

Elder Teachings - Creation Story Teaching

Speaker: Elder Blu Waters

I want to begin by noting that there are many creation stories, and what I am going to share here is only one of these teachings. What is common to all creation stories though is that it is through creation that our spirits took human form. When we came to this land, we did not leave our spirit behind. Therefore, we came here with many understandings already within us, and one of those understandings is that we are the last ones to become part of creation.

Everything had been in existence before we became humans. The land was here, the trees and plants, the medicines that grow on the earth, the swimmers, the crawlers, the flyers, the four-legged ones, were all living in harmony and peace. They needed nothing. They were respectful to one another because they understood the Original Instructions of how to be in a good relationship with one another. They understood to not take more than what they needed and to make sure they left something for other beings yet to come. For instance, the bears do not dig up all the bear root and take every bit of it. They know that when a new one is born, they will be without if they take it all, so they make sure they leave enough for future generations.

The land was in balance and when we came along, all the plants, the swimmers, crawlers, flyers, and four-legged ones held the Original Instructions on how to live and so taught us how to survive and thrive on this land. Part of being a human being is having freedom of choice and free will, something that all the other parts of creation do not have. Unfortunately, we did not pay attention to the Original Instructions all of creation was here to share with us. Instead, we became greedy and self-centered. We fought with the animals, and we started destroying what

was given to us. We lost our ability to converse back and forth with all of creation and we became separated. It is not too late though to return to the intended way. We still carry those teachings of the plants and animals within us. We can still follow the Original Instructions and be respectful of all creation to ensure that the next seven generations can live life in a good way. We cannot exist without the land, so the more we take care of the land and make sure it is sustainable for future generations as well as ourselves, than the better off we will be as human beings existing here together.