



The Maku Child of our SunDance

Every year since 2009, our SMSD Dreamers SunDance has birthed a spirit child, an expression of our collective spiritual dedication. Each year, this child has shown us how we have matured, and how we need to continue to do so. Just like our SunDance Tree, we as a Path expand and add another ring of growth every year, another band of learning, that helps us to stand strong in the wind and keep on radiating Beauty out into the world.

We might say that our SunDance Arbor is a grand womb-space that conceives – becomes pregnant – and births a spirit child during the three days of our Dance. Our Arbor births Raw Power Intending Maku Children and teaches us how to take our natural talents, skills, abilities and resources (raw power) and share them in service to self, life and others. Our Maku Child shows us what we have to offer to life as a give-away. It describes how we can be of value to Life, to the Everything. It carries all of our prayers, visions, transformations, healing, and dedications we danced to the Tree out into the world as seeds of Beauty.

NOTE: do not confuse our use of the words “star seeds of beauty” with what you will find online as “starseeds” referring to those highly sensitive/intuitive persons who feel they are alien and long to “go home” to the stars...

Still, you might wonder, what is a “spirit child”? A spirit child is a spiritual energy that is substantial enough that you can sense or feel its presence even though it is not tangibly physical. It is created out of deep feelings, heart’s desires, and powerful imagination. Recall when you were fully engaged in dancing to the Tree with something you truly, utterly desired to understand or manifest. Now multiply that by all the dancers’ prayers, the drum and song, the watchful eyes and hands of the dog soldiers. Multiply that by 3 (or sometimes 4) days of dancing, culminating in full-out dedication dances. Imagine all of that passionate energy of intent and desire taking on form and exploding out the top of the SunDance Tree. This is a spirit child ☺. Atoms to Atoms manifesting into multiple forms of Beauty, Power, Knowledge, and Freedom.

A spirit child is pure energy in motion carried by Infinity's Intent. Spirit children are birthed out of and into a field of dreams. A spirit child will always restore harmony because it is designed by the Creator. Its nature is fully balanced and everything it touches is moved to return to "the before" of its true essence.

On the morning of our take-down day at the 40th Sundance, Mary shared the closing image from the Land Pipe:

"Whereas in the past, the star seeds of beauty were like droplets of water that would open when they landed on fertile ground, now the star seeds are like 'waves' of energy. It's like a package, that, when received, opens to offer its gifts, and at the same time continues to move on like a wave of energy. It moves through everything, blessing that thing, and at the same time keeps moving onward, continuing onward to awaken even more as it reaches all around the planet."

What is a MAKU Child?

The spirit child of our SunDance is a MAKU child. Within our SMSD circles, this word is used as if we know what it means ☺ However, we do well to remember that we can't find this word in the dictionary! And when we Google it, we will be taken to a city in Iran that borders Turkey, a very popular CBD product line, or a fishing lake in Peru, all distinctly unrelated to what we mean by a Maku child ☺. We do well to remember this when we speak with those who may not yet have been initiated into our unique way of speaking.

Thunder Strikes first introduced us to this word and concept. He likened it to the Japanese principle of G'IRI, an age-old tradition of honor, integrity, and service. It is roughly translated into duty or obligation, as service with a self-sacrificing devotion. It holds the highest regard for the human relationship – letting go of pursuing one's own gain in order to be loyal to one's commitment to serve the other, to respect the relationship, or to support the greater good.

Thunder Strikes went on to clarify the Twisted Hairs' concept of MAKU as serving one's destiny by giving away one's gifts of beauty and excellence to self, life, and others. MAKU is the art of living at the highest level, the anchor of our internal personal integrity, and a spiritual commitment where we are willing to put our life on the line for justice. It is MAKU that has brought us to our Path with Heart. MAKU does not ask us to sacrifice – rather it calls for us to offer ourselves fully to Life, without asking for anything in return. It represents that we are "all in": one-mind, one-heart in our dedication to be part of the solution on Grandmother Earth. And this requires a constant and continual renewal of our connecting link with the Greater.

It is this dedication that gives us meaning and purpose – no matter what the external circumstances are like. When we choose to be of service, when we freely choose to do

MAKU, we are unwavering in seeking HOW to laser our intent to make a positive difference in our circle of influence. And this is how we benefit, how we learn and grow. MAKU is one of the greatest act of self-devotion – being of service offers us a steady stream of opportunities to refine our character!

Our annual Book of Life Reading gives us guidance in the refinement of our personal MAKU. This is found in the Omitakoyasin space and is made possible by the willingness to hold an inner attitude and approach as guided by the card in our Mirror of Self-Reflection space. This is also how we first meet the Maku Child of our SunDance.

How Do we Know its Name?

Four key spaces in the Book of Life Reading done at the beginning of each SunDance determine the nature of our Maku Child: The Mirror of Self Reflection; the Water Element; Omitakoyasin, South Soul Bonding. The key numbers positioned there for our collective at the 40th SunDance are: 10 in the MSR; 21 in the Water; 1 in the MSR-Maku; and 17 in the SSB.

The 21-card describes the life, the heart, the irrepressible yearning of the child.
The 10-card in our Mirror of Self-Reflection is the internal mindset that will be needed in order to accomplish our mission
The 1-card shows us what our give-away looks like – HOW do we do our maku – and.
The 17-card shows us how to carry it out into the world. This is how the spirit child will grow – as we explore this Maku Child and our part in carrying it, this is how we will mature and grow this year.

Let's look at these four cards again:

- The lightning in the image of the Womb of She Thoughts (21) awakens us with the memory of who we are as sacred humans. For what purpose have we chosen to be born at this time in our evolutionary history? The answer lies inside the womb, inside our reservoir of inner wisdom. Our “gut” knows and gets restless when we ignore its signals.
- We came from the Great Round into physical form in order to learn, to grow, to actualize a vision of who we are becoming, in fact, we are insatiably seeking even more (10) ☺.
- We come carrying knowledge, talents, skills, and abilities (1) .
- And this is the dream we are weaving. Reaching for the stars with that irrepressible desire to become all we are meant to be (17) ... and in today's times of dharmic intending ... in the midst of horrendous corruption and destruction, we yearn to be part of the solution on this planet.

Just looking at these three essential numbers to catch a glimpse into the nature of our Maku Child:

We can anticipate being inspired (17)
And asked to take the knowledge that works (our SMSD) with all of our originality and
genius (1)

To weave strands of wisdom into solutions, actions, creations (21),
Beauty of all kinds
so that we are agents in service of Great Spirit's dream
to awaken the People to their true nature.

This year, we are being asked to be “jockeys of the Gold Horse”, no longer sitting on the sidelines and watching the world go by, rather jumping into the race knowing that we are the ONE that has what it takes!

PAUSE FOR A FEW MOMENTS OF REFLECTION – LET IT SINK IN

Let's now take a look at the three key words in the name of our Maku Child.

Awakening

When we look into the meaning of the word awakening, we find that it is most commonly described as a revival or arousing as if from sleep, inactivity, or a prior lack of interest. Awakening brings to our awareness what might have been neglected before.

What we are waking up to has been with us all along. In fact, it is often as if we are rising up out of a fog of depression, or lifting a veil of forgetting, or experiencing a resurgence of sensory awareness – smelling, tasting, seeing, hearing, and touching as if for the first time. Our senses have been inputting aromas, flavors, sights, sounds, and textures all along. However, when we awaken to our senses, there is an exquisite, heightened awareness as if it was a brand-new experience. When we experience an awakening of this kind, it is forever imprinted in our heart, mind and body. Once awakened, we can never again convince ourselves that it is not so.

Within our SMSD teachings, we have been given several references to “the Awakening”. In our collective human history, we were in the phase of “The Awakening” prior to the turn of the 21st century. In our personal history, the “awakening” occurred as we prepared to close our karma books and open our dharma books. Once this “click” occurred, both in the collective and in our personal journey, everything speeded up and we entered a phase called “the Quickening”. Collectively, this time period was from approximately 2000 to 2012 and prepared us for the opening of the Gates to the Human World. Individually, this was the time where none of the old ways made sense. We knew we had to find another way but we were often like “deer in the headlights” – wide-eyed and wandering without knowing where we were going or how to get there. Now, collectively, we are in “the Integration” phase (from 2012 to 2024), madly clearing out the old and scrambling to create the new. During the 30 years between 2024 and 2054 we must either build a foundation for the Human World or hunker down to survive the storms of transformation that will do through destruction what we were not able to do another way, that is, initiate us into the Fifth World of Humans.

Currently, many websites are speaking about the “Great Awakening” – describing how humans from all walks of life and all cultures and races are waking up to the Light and seeing an alternative to the corruption and destruction that our choices have created on this planet.

Batty spoke about the Maku Child at our 40th SunDance in the final morning’s Pipe Ceremony. There he reminded us that awakening means that all we need is already present inside of us. We do not need to run around for answers out there! Within our Womb of She Thoughts (the 21-card we spoke about) all that we seek is already present. This is what our Maku Child will awaken within us: faster, older, deeper fields of sensing, feeling, and knowing. As we awaken, we will discover their presence within and find our voice, our creative originality to express what we know.

Pay attention – it may surprise you! As those waves of energy radiating out from our SunDances touch you, you may be surprised by what you know and that YOU are exactly what is needed to make the difference.

Wisdom

Wisdom is a highly prized quality of a mature human being – often earned through many tough learning experiences even though it can also be present most poignantly in the innocence of a young child’s observations.

If we look at the common definitions, it is described as “good common sense”, “having good unbiased judgment”, the sum of learning through the ages, accumulated knowledge or the teachings of the ancient ones. Wisdom is earned through the practice of neutral perception, keen discernment, and sage insight.

A well-known tale exemplifies what it takes to cultivate wisdom:

An old farmer had an only son. He was getting old and relied on his son to help him every day. One day, the son fell and broke his leg. His neighbor heard and came to offer his condolences. “Oh, this is very bad.” The farmer simply said, “It is what it is, I do not see it as bad.” The neighbor shook his head and clucking his tongue went on his way to continue his saga of misery. The next day, the army recruiter comes by to draft his son but, with a broken leg, he was of no use so they left him at home. The neighbor came by on his way home and said, “Oh, this is very, very good.” The farmer, though grateful to have his son alive and at home, simply said, “It is what it is - I do not see it as good.” The son became depressed and miserable” You can continue the story.

Knowledge does not become wisdom until it is applied, tested in life, measured against Nature, and found to be capable of creating and enhancing what we discover in Nature through an evolutionary transformation that produces even greater harmony with all forms of Life.

In our basic teachings, found in the Green Manual page 31, we are taught that to become a human determiner requires five evolutionary steps into maturity:

1. Willingness to assume authority
2. Ability to take full responsibility
3. Desire to co-empower self, life and other
4. Knowledge to stand fully accountable
5. Wisdom of full maturity gives us the five Huaquas of the Human: health happiness, humor, hope and harmony.

Wisdom is not like the icing on the cake – wisdom is discovered when we have harvested our learnings from the many mistakes we have made and choose to not repeat them. Each and every one of us has an inner reservoir or treasure chest of wisdom – knowledge we KNOW works. When this treasure chest is opened, when we awaken to this inner wisdom, we gain access to this stored memory and can use it to weave a tapestry of Beauty by caring for one another enough to keep our hearts open even when it hurts; by sharing our learnings with one another so Beauty grows; by teaching one another how to free-think and discover that which, until then, had remained unthinkable; by loving one another so that our love ignites our senses and expands our awareness.

We are the ones alive at this time – and we live in a time when what looks light is shown to have a sinister underbelly and what looks dark is prompting unparalleled discoveries of beauty.

Our Maku Child will spur us on to explore the world with new and eager eyes, translating our sensing into body knowing that we are willing to apply to change our existence and transform our circumstances, and to engage by honing our intent and aligning our vision.

Wisdom is expressed as benevolent compassion, an inner peace that moves us to take actions that produce harmony. As Thunder Strikes said,

“Wisdom is the proper amount of concern in order to know what to do and care about so that one gains the presence of benevolent compassion.”

Ethyl (GL November 2004) described the “harmony child” as ‘one who walks in peace with the wisdom of benevolence.’

“Great Spirit, let me see with your eyes,
hear with your ears, feel with your heart,
know with your mind,
touch with your hands,
and speak with your voice.
Great Spirit, I align my free will with your free will
so that Infinity can guide my intent. Ho! I have spoken.”

However, the name of our Maku Child is not just awakening wisdom, it is called Awakening Wisdom Weaver Maku Child. Let's look at the weaver aspect.

Weaver

Weavers tend to be quiet, industrious, focused beings! Just as I was about to begin preparing for this teaching, Cho lent me a wonderful book on How to Weave a Navajo Rug and other lessons from Spider Woman by Lynda Teller Pete and Barbara Teller Ornelas – Thrums Books 2020

From page 73: Every action requires forethought, and we are aware that these actions also represent a balance of female and male energies; they parallel female and male fertility, childbirth, the rearing of children, and, at the final takedown of a textile, cutting the selvage cords is equated to the cutting of the umbilical cord of a newborn.

Weaving is a perfect analogy of what it takes to harvest wisdom:

1. It begins by gathering tools and raw materials
2. Preparing those materials by cleansing and purifying them; preparing our self through prayer and connection with the spirit of what will be woven
3. Dreaming the design – Catching the vision
4. A commitment to completion, no matter what and so the weaver must troubleshoot, fix and repair whatever snags or breaks, keep on keeping on with full attention to every essential detail.
5. Gleaning the learnings from the mistakes made – for these mistakes are seen as the inspirations and motivations for improvements needed next time.
6. And all throughout the process weavers are learning, releasing, re-connecting to the purpose and value of what they are weaving, holding true to their vision until the weaving is complete.

This will be what our Awakening Wisdom Weaver Maku Child will ask of us: gathering our resources; cleansing, purifying, and connecting to Source; dreaming our vision; committing to a full completion even as we make countless mistakes, run into major snags, and keeping on keeping on learning, growing, and holding true to our vision.

Since always, the Twisted Hairs have woven knowledge into wheels and keys that move us to remember what we may have forgotten from before. The Elders have woven together knowledge that works from ancient times into new wisdom for our time now. Old wisdom is time proven, has credibility, and still works today. New wisdom is discovered when we awaken into greater presence, align with the sacred laws of Nature, open our senses and heighten our awareness. The SMSD path has reliable alchemy that is part of the old wisdom passed down to us with profound generosity. Like the tools used in the art of weaving, our alchemy has been passed down from generation to generation. We can use those tools to test our new knowledge, our felt senses, our instinctive-intuitive body knowing and our awakened awareness. We can, must, and will weave the old and new into powerful, breathtakingly beautiful tapestries.

Our SMSD teachings describe the DREAM WEAVER as one who “will always reach for the stars with what inspires and motivates me with the will to do and the willingness to engage – where the Universe drops all 5 huaquas” – the 17-card.

We are invited – urgently invited – to reach for the stars. When we do, our higher mind will happily download images, symbols, ideas, and glimpses into the Greater Wisdom. Let these “stars” open your awareness, drop them into the inner chambers of what you have known since always. Let these “inspirations” spark your free-thinking and move you to create your own poems, your own dreams, your own actions that happen to be just at the right time and in the right way so that a light bulb goes off in another human being’s heart and mind.

In Closing: Awakening Wisdom Weaver Maku Child ☺

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUNDANCED AND WORKED WITH ASSEMBLING NO PITY STATEMENTS:

The Great Dream Weaver [17-card] (Spider Woman for the Navajo; the Great Creator/Creatress for SMSD) has planted Seven Values (nagual seeds) within our She Thoughts [21-card]. As we awaken, Twelve Imaginings stir within us as possibilities and potentials – inspiring us to be at cause with our own original creativity and one-of-a-kind genius [1-card].

This requires training: let the Warrior’s Attributes (tonal seeds) be our guideposts throughout our field of dreams. Watch for them, study them, choose them, and become them. You will know when they are present, for you will embody happiness, health, humor, and hope, within harmony.

What is being awakened? Our irrepressible desire for this harmony, balance, alignment; our natural freedom of expression; our individuality, autonomy, and liberty/freedom to be and become and do what we have come here to be/become/do.

Are we willing to awaken this within?

Are we willing to shift and change and transform until those five huaquas dance in all we think, say, or do?

Are we willing to go through the disillusionment when things are not the way we wish them to be or thought they would be – and still keep on weaving?

Remember this saying? “Build it and they will come”

Awaken your wisdom

Weave your wisdom

It is our Maku

Awanestika!