

## **Millennium Message from the Director**

The new year, the new century, and the door to the 2nd millennium is filled with a labyrinth of unexpected turns and a call for courage and integrity. Some of these turns will provide personal surprises, some will provide new cosmic knowledge, and most will force the release of our cosmic baggage, known as karma, which we have carried not only in this lifetime, but in many lifetimes. This release for some will not be easy, especially if we have not yet faced our dark sides. It does, however, offer us all a unique experience to move into the new consciousness, if we can face the dark night, and ride the cosmic wave that is now moving our solar system through the dark center of our galaxy.

Just one week ago I completed the millennium cosmic pilgrimage with Mayan Elder/Timekeeper Hunbatz Men. Along with many Masters from Central and South America and with Central/South American initiates, we brought in the new year, the new century, and opened the door to the 2nd millennium with sun rituals, meditation rituals, and karma burning exercises. The two-day retreat, an integral part of the five-day pilgrimage, forced some of us to "clean house". If we were blessed enough to have our baggage hit us square in the face, as I was, then it seemed that we were being called to release it to the universe and open up to the new cosmic vibration.

The issues for me personally dealt with perceptions of others and their perceptions of me. Perceptions are part of our own reality systems; sometimes they cross into someone else's reality and when they do, it is time to listen to the message of the cosmos because there is always something to be learned. My issue at the time of arrival was internal and external noise. Noise from children, noise from a different language, noise in my own head, and noise 24-hours a day without a respite. But this noise was not just the noise of the environment, the children, or the natives. This noise was the noise that I have carried in my head and my heart for the last 48 years; some of it went back to my childhood, some went back to my school days, and some dealt with judgments that I have created as a result of my perceptions.

I was challenged to stop hiding behind my mask, which was in the form of my jewelry and my made-up face (which I was told marked me as a well-to-do American). While I challenged this perception of others because of my social and cultural need to wear this mask to be successful on a day-to-day basis here in the U.S., I listened and thought about what I might be hiding from a group such as this, my spiritual kin, and what their own reflective issues might be in confronting me. I was hiding my anger, my own fraudulent perceptions, my judgments, my pain, and my vulnerability behind my mask because I was unfamiliar with the group, could not communicate, and was afraid to expose myself and my anger.

I accepted the challenge and took off the jewelry. I felt naked. Within hours two participants came up to me and told me how I had a brilliance around me (which I guess had been muted by the jewelry). I thanked them and thought about my own perceptions of the people around me, based on their masks, and how it created the noise both internally and externally.

There were young people and old people; 75 percent were native Mexican and the remainder of us were from the States, Canada, and Finland. I and the Fins were the only ones who could not speak Spanish. The noise for me was extreme and so was the anger.

I performed the ceremonies with everyone else despite the language barrier and in the evening the group was asked to take off their jewelry to perform the final sunset salutation for the passing year, century, millennium. I had been asked to remove my jewelry first and earlier that day, and had accepted the challenge before everyone else was challenged to do the same! Our perceptions are all a mirror of our own souls' need to clean our karmic houses. Now everyone was being asked to do the same that I had already done. Close to midnight we performed our burning ceremony; many burned old karmic baggage and I burned an archetypal symbol that has divided people for millennium with its basis in fear, hatred, prejudice, and intellect without heart. The release for me was to start to communicate from the heart, and not from the intellect and the mask which our left-brained patriarchal society has left us as our legacy.

I invoked mother earth and asked that she protect all her children and the earth, allowing us to love one another without judgment, without fear, and without anger at old wrongs. That invocation was for all mothers, all sisters, and all her children who have suffered and have caused suffering because of personal judgments, perceptions, and the noise we have created for ourselves, in our own heads and hearts.

In the morning we brought in the new year and the new century, and walked the portal to the new millennium with another sun salutation at dawn, with no jewelry, no makeup, and for many of us without even combing our hair or taking off our dream clothes. We were one as we welcomed the new age of universal unity.

I welcome you to the new millennium and hope that your new year helps you to release your old baggage and shed the mask that hides you from your heart, your spirit, your mother, your father, your sisters, and your brothers. We are all the same in the cosmos. It is only the dark side of our souls that we need to confront, to understand that our perceptions and judgments are ours alone, and ultimately reflect back to our own need for love and spiritual abundance.

In Lakech, Dawn