

Celebrating A Spiritual Journey¹

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"Uncle, You look angry all the time"
said an old soul talking through a child
"Uncle, you sound angry all the time"
said an old soul talking through a child
"Uncle your anger is making me angry, all the time"
said an old soul talking through a child

"Celebrate, Uncle"
To lighten the weight of your spiritual journey
"Celebrate, Uncle"
Because we see ourselves in you
"Celebrate, Uncle"
Because we want to celebrate too
"Celebrate, Uncle"
Because we love you
"Celebrate, Uncle"

Let the celebrations begin

Spiritually we are moved to celebrate. Join us in the celebration. Join us in the celebration of our spiritual journeys, of who we are, and where we are from. Join us in the celebration of all that we do in the name of our people. Join us in the celebration of each other.

I wander spiritually through writing, guided by our kūpuna² and not the rules of another, through celebrations past and present. I wander, spiritually writing, from the place that matters the most—home. And the wandering encourages a soul to smile, tear, laugh, remember, and look forward. And the wandering helps the events of the past turn into stories for the future—stories that will naturally become a celebration of the spirit that moves us. The stories remind us, that everything we do for our people, our 'ohana³, and our 'āina⁴ is spiritual and needs to be celebrated.

"Celebrating is a way of spreading the lights around."
(Cajete, 1994, p. 3)

Notes

¹ Two stories that begin and conclude this CJNE theme issue, of connecting to spirit in Indigenous research, are part of a celebration of who we are as Indigenous peoples. Celebrating is a vital part of our spiritual journeys. Here, I celebrate those that are dear to me. I encourage my Indigenous cousins to celebrate with me as you celebrate your people.

- ² Kūpuna: 1. Grandparents, ancestors, relatives or friends of the grandparent's generation.
2. Starting point, source, growing. (Elbert & Pukui, 1986)
³ 'Ohana: Family, relative, kin group; related. (Elbert & Pukui, 1986)
⁴ 'Āina: Land, earth. (Elbert & Pukui, 1986)

References

- Elbert, S. H., & Pukui, M. K. (1986). *Hawaiian dictionary*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.
Cajete, G. (1994). *Look to the mountain: An ecology of indigenous education*. Durango, CO: Kivaki Press.