know, if sustainability is the highest and most sought-after technology on the planet, who should we be talking to? We should be talking to those people who've known how to live in one place over an extended period of time, a thousand years, 2000 years, 3000 years, 4000 years, and etc, you know, in relative health, harmony and happiness. And we can find people who have known how to do this all over the Mother Earth everywhere. And so we call those people indigenous, because indigenous means that they are of place.

So they have made it, they have a lot of times indigenous people will talk about their emergence from a place and so there's like a destiny some might even say, of why they are connected to a certain place. And through that relationship with place they have come to understand who they are and also how to be in relationship with their place.

And so that's a very... it's a constant conversation and a lot of that conversation takes place not through the intellect, which is a really difficult thing for modern world to grasp, but it tends to happen through song and dance, ceremony, prayer, visioning, etc. The language of the Earth doesn't always come out in Oxford English. In fact, rarely does it.

We have held on to a very broad spectrum of ways of knowing that includes all of those modalities and we can say that these are modalities that human beings have planet wide, because they are in all these cultures. It's all in song, dance, prayer, ceremony, offering, you know it's... there is a little bit of a formula we could say about how human beings have had this relationship with Earth.

So that is why I feel like it is appropriate for me with my fairly limited understanding to go ahead and take up space in the conversation here.



But then going the other direction, there is also a lot to talk about, meaning to talk with other indigenous people, because from my perspective what was said to us is that... you know at some point humanity would get lost, very, very lost and... in that... and in becoming lost eventually they will become hungry for life again.

And when that happened, they would pause, and they would come looking for us again. And so, our job was to safe keep the understanding of right relations between the human being and the Mother Earth.

And then when the time was right what we have safeguarded was to be brought out again. And so that is a heck of a process when you have experienced attempted genocide. To go through that humiliation, to go through that crucifixion, in so many different ways, smallpox, massacres, bringing the kids into the boarding schools to destroy culture, in so many ways.

But what we were asked to do then is to be able to meet this humanity that for whatever reason got separated from their original instructions, that we are to keep ourselves in a way where we can meet them, because we need to be in this together.

And so, that's a lot of ground to cover, I will say.

Clare: You know, as you're speaking and I just want to say again Pat, how... it is so interesting when you say this is why I am taking up space here, it's... it's such a privilege.

But as you are speaking and I am thinking about what's been done, you know, to your people, to the Tibetan people, to the Aboriginal people of Australia, to people all over this world and what I am learning is still happening to Native American people all over this continent, there is a particular alchemy that I feel and I've experienced it so much in my life, so I am talking about it from my own experience when one is in radical fear, when one is in a state of horror, of unsafety, how to cling on to one's own soul, like, how you hold and stay and do not die and do not turn away. That when I think about what's happened to your people, it is almost as if humanity has thrown the absolute worst of ourselves, like just thrown... I don't know... I don't have words for what we've thrown, but let's just say atrocity and in a way for the ego, you know, when we are abused, one of the biggest wounds is not feeling seen. Not feeling seen, not feeling received, not being cherished, not being honored and the indigenous peoples are those that do the most cherishing and honoring, acknowledging and you haven't just not been seen, not been received, not been valued, you've been the absolute opposite. And yet you have the thread of your cultures, the beauty of your wisdom, the ceremonies, the truth still exists. It's like this line of light, this root system of light and connection that cannot actually be put out, because it is a fundamental truth. It is like the fundamental truth of human's relationships to the Earth.



And so you stand like this blazing torch with all this shit being thrown at you and somehow I just wonder about the actual like the alchemy within our collective consciousness that has required us to play this play, this bizarre setup where the shit is being thrown and you're standing and you're standing and you're surviving and you're... to the point where you could bring, I mean... I can't remember who at Bioneers said, 'I don't understand why the native peoples don't, like, hate us and attack us way more considering what's being done', but you stand with this nobility, it's extraordinary.

And there is alchemy in that, there is alchemy in the transforming of the radical disconnect that is allowing this behavior to be perpetuated at all, for that then to be... like that is part of your transmission, that is part of the gift that you give us back, is who you still are in your radical nobility on behalf of this planet and each other and all of life you're still including us in all of life despite everything that we have done.

Pat: Well, there's a couple things in there that strike me.

One, it's been proposed to me and really, it's, I will call it a part of something that is a part of most indigenous cultures that I've ever encountered. There is an element or an entity, we can even say that we call the trickster. And so a lot of people are familiar with the coyote stories and they're kind of endearing and a little bit cute and a little bit like a moralistic fable or something but my elders assured me, in fact, they're concerned a little bit about those cute little coyote stories because they say, you know, it's not really the complete story. And it's making light of something that is very, very, very serious.

And so this trickster element can become a life and death element. It's not just a herding of the children in line again. It can come down to whether or not humanity is going to answer the call. It's present there as well. And, and so, you know, one thing that occurs to me well, that I've been told and that actually happened during the ceremonies that we did in Europe surrounding the so-called witch hunts that took place there. It was proposed to me at that time that from the time humanity arrived here, we encountered the trickster elements.

And I can't really say that I know for sure what the trickster element is up to, but a lot of times, you know, so I say I try things on just to see how they fit. And one of the things that I've been trying on for some time now is, so what if this trickster is intent on tricking us out of this holy gift of life? Tricking us out of this paradise even. What would that really take? And I think, well, it's pretty ambitious because... because there's life blasting everywhere all around us all the time. You have to really work hard to stop it. And unfortunately, we are seeming pretty willing to work that hard to stop it. But I mean, it takes a huge amount of effort because it's just this Mother Earth is just blasting life. The plan here is life. The plan is life, you know, and so how do you make human beings forget about life?





Photograph by Dodi Achmad

Well, I would say you do it one little deception at a time. One little deception at a time. Until we come to today, where too many of our children worldwide don't understand that food comes out of the ground. They don't understand that water comes up from the Earth. This morning, I took this amazing beautiful walk because I wanted to go walk among my trees, to kind of get ready and see if they had anything to say here. And there's a spring that comes right out of the ground that that I can just put my hand right in and drink right out of.

And so there's all that life but you know, our children don't understand that water comes out of the ground. It does not come out of the faucet. It does not come out of the bottle.

I think probably if you said to many children, what if you run out of water? They might say, well, I'll just drink coke instead. They don't... they're just not making the connection. So the tricksters work is moving along quite nicely, I would say. And so it's good news bad news. So I guess where that's coming from is in this piece that you're saying about, you know, this horrendous treatment. You don't even know the name for what (it) was (that was) thrown at us. But what I've been told about that, is that there's been huge deception. We have not... this is not just our own nature doing its thing. We have been....

Okay, so let me back up a little bit here. Since I've already stepped into this mud and say that along with the trickster being here is the law of free will. So, with the law of free will, the only thing that trickster can really do if it's not going to violate spiritual law, and cross the line of free will is to keep presenting illusions and delusions that engage our freewill in a certain... in such a way that we ourselves will choose to move against life. And what I like about that is that I can unengage myself from that deception and that delusion if I am aware of it. Yeah, so for me part of that illusion is the separation between cultures and races.

And I learned a huge amount doing the human reunion ceremonies in Europe that told me so much more about our connection and was and opened up even more common ground for me with my European relative and compassion.



Clare: So, I mean, you're touching there on another of the greatest deceptions. Another incredibly harmful one that of connected women being, which is that of us being sin. Like the ultimate, the ultimate heresy really being the turning of the receptive, sensitive relational beings of this world into abomination.

And I put my myself, I have very deep memories of the witch burnings, and I know that you do. I know that many people I know who do ceremony also remember, and so it's an interesting thing that we seem to incarnate through different lineages and have these different experiences that are part of our bodies and part of our cultural inheritance but also part of our karmic inheritance sitting in our bodies.

And I've looked at my own journey, and I've looked at why is it that I keep seemingly choose these extremely difficult circumstances to try and rise through? This business of trying to stand and rise and repeat that journey again and again. And you're doing the same so I would love to hear if you'd share how you came into that awareness and how you made that choice to do ceremony in the way that you did it all around Europe.

Pat: Well, my choice was actually, the part where I had choice, was in saying to Spirit, I am willing to be of service in whatever way you think I can be. And my goal is to serve and to will the dawn with my own will, I will the dawn of the very highest possibility for life, light and love.

Now what... where that would lead me I had no idea, which was probably a good thing. But that's where my choice came in. So that's the thing about making that choice. It's you don't get to say then where it's going to... where you go, you know, that's really turning it over to Spirit. So what Spirit? Well, to be honest, I don't really know whether it was Spirit or Trickster, but in the end, it kind of doesn't matter because all spirits grow.

I was in this work experience where I mean, I hadn't actually had a like a regular job for several years. And instead, I'd been doing lots and lots of work around masculine and feminine. But I put a prayer out about wanting to help young people and so this job came along that seemed like a very good opportunity to do that. But the structure of the organization was such that the board was almost all men and there were some men who just really didn't have very even basic inter-relational skills involved.

And so I hadn't really encountered... most of the men I had been encountering were coming in very deep reverence, and really seeking and really opening their hearts to new things. And so they were coming to me in a very humble way. But in this situation, we'll have to guess it's more like mainstream culture. And I just hadn't experienced that for a long time. And so I was getting really.... Anyway, I had a big old dose of this very strange, masculine power dynamic. And what ended up happening as a result of it was I started having visions of the witch hunt trials.



Because the dynamics in the situation were really parallel. So I don't know why that kicked that off at this time. I mean, clearly, it was a destiny for me to pass through in this lifetime. And it's the culmination of many lifetimes. And so I started really seeing the trials. And just seeing how the structure of it was. How the buildings were so grandiose. There were only men involved in the trials and they were wearing their very official clothing. They were speaking beautiful orations to each other for each other, about justice and etc. And as I was standing there with my hands tied behind my back, I knew there was not a snowball's chance in hell of getting justice there.

And so, I got to taste that fear and disdain. So deep! What a deep drink, I took of that again. And then I was also shown what happens when you were found guilty. They didn't dwell on that overly, but I did get shown mostly just the ferocity and the cruelty of what these people could come up with for torture and for destruction.

Because I needed to understand why that could be so branded into, like a soul. Like cellular memory, historical trauma. They wanted me to really understand this is why this is still prevalent. This is why this is still moving and being enacted in its way today. Like, you would have to wonder, how could that be, you know, but well, they're like, well, this is why. I mean, they used to make the children watch so that they could, so they would never forget who they were and who they were not. Who has the power and who did not, you know? I mean, it was really systematic. And, and so I was kind of losing my mind. Honestly, I was walking around this world and I was seeing how it was still going on. It was like I just had these terrible goggles on a theme. "My god, it's still going on." And, and actually as fate would have it, you know, right at that point the Planned Parenthood hearings were taking place, you know, in Washington DC and just... I just caught a little bit of that. And I was just like, "Holy smokes, it's right there. That's it. That is the witch trial right there." And just the sarcasm, the snide commentary of these politicians, as they were talking to the head of Planned Parenthood was just so... reminded me, but even in less obvious ways, like I, what I said was, you know, we're still burning the women at the stake.

And now we don't even I mean; this isn't true everywhere. There are places where their women are still literally getting burned at the stake in Africa for witchcraft. But in another way, we're burning the women at the stake and we don't even leave a mark. We don't even have to leave a mark. It's all internalized. It's all internalized. And so I saw that. I saw the women are burning women at the stake, and I saw the women are burning themselves at the stake.

Clare: Yeah.

Pat: So, I was heading down this rabbit hole, I'll try to keep this a little bit brief here, (because) it is a pretty long story. But what ended up happening was I was told that in order to heal myself because I was kind of losing it. I was kind of losing track of this reality that I am walking in right now and I just was almost all the way over there all the time and that was a problem.



And so what I was told was that my lineage had the power to heal me by they said, "If you were to travel back and back and back into your lineage"... that I would come to a place where the women and the men and everybody not only knew about the truth of who the women is to creation and who creation is to the woman, but that they were living it.

And so they told me to just follow my lineage back like I was holding on to a rope and when I got to that place I should just stay there for a while and just soak it up, you know, like I had to know what the truth is.

And so I did that and they also told me that you know, that if your lineage has the power of healing you out of this visioning cycle you are in, then it also has the power to heal your European sisters and it also has the power to...you know, all indigenous women all over the world have a lineage that can help heal this situation and heal your European sisters. And this spirit helper that was talking to me told me, "and that's what has to happen." So, I went wow, okay.

So, and this brings me to a topic that I really did want to touch on here, in fact I was asked to bring it up here and that is the nature of healing. So, what was proposed to me is this, and I think it is relevant, in so much of what we want to heal today in all directions. So it really helped clarify some things for me, I was told, "All healing is, is the truth and all diseases is, is a lie."

So when we are in disease some part of us is believing a lie, in body, mind, heart or spirit is believing a lie. And so all the healer does is hold the truth firmly within themselves. And the healer is also able to express to the person with the disease the truth in a way that the person with the disease can hold on to.

It makes sense. It clicks for them in such a way that they can hold on to it themselves and they can speak that truth to themselves and it just keeps regenerating. It just keeps generating truth. So, that gets set in motion by the healer. And so, when the vibration of the disease begins to vibrate the vibration of truth then that is what we call healing, they said.



Photo by Jay Castor

And I thought, "My gosh, no one has ever said that to me before, but it makes perfect sense." So, what they said to me was, "What you need to do is to get women from all over the Earth, indigenous women from all over the Earth and all of you are going to go to Europe and you are one after the other going to speak the truth of who the woman is to creation and who creation is to the woman out of your ancient cultures from each part of the Earth. So you are going to corroborate the truth with each other as the Earth has spoken it to your people, through your people, through the womens lineage and you are going to speak that truth one after another," and she said, you know, "It might take some days for you to do this storytelling but you just do it one after another." And then she said, "At a certain point the vibration of truth is going to be so strong that it is going to address all the deception that took place during the witch hunts in Europe." And they call those witch hunts in Europe an 'Archetypal Wounding of Humanity'.

But that was a big place, you know, it wasn't the beginning of the persecution and destruction of women and the feminine, but there was something about that period where things really crystallized and affected things in a very profound way, so they said, "So, this is where... to do this will address this Archetypal Wounding of Humanity."

And so, we had a woman from Colombia, Chili, Mexico, Australia, Malaysia, Namibia, another Diné woman and myself and then my fire keeper and my son. And we traveled and we did this ceremony. So after you tell these stories for some days, then the ceremony would be ninety percent complete, but then together you will collaborate to agree on a simple ceremony to ground this into the Earth, to ground it into your body, to bring... to let your mind know you've had a completion. And it will be done.

So, we all headed for Europe. So, I really didn't think, you know it takes money to do this stuff and all... that was my first thought. Well, apart from having to step through my own cellular memory trauma, which was significant day by day. There were some days when I just couldn't send an email or look into a plane ticket or anything, you know? I was so out there with this that I really couldn't even ask for help, because I just didn't know from one day to the next what to even do. But what was really amazing to me about this is and you know, and I know this from other things, but this was sort of a deepening of that, is when you are spirit directed and you are just willing to take even the first step, even if you have no idea what the second step will be much less the third or the fourth or whatever, you know, but if you can trust that voice, and you can take that first step, whatever it is, that way will be shown to you. It'll be shown and it will be shown the next step and the next step and the next step and the next step. And so that's what happened. I mean, you know, can imagine talking to funders, so to speak about this proposal.

Well, you know, you are kind of like out there, right away. But people responded immediately. I think we raised like \$32,000 in like 20 days. And people just got it. And it wasn't me. It was because it was directed by spirit and the Mother Earth herself.



And so all that opened and so we brought this ceremony, we did one week of ceremony in each country for four weeks. We went to England and Spain, France, Italy. We did kind of a very mini version in Germany.

That was what was said, and you know, it was so... I mean it was overwhelming in many ways. Over and over again. But the spirits didn't seem to care. They were like, all right, yeah, you're overwhelmed. Right, right. We'll wait, we'll wait. Okay, are you ready? Let's keep going. Let's keep going. It was just kind of like that on and on.

But what's amazing about it is, is I get the possibilities of what can be done. So this is just one example of that bringing of the truth, creating that vibration of truth to realign the lies.

I'm going to stop here in a second. But I want to say that, you know, really, I felt like all of this also began with the 'New Story Summit' that took place at Findhorn. And that was in 2014, I believe. And so, they called it the 'New Story Summit' after Charles Eisenstein, kind of talking about how we need... we're operating out of a story and it's not a very good story. It's not leading where we want it to go. And so, we need a new story. And so, then there's a big debate about do we really need a new story, or do we need to go back to an ancient story? And so we kind of had that debate in the middle of all that and which is why I think Charles calls his blog now "The New and Ancient Story".

But, but really what came out of that for me was I got a very clear directive at that gathering. And it said, rather than try to start from this point and move forward, like telling a new story, like coming up with a new story together, it would be easier, they said, to retell the old story. And if you retell the old story, the trajectory into the future will automatically change.

Clare: Yeah.

Pat: So that's a riddle that I've been working on, but I feel like this directive about doing this work in Europe was an example of that and I want to let you have a response to this, Clare. But I feel like there's one other piece to say too now that I'm thinking about it... and that is that they've already given me the next archetypal wounding that has to be addressed.

Clare: Oh, good grief.

Pat: Oh yeah, oh no, there's more than one.

Clare: Well yeah but it's like wasn't the first one big enough?



Pat: So the next one is about and I don't have the language for it yet, so you have to forgive me. Like, what we ended up calling the ceremonies in Europe was 'The Human Reunion Ceremony'. It was a ceremony to remember, reconcile and, and have a reunion together between masculine and feminine and between European and indigenous descendants.

But it didn't start out that way. I mean, I was mad as hell when I was watching all these visions and so if I had named the ceremony at that point, I would have called it... let's all get together and figure out how we can heal what all these damn men did, you know? And then it would have been a very different ceremony and it probably wouldn't have been very effective at all. Because of course, what I discovered in that process was that the sacred masculine had been just as violated and hijacked as the sacred feminine during that time. And what I was told so clearly was that this is more of the same. This is the oldest trick in the book. This is divide and conquer all the way, all the way. And as long as it's divide and conquer, you're not going to be able to pull the rabbit out of the hat for this life that you say you want, because that's at the core of your procreative ability, this has to be healed, this has to be addressed. So I was like okay.

But to not leave that little piece hanging there, the next archetypal wounding of humanity that they would have be addressed is our detour. Maybe we can call it our detour, our abandoning ourselves to the scientific method. To the material science viewpoint of this world in this life and ourselves. The reductionist thinking way, which is demanded that we deny some of the key parts of ourselves, certainly our spiritual nature, but also our intuitive nature. And so it's a tricky, you know, it's a tricky peace to heal. So that was the thing that we need to address. So I'll just put that out there for now.



Photo by Ray Hennessy

Clare: So I suggest that everybody just chews slowly a bit like a cow right now. And allows that immense transmission that you've just given us all to be digested slowly.

Because... and thank you, Pat. You've given us a very intimate journey alongside you.

And it sent me off in so many directions. I've been sitting here weeping with the nature of your journey and your commitment and your service. And you asked me at the beginning, why did we call this 'Wild Hope for a New Humanity'?

And I'm going to cry, but anyway... you know I have this... it's different things that the wild in the Wild Hope which means our hope comes from the wild. Like it comes from... it comes from the land, it comes from the beings, it comes from the planet that we are made of. But my deepest hope and why I ultimately said yes to TreeSisters and not Tree Everybody, Tree People. Was because of the lie of the subjugation of women and the lack of deep feminine wisdom that is coming through because we've been so severed from it through the extreme brutality that I see most deeply anchored into the witch burnings.

And that's why I've always been fascinated with your journey and you're just stepping out into the global stage with this which rocked my world because as you say, you know, how do you take a proposal to somebody about this and say, women kind today is still fearful. So many women that I know, myself included, shake from head to toe before standing up in public to speak because our bodies remember it's not been dealt with. Like you stepped into it to deal with it. And, and the truth that rocks my world that you share... I mean, I love this "All healing is a truth and all disease is a lie" I'm so on the same page with that. To me all disease is where we've turned away from the fundamental truth of who and what we are, and we're preventing life from flowing in.

The deeper river... like you were told go back into your lineage. That in your lineage there is that truth or that connection, that deeper river. For me, I've discovered through my own journey, through my own life which was fairly brutal... that actually the deepest part of me is unharmed, is complete, is whole, is there, is pure. It isn't tainted, isn't dirty, isn't shame filled, isn't all of these things that I've lived my life thinking I'm emotionally crippled. No, that it's stained, and stains can be lifted out.

And so my wild hope for womankind is that we have the courage to do what you've done, which is to come together and address the imprinting. The staining of ourselves that we have taken on as being a truth, but it's not a truth. It's not who and what we are. And in the willingness to feel it out of existence to alchemize it with our consciousness, that we need to do that together.

We have a practice inside of TreeSisters called sistering which is when you sit before another woman and you touch the deepest part of yourself that you can and you look for the deepest part of the other that you can and you hold that thread between you of the truth of your real nature and you let everything that is not the truth lift out. Which is so akin to what you're saying. So akin to what you're saying, but in a different language, you know, from a... coming from a middle class white woman attempt at feeling for what it is that women can do to, to allow the deepening into the actual wild truth of ourselves which is unharmed and immensely powerful because it's connected to all that is.



And when you talk about this abandoning ourselves to scientific and material science, you know, and I hear the stories of the Eagle and the Condor and the marriage of the masculine feminine consciousness and the indigenous cultures and the Eagle nations... I just don't know how to be polite about it. But I know that we all have a place in this.

That my fear around technology, is that it fundamentally severs us from our true nature as intimate with life. It's our intimacy with life to me that I think is our way home, not how many more things can we turn life into that help us stay in an ever more disconnected state?

And they're directly linked, you know, they're fundamentally linked. And so I understand as much as I can, why that would be the next assignment. Although for me, I need to be honest. I'm still with the witch burnings. I'm still with how do we call women through the fear that we are encoded with to reclaim the truth that we are and that it's in a way it feels like a numbers game like the more of us that have the courage, the more of us that will feel it and do it anyway, the more of us that understand that what we're feeling isn't the truth, it's just, it's just a mark on a canvas and that mark can be erased with our consciousness, then there is hope.

Because we do not know collectively the kind of power that we can bring through and that power is not power over. It's an intelligence that is woven into creation and therefore it can bring solutions and it can be a transmission hopefully strong enough to cut through the bullshit that we're living in and the severance that we're living in to call us home. Because I think life is constantly trying to call us home to ourselves Home, Home, Home, and that is a truth and the truth to me, will always out the truth will out and the truth will bring us back to ourselves.

So I'm just... we have very little time here, Pat, and I deeply want to know the origin of your name, because somehow, I want to hold this name as an invitation for womankind today to shine and not automatically fear that we're going to get burned or battered or struck down or humiliated, or whatever else life can throw at us, but that we can hold that permission for each other, and ourselves to become the fullest that we are born to be, regardless of anything, just regardless, just because we can, because that's what we are.

Pat: Well, so I was going to enter into a ceremony, a large ceremony in which it was correct to have a purification lodge, a sweat lodge, before the ceremony. And so, it was large enough to where we decided we needed to have a men's sweat lodge and a women's sweat lodge. So the men sweat first. And the women all were gathering outside and waiting and just kind of talking amongst ourselves, well, the men, the men came out of their Lodge. And you know, when you come out of sweat lodge, you can be a little dazed or disoriented, or you got to get your bearings a little bit once you kind of put your feet back on the Earth, outside of that meeting place between the worlds, and so the men were doing that and they were kind of all just flopped around and kind of talking to each other.



But you know, meanwhile, we were like, still waiting to go in and waiting and I didn't want to be rude. One of our elders was conducting that Lodge and I had asked another woman to run the women's lodge for us. So I went over to the woman because it just kept going on and on. And I said to her, I said, should we go ahead and start even though they're not... you know, like, what should we do?



Photograph by Jude Beck

And she said, yeah, I think we should start. So the first place to start would be to sing a certain song as we prepared one of the elements of the ceremony. And so I didn't wait, I didn't try to... I didn't want to get in there and try to like correct the situation. So I decided to just start I was just going to do it around them. And so, I started singing this song and we faced the West. And so this was coming towards the end of the day. And, and I was singing this song that begins the ceremony. And all of a sudden, the men were like, whoa, wait a minute, they're singing that song, and they kind of came to and they realized what was going on. And then they remembered that the women ceremony was to come after theirs. And so they kind of all got up and they got in line and they got themselves all straightened out. And we're in respect of the protocol of our ceremony. So also, right when I was singing that song, the last rays of the sun kind of came down out of the clouds. And quite dramatically shone on me as I was singing.

And so the next day at the larger ceremony, our elder he gave me part of... in order to proceed with the largest ceremony he had to give me a name. I'd never been given a name. And so he ended up calling me (words in native language) which means 'Woman Stands Shining'. And so it has to do with, with what he observed in that moment. And so I don't know if he was including the part about bringing the men to awareness that it's the women's turn to pray. But for me, that is very key to the whole name.

Along with the sun shining on me, it's like that's my role. I'm here to remind the men that the women have their ceremony and need that space and their support to proceed.

Clare: You can't talk without me crying. It's really interesting. And I thank you for sharing that. And we're almost at close of our time here. And so I want to say, Pat, Woman Stands Shining, I want to thank you for the depths of your soul. And I want to thank you for the authenticity and raw beauty with which you live this life. It is an ongoing, profound inspiration for me in my life. I feel you as such, such a deep sister and it is a privilege to be sharing this work with you and this planet with you and this turning with you and this dream about stepping into truth with you.

And Pat, I'd like to hand the talking stick over to you to close this, just to say a few words and then to end however you would like to end this ceremony, this sacred space that we're holding together at the top of this mountain. I wonder if there were anything that you would want to speak to the hearts of all those that are listening, and then I will let you close for all of us.

Pat: So the truth is that you were born into beauty, as beauty for joyful life. That's the truth. You were born into beauty, as beauty for joyful life. If you are not seeing that, if you are not feeling that, my elders advised that at that point is when we would go see a medicine person. If you can't wake up and be amazed at this... at the grace of this holy gift of life, then it's time for healing help. And so we believe in original beauty, not original sin, and it makes all the difference to come from a place of original beauty.

And so what I was asked to say to you is this, please remind the people of original beauty. The way that we heal is by calling on our community close to us. And we lay ourselves bare and our community remembers truth and sings it to us. So that tells us a little bit about our work. We have to know when we need to ask for help. We also have to know who our community is. And then we have to know that it's, it's the right thing. It's the okay thing to lay ourselves bare before that community. And then that community is to sing truth back to us. And so that means that we also have to be prepared by knowing the songs of truth.

I was told you are responsible for placing yourself before the truth frequently, because you have to compete with all the lies that are being projected around you. Truth for me, equals thriving life, lies equals moving towards death. So that's the task. So that's how in my people's culture we heal, if somebody murders somebody, even if they commit whatever atrocity what's going to happen is they're going to be brought into the ceremony house. They're going to present themselves to the community. The community is not going to give them a sentence. No, the community is going to sing the truth of beauty back to them until they are realigned. And they can re-emerge as beauty in that full knowledge. That is our task.

Clare: Thank you so much, Pat. In words, that isn't enough, but thank you so much. And to all of you, I would ask that you share this interview with everyone that you love, and in any way that you can, so that we can bring this extraordinary invitation and this extraordinary truth to as many people as we possibly can. This is such a gift. The deepest bow to you Pat and to all of you. Thank you.



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Transcript in American English  
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