

## ***THE SACRED***

***What is the sacred? How do we search for the sacred? What will we find?***

For Xicana Indigenas the sacred is a dedication and a way of life. The sacred is a practice that includes community, family, circle, and the personal. Through our experiences of the sacred we learn to know ourselves honestly and intimately, to see and understand our place in the world, and to follow the good work that is waiting for us.

My personal experience of the sacred began many years ago when I entered the world of Native American and Chicano ceremonia. This path became my search for the sacred and a way to become a better person by “finding and following the Red Road in my daily life.”

In this publication the Mujeres de Maiz have discovered the sacred in ceremonia, resistance, creativity, community, family and motherhood, and in relationship to Madre Tierra.

***Ceremonia***, with its power of prayer and self-reflection, is the first entrance into the sacred. This path can be long and arduous, demanding that we face ourselves with sincerity while remaining committed to our own personal vision and life goals.

***Resistance*** and struggle protect our culture and beliefs and help us to remain steadfast in the knowledge that our community and all that is sacred is brought to life in remembering our history.

***Creativity*** provides an avenue to express our knowingness of the sacred, giving each artist a voice to share our search and beliefs. Creativity is sacred because it allows us to find our individual selves and our unique expression.

***Community, family and motherhood*** remind us of the truth and of the sacredness of life itself: The birth of a child, the birth of a circle, and the birth of our understanding of the sacred are all present in our good relationships with others.

***Madre Tierra*** is our closest relationship to the sacred. She is our home, our mother, and our sustenance. She is the womb that we emanate from and the womb to which we shall all return. She shows us the sacred within ourselves and reminds us to be grateful for our life and legacy.

As artists we are held responsible in sharing the sacred mystery, the questions and the answers, with those that seek the sacred in their own lives. Creative expression gives us the opportunity to share our understanding of the sacred through signs and symbols unique to ourselves and our culture. Creativity is a beautiful gift that we can share with others!

After years of searching and practicing I have found that the sacred can be found in the rising and setting of the sun, in the sound of the wind and waves, in the joys and sorrows of daily life, and in our love and commitment to family, friends, culture, and circle. Our most precious acts are to remember that we are privileged to live and create, and to say a prayer of thanksgiving for the sacredness that is all around us.

***To all my relations and all that is sacred...***

***Linda Vallejo***