

Michele Serros

From: "Mark Baez"

To: <michele@mediumbrowngirl.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2001 10:22 PM

Micelle, I am a student at the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio. I was able to attend your sharing of your work at Our Lady of the Lake University last Thursday 10-25-2001). I wanted to express myself in what I saw in you. You are experiencing challenges in your life, the challenges that come from change. You wish to bring an end to childhood and seek understanding of the mysteries of Man and Woman. You are graduating from or leaving School. Your job has ended or just begun. You are committing to or leaving behind a loved one. You are choosing to parent a little one. You know loss and death, and new beginnings. This is your story.

The stories are in many ways the same. From the beginning of time, all people are born, and experience change as they set their feet on the road to death. With change also comes opportunity. The work of the vision quest is to realize the opportunity and clarify our purpose in living, so our actions have meaning. Each of us is needed to bring our unique gifts to the people. Following the wisdom of many traditions, we go alone into the wilderness to better know our purpose and to face the fears that keep us small. A guide is there to mentor your journey and bring you back safe.

If you have come this far, you have recognized a longing within, a hungry spark of desire that compels your search for something - perhaps indefinable and unnamed for you as yet. You know these questions: Who am I? What is the purpose of my existence? What is my next step? Am I ready for what I am being asked to face, accomplish, accept? What do I do? I hope this was some food for thought or better yet tortilla soup. My family is of the Mohawk (NY tribe) Pawnee (Oklahoma) and Nahault (Atempa Puebla Mexico) peoples. Even though your shirt said "medium brown girl" I saw a "Powerful red jalapeno." Red is the color my people say all Native Americans and Mexican people are. We are one people. Any who, thank you again for your stories and laughter. It is power medicine.

Aho!

Mark Standing Eagle Baez