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Bringing Spirituality to the Workplace

By Judi Singleton

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What is spirituality in the workplace? Some companies would tell you that it is bringing your values to work and using them in everyday life. Values like honesty, integrity, and good quality work. Other companies would tell you it is treating each customer, employee and co-worker with respect and love. Yes I said "love". For yet other companies it is using prayer, meditation, in making all the small and large decisions each day. And for some it is being socially responsible for the community, environment, and the world. They see their companies serving the three "P's" people, planet and profit.

Some key values that companies are embracing are: Key spiritual values embraced in a business context include integrity, honesty, accountability, quality, cooperation, service, intuition, trustworthiness, respect, justice, and service. More and more companies believe this approach exemplifies a balance between deeply held spiritual values and respect for the need for profit in business

endeavors.

With more women in the workplace than ever before (studies show that women are more concerned with the spirit) we are in a revolution in the workplace that the whole person be reflected in the workplace.

How do I find a job I really enjoy? How do I find meaning in my work?

Is there more meaningful work I should be doing? How does my

spirituality fit in with my career? People are asking these questions

of themselves and their companies.

Since we spend so much of our lives working and so much of ourselves

these are valid questions to be asking.

Corporate scandals fill the headlines but Signs of spirituality in the

workplace keep turning up: companies not only allowing but sponsoring

prayer or meditation groups; company–sponsored chaplains; conferences

and executive training sessions that experiment with spiritual

practices or how to incorporate values into decision making; and how to

use prayer as a way of making decisions. I think these headlines

should dominate the headlines. There is a shift going on in business

involving, going beyond maximizing profits to considering all

stakeholders: employees, customers, vendors, shareholders, and the

community.

Now that more and more people are doing business on the internet and

companies have gone global the community has expanded as has the

environment to a global village.

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I believe that Joseph Campbell showed the way when he said follow your bliss. What he meant was that we should notice the things that give us deep joy and a feeling of satisfaction. People are not only looking toward following their bliss but having meaning in their work. In the agricultural age one saw the results of their work. Now so many times people only do a small piece of a large project and never see any results of the whole. So it is more important than ever that they do what they love and love what they do. We yearn for work to be a place

in which we both experience and express our deep soul and spirit.

What would a more spiritual workplace mean for people? It would mean that work is a place beyond earning our daily bread. A place where the whole person can express themselves. It would also mean through our creative contribution that other peoples spirit and creativity would be nourished.e Self (their aliveness).

Creativity is the core of business. It will allow us to come out with new products, ideas, and services that serve other people. To realize this goal we must create enviroments where spirit flourishes. When people incorporate spirituality they work more efficiently as teams for they are living values that nurture others. By being more ethical companies are able to trust employees, employees can give up some of the fear of being scammed by employers and customers trust the company and stay with them longer.

When we exercise leadership based on spiritual values, we build the character and reputation required for growth.

About the author: Judi Singleton is the publisher of Jassmine's Journal you can subscribe at <http://www.motherearthpublishing.com>

Native American Spirituality

By John Cali

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Native American Spirituality
John Cali

A member of our Chief Joseph discussion group recently wrote me asking if Joseph would talk about

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Native American spirituality in one of our newsletters. Here's her letter:

"Hi John,

"I have no clue as to whether this would be an appropriate topic for a future newsletter, but I thought I would share this thought with you anyway.

"I have read a fair amount, but I know I am very ignorant with respect to Native American spirituality. So perhaps sometime Chief Joseph and you could share some of the unique aspects of Native American spirituality."

My response:

"Thanks for your posting, and for your suggestion about Native American spirituality. It's an excellent suggestion. Joseph and I don't usually make a distinction between spirituality, as a general concept, and spirituality as practiced by any particular group of people. Whether that group be Native American or any other people.

"But the Native Americans certainly did have spiritual values many humans today have lost sight of—respect for our Mother Earth, respect for animals, respect for one another, respect for the sovereignty of each individual.

"I don't know as there's anything unique about these Native American spiritual values. They're really human values. And it would behoove all of us to pay more attention to them, and to what's really important to all of us on this beautiful blessed planet of ours."

And Joseph's response:

Chief Joseph

What you might call Native American spirituality is not essentially different from most other forms of human spirituality. It is not unique in its essence. It may, however, be unique in its practice.

Basically, Native American spirituality is simply a reverence for life, a respect for the divine spark in all life, in all beings. In that way it is pure, as contrasted with the dogma, theology, and laws which often drag other forms of spirituality away from their roots, if you will.

The intent and essential nature of most forms of human spiritual practices are good. And if more humans were more practiced in simply allowing their brothers and sisters to follow their own paths, then none of the religious turmoil that pervades your human society could exist. Everyone would be following whatever path he or she felt was right. And not caring what paths others were following.

But you do care what paths others follow, even though it's none of your business. And that is exactly what's given rise to all the senseless dogma, laws, shoulds and should-nots humans often impose on one another.

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We are not saying Native American spirituality is superior to any other form of spirituality. We are saying if you all get back to your spiritual roots, you would find only minor, meaningless differences among your many spiritual paths. And you would not feel the need to impose your own beliefs and values on another individual or another people.

Spirituality, as we see it, is simply an awareness you are all more than the humans you know yourselves as. And the awareness all of creation, whether you consider it animate or inanimate, is more than the simply physical. All beings, all that is, are infused with the spiritual essence of the divine.

Many Native Americans practiced this pure form of spirituality in the past, and some still do. Many non-Native Americans practiced it in the past, and many still do. It's obvious, however, many people, Native American or not, have strayed from their spiritual roots.

You can get back to your spiritual roots by simply acknowledging all that exists is divine. When you get back to your roots, you will—in John's words—have respect for your Mother Earth, respect for animals, respect for one another, respect for the sovereignty of each individual.

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Since 1992, John Cali has been communicating with a spirit called Joseph. In one of his many physical lifetimes, this spirit was incarnated as the legendary Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe in what is now Oregon. Email john@greatwesternpublishing.org Website www.greatwesternpublishing.org Free newsletter at chiefjoseph-on@mail-list.com Private readings with Chief Joseph at readings@greatwesternpublishing.org



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