A PATH APPEARS

Thank you for your attention...It is a privilege to be given this golden opportunity to exchange and explore our thought concerning the question: "how do I, as a individual interpret memorial ceremonies?" I think, it is fair to say, when you are talking about a world beyond the superficial surface, explaining the subject matter can be beyond comprehension.

My interpretation, is based on several observations and visions I've encountered during my development. Visions are based on the purpose of a seeker. During your encounter you will evolve, transform, and in an instance, shapeshift, hoping to be granted the "rite de passage," a blessing which grants you entry to the world of the transcendental.

Exaping into the woods - was a place of refuge. Experiencing pain and facing death has confronted me for as long as I can remember. My first encounter with lasting effects of pain and the first glimpse of death was within a place traditionally considered to be a place of safety and happiness, the home. The childhood moments of solace though, was not to be found in the two-legged's home; the solace was to be found, yonder, deep in the piney forest.

To arise from the state of the abyss and to reach the state of heavenly rapture-I thrive and strive to find that place of stillness and touch deeply the true nature of my being, the ground of my being, so that I can touch the world of no-birth and no death that is presumed exist.

I understand, death can be fearful because ignorance can sometimes give you an illusory imagination and emotional unsettleness. And sometimes the imagination can be disturbed - by ideas of existence and non-existence because of misunder-

standings of the nature of impermanence and the absorption of the soul into the supreme spirit. There is reason to believe that, once ignorance has been blissed, what we have been calling consciousness-becomes wisdom and that in its self revives the desire to replace an unwholesome thought with a wholesome one.

From the abyss thrives lessons learnt and lessons to be learned. Sometimes the moment that challenges us the most, defines us. \mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F} old this

Deep looking will give you insight to this illusionary image I've managed to create from a vision. This is a story of a seeker and non-human beings who nurtured his soul along his travels to this point in time. The animals remember him as a kind human-being to them. They know his story and how far he has come and how far he has yet to journey. Though there are periods-thy struggle may appear difficult, there are, have been, and will be obstacles. I have noted, weather earthly and even within the spiritual realm, obstacles along the journey can help our determination and stimulate the awakening state. Obstacles teach us about our strengths and weaknesses, so that we can understand ourselves better see in which direction we truly wish to go. COME. let your spirit collaborate with sight and sound ... Feel the life that is being spoken of ... Smell and taste the need for deep listening.

It is from the Essence of space and time-I've arrived in this moment to contribute to this discussion concerning --- memory and how should I recollect that which was and is.

The figure before you, exhibiting "the Flesh Is No More," arises to the promise of, "Eternal Life." The first messengers from the world of realities beyond perceptual, sits a pair of Owls(pause) and three Ravens (pause).

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Numbers are important in all religions or spiritual practices

The owl is a symbol of the Feminine, the Moon, and the Night. To the early Christian Gnostics, the owl was associated with Lilith, the first wife of Adam who refused to be submissive to him. Owls are believed to be the "Mystery of Magic, Omens and Silent Wisdom and Vision in the Night." The mystic number #2-represents the feminine aspect, dreams and cooperation. The mystic #3-represents creativity, birth and the mystical realm. In the Biblical lore-is the tale of how a Raven fed the prophet elijah when he was hiding from the King of Israel, King Ahab, a King during the ninth century, B.C.

There are thirty four feathers **adorning** the edges of this presentation. Deep thought will reveal the number #7. This mystical number is associated with "wisdom the seeker, and truth." It is through deep understanding, truth will be perceived.

The story teller in this vision • Is a beloved darling friend. She too is a seeker, but much more than that, she's a healer. Her temperament compliments the nature of this exhibition. Throughout this conversation with you, I will mimicry particular animal family and friends sounds.

The eight skeletons arranged as a pathway represents "The Noble Eightfold Path" (pause): "Right View", "Right Thinking", "Right Mindfulness", "Right Speech", "Right Action", "Right Diligence", "Right Concentration", and "Right Livelihood."

On their heads are leaf crowns displaying the colors of the four elements: EARTH, AIR, FIRE, and Water. The mystic # is significant here. Four represents "foundations", "patience", and "builder." In every one's life, during the process of evolving, there will be sages along the way. At first you are blind to their presence. Thereafter though, if you are attuned, the sages will appear. There is a Zen lore: "As long as the tree is behind you, you can see only its shadow. If you want to touch the reality, you have to turn around."

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Throughout this vision-are other birds, such as Cardinals (pause) symbolizing "Renewed Vitality through Recognizing Self-importance," and scattered eggs. The egg is an ancient symbol for fertility and new birth, It is a symbol of resurrection, and it has even been used as a talisman against unruly and perverted ill will.

SEE the trees. The tree is a powerful and ancient symbol. It is a natural antenna, linking the Heavens and the Earth. It represents knowledge and is a symbol of fertility, of things that grow.

Overseeing this art of transition are the butterflies-the symbol of "Transmutation and the Dance of Joy." (pause)

I thought arranging and spacing three nests were appropriate, each representing "birth, life, revival, rejuvenating and resurrection." The four eggs therein represent the Four Immeasurable Minds-love, compassion, joy, and equanimity, an acquired development and required, prior to being granted the rite de passage path stands

There in the midsection of the "Flesh Is No More", the 'Source of Emotion' area, sits a child-on a branch feeling looks the hymnor and proclaiming "How Great Thou Art." (pause)

Providing Tireless Joy and the Nectar of Life, are the hummingbirds. As escorts and guardians, forging the pathway are the canines and horses-who has proven to be friends and devoted companions if that relationship is not hypocritical. The canine represents "faithfulness and protection," (pause) while the horse symbolizes "travel, power and freedom(pause)

What better four legged creature to witness the resurrection of 'what was and what is' than the deer who symbolizes "Gentleness and Innocence-Gentle Luring to New Adventure." - The deer leads us back to the primal wisdom of those old teachings. (pause)

Waiting for you as you enter the Rite de Passage, greeting you with a pure love-is the 'Dove', who symbolizes "Fem-

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Heart

inine Energies of Peace, Maternity, and Prophecy." In the Greek tradition, Aphrodite was born from a egg brooded by a dove. The prophet sent to Ninevah as the Great Spirit's messenger was called Jonah or the Dove. (pause)

It is from this Dove, the promise of "Eternal Life" is kept through the grandeur of the **Golden Eagle**, symbolizing forever now and always "Illumination of Spirit, Healing, and Creation."

When you can touch the ultimate dimension, it is said, you walk with the GODDESSES and GOD. "The wave does not need to die to become water. SHE is already water."

Until such time, may you, continue to walk the path of beauty. (pause)

I am Abu Ali, the Episcopalian. SHALOM!