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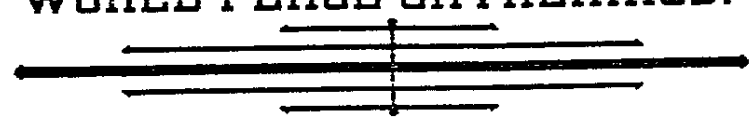
To the special staff and patients of the Veterans Administration Domiciliary White City, Oregon, where the final word processing, proofreading and formatting took place.

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Anonymously Yours
(formally "Baker Paul")

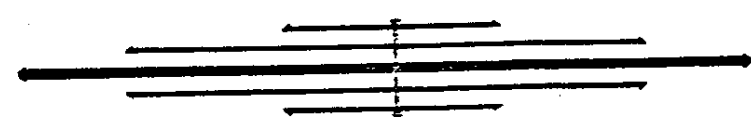


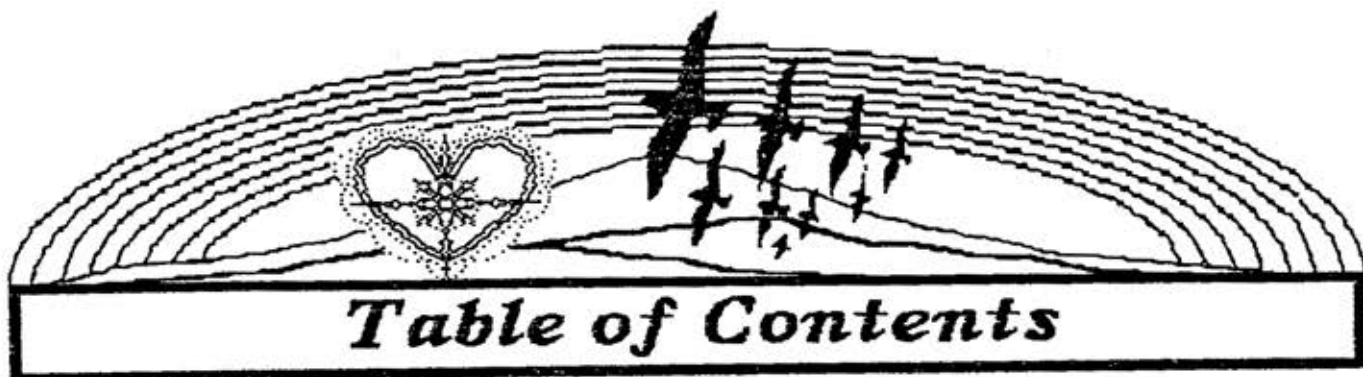
**THE HISTORY OF
"THE RAINBOW FAMILY GATHERING OF THE TRIBES AND
WORLD PEACE GATHERINGS."**



- 1972 - COLORADO, USA
- 1973 - WYOMING, USA
- 1974 - UTAH, USA
- 1975 - ARKANSAS, USA
- 1976 - MONTANA, USA
- 1977 - NEW MEXICO, USA
- 1978 - OREGON, USA
- 1979 - ARIZONA, USA
- 1980 - WEST VIRGINIA, USA
- 1981 - WASHINGTON, USA
- 1982 - IDAHO, USA
- 1983 - MICHIGAN, USA
- 1984 - CALIFORNIA, USA
- 1985 - MISSOURI, USA
- 1986 - PENNSYLVANIA, USA
- 1987 - NORTH CAROLINA, USA
- 1988 - TEXAS, USA
- 1989 - NEVADA, USA

Since 1981 there have been Rainbow Gatherings in other countries,
and we will list them when accurate information is available.





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Forward

A Letter to the Rainbow

Though many of you have seen me and walked with me, I am **invisible**. Many of you thought you knew me. Few actually do. I have been to eight **Rainbow Gatherings**; and more than twice that amount of related events, and road experiences.

I came to you with clarity and purpose.

I declared to you then, that you and I would be the fulfillment of many prophecies from multiple cultures. I declared it as affirmation; one human seeking confirmation from another. In honesty and humility, I declared this to my brethren.

There were those who were always out front, claiming credit and responsibility for the whole of the event. They, thinking me insignificant, denied and rejected my declaration.

Yet even in denying and rejecting, they saw me not. So I moved closer, to understanding how and why, those who claimed to be the wisest of my brethren, could deny the Truth. So, for more that ten years of my life -- nearly one third -- I studied this phenomena.

Always willing to learn more, I was silent and listened much. Only when my council was asked, did I give it.

During that time, there has been much revelation for all of us, even those who thought they already had it. This is what I witnessed; Those of you arrived earlier than some, took it upon yourselves to lead the rest of us in your vision. When those the **Sacred Holy Spirit** called -- through you -- arrived, you refused to acknowledge the fact.

Though you claimed by your charisma and words to be servants of the **Sacred Vision**, I noticed, that in your works a different picture was emerging.

I saw your deeds, We all saw your deeds for

you made a point of showing them to all that would watch.

I saw what you never intended us to see, because being invisible myself, I have a knack for seeing hidden things.

I saw you smile and politic in public, using the hard work of others under your direction as validation for your qualification as our leaders, I saw you cold and indifferent in your homes. I saw the hallucination that you tried to pass off as reality.

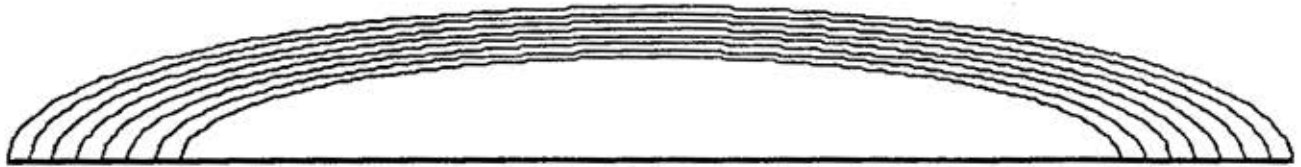
Then I spoke. You did not like what you heard. Like so many brethren before me, I was conspired against, discredited, and "vibed out". In the issuance however -- through much struggle -- all your impotent, fearful magic, was no match for the simple truth.

Those who do know me, spoke for you, saying you did not know what you were doing. I considered this and by God's grace and allowance, I wait patiently for your innocence to become clear. After all, it is not I that accuses the brethren, but whom reveal the accuser. In all it's guises.

I saw the multitudes assembled and ready. I saw you disperse the unity with practical lies, and political fears.

Those of us who serve invisibly -- the ways of the **Sacred Holy Spirit** -- do have council and communion from time to time. We know each other, and share the revelation. It has been clear and known, by a substantial collection of true **Sacred Servants**, that certain scriptural, prophetic facts, were established in the time of and within this, our generation.

We have known for quite some time now that the "Beast" has many heads. We know that if one head is attacked, and even slain, the beast itself is unaffected. Must these terms be defined... each in your own individual way..? or can you "**Grok**" this?



The proper target is the heart of the beast! Not the government, not loggers, police, television, churches, pollution, sex, famine, disease, or death. The heart of the beast resides within you my family and all humans on this planet. It will remain there until we and/or God, changes its residence.

Physicians: do you seek merely to cure the *symptoms* of a disease, and call that a worthy task?

Why do you who are visible continually break up the strength of a holy nation... and even claim sanity while doing so?

Clearly, there is precious little time left to turn this planetary ship around. Those of you who are determined to distract those who are called to do -- you know that your time is over. You are exposed. Those of you who know and have begun to understand the height, depth, length, width, and breath of Love, I urge you into action.

Ah Rainbow! What a wonderful and bright child you were, so full of magical hope and promise. Our Great Father smiled upon us in our youth. So many gifts and blessings were given to us, while the world outside was beginning to burn.

I yelled "FIRE!!" and you used your wondrous magic to make a pipe, loaded with the best, appear in your hands.

While we celebrated peace, the worldly casualties mounted. Our world is nearly gone, our planet truly is dying -- and we made grinning skulls appear in the air as our token of potency. However you may choose to label it this is a war of light and darkness. (Some say man can be separated from that war, and I applaud that attempt at breaking new ground). Rainbow Warriors! Quit following and start being!

No one here can lead you anywhere but to destruction. Wise up! We have an anointed one over us; and I have it on good authority that he's an alright dude. However, this Sacred Spirit is invisible to those who focus on their own vanity.

Look up, down, across, and look in, for your leader is there. Listen to the spirit, and do not use its gifts in vain game playing. There is much work to be done. Do not worry that the world does not recognize the work that you do. Everything will be revealed in appropriate time.

Treat it with mercy. Offer sustenance and shelter. Be charitable, but do not strive to fill a bottomless pit. Nurture that which is alive in the heart and heal the hurt. By this means we may defeat the beast. By aggressive use of the gifts of the spirit we may push back the battle lines.

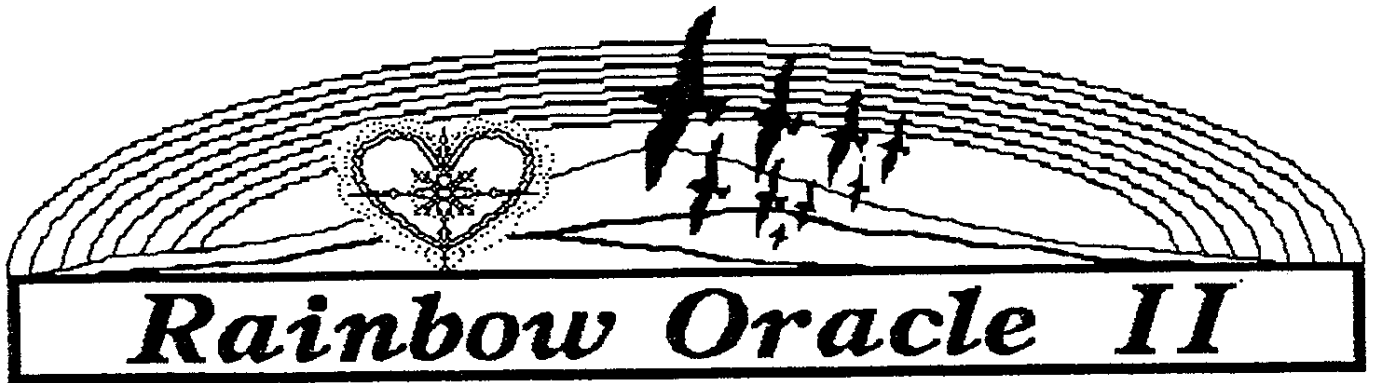
If we submit to any of its terms we become mere pawns on the gameboard of the beast. Without using the gifts which God has given us, we may attack where we will and the odds and sheer physical force of the enemy will overwhelm us. If we use the gifts the beast cowers before God's power. Indeed, in the celebration and feast of God the beast is not even included in the dinner invitations.

The time to have established ourselves as a holy nation, has nearly passed. We are either in unity in Spirit, or we are not. That is our choice! Gather therefore together in the peace of the spirit. Gather in love and in truth. **IT IS JUST FINE TO EXPECT THE BEST OF OTHERS!!**

While you are gathering in joy, song and celebration, remember to go to the silent places...the fringes..., and there you might detect someone you do not ordinarily see, for that one is invisible. I remain invisible, yet I share the fate of my nation and tribe, lost under the banner of the rainbow.

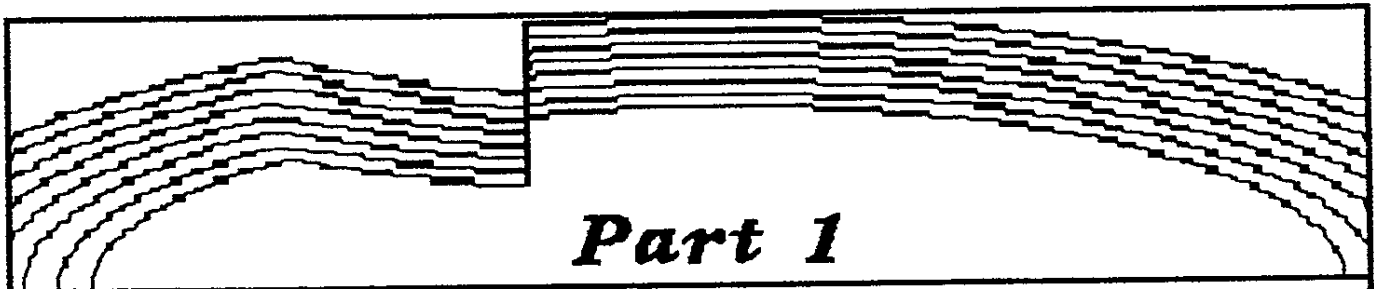
Peace be unto you...

Ghost Writer in the Sky
(G.W.I.T.S)



Rainbow Oracle II

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Part 1

***How Do You Repair
A Broken Rainbow?***

Nevada, U.S.A. - 1989

Once upon a time, in a land of Rainbow colors, there lived a race of children who had a vision. It was a grand dream, filled with love, hope, and great opportunity for the future.

Now these children themselves were a mixed breed, having all the colors amongst themselves that made up the living light that fed their souls and fueled their joy. For a while they were content to revel in their numerous gifts, and to share the joy. They never thought there would come a time when the very colors of the Rainbow would separate and that its magic would be beheld no more in the land.

But there was another race of children, who were jealous of those of color, and they went to great lengths to fashion images, causes, all manner of deception and distraction to lead the children of the Rainbow away from their treasures of light.

The gates to the Garden of the magic land of Rainbow colored living light had never in the history of that land been shut. There was a word inscribed over the entrance that was so old, no one knew what language it was, but everyone knew what it meant, and that was; "Welcome Home".

For a long time the children of the world would come see, and share in the bounty of the Rainbow, and some of them even managed to throw off their dingy robes of fear, jealousy, and scorn, and happily began living in the light, in their own special unique color, adding to the abundance. Most of the world went away feeling that they had witnessed miracles, but those feelings quickly faded when confronted with the continuing colorless mediocrity of their own world.

But the Beastly nature of the world was

jealous of every little bit of its illusion that was thrown off. The leaders of the world, men of great wealth (if something you can't eat, can't keep you warm, or make music is wealth?) gathered together in secret to conspire against the children who lived in the magic land of living Rainbow light.

They said:

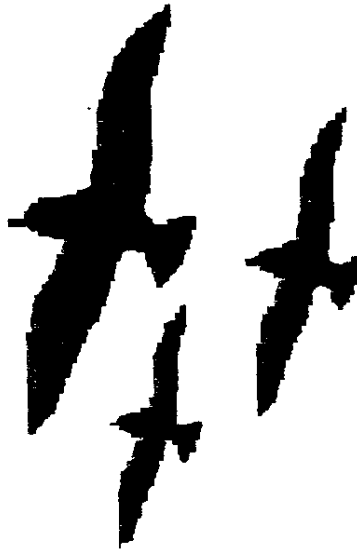
"These unruly, rebellious children must be stopped! They will not wear our harness, nor pull our wagons! They would rather dance and sing and worship their God. They do not buy our goods except those which we have made sure they cannot get, save from us. They teach our children that our

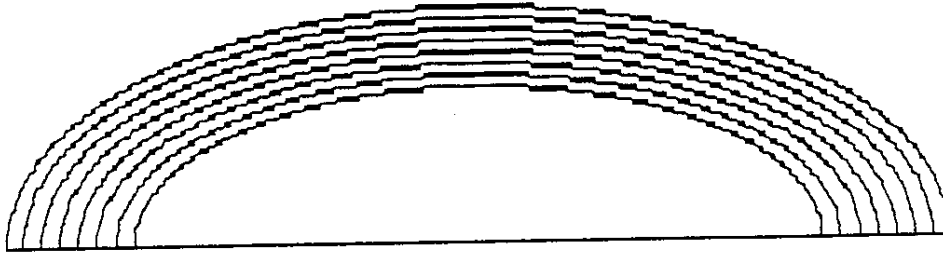
authority is a fault and that love will suffice instead of raw force and power." They had many more bad things to say about the gentle souls on Rainbow land, but the evil of their words was nothing to compare with the campaign of ruthless extermination that they set in motion.

The Kings and men of power assembled their chariots, and warriors, and marched upon the land of the Rainbow children.

The watchers of the Sacred Gate, saw them coming afar off and

sounded a warning. Many took flight throwing worldly cloaks over their countenances, so that they could escape the wrath of these jealous men. In less than an hour the land, and even those few who loved their joy and life in the magic garden more than their very lives, who stayed behind in a forlorn hope that their errant brothers, with the lust of blood and conquest in their hearts would surely see the truth and leave Rainbow land alone. But even that was not enough to hold the magic. Soon the sky darkened to starless night to cover the little bodies that were slain on that day.





Then the Kings and the captains gave a holiday for their slaves as a promotion for their prowess at having defeated defenseless children. It was probably the most exciting celebration the "world" had ever known, drunken, evil, and drab though it was.

While their subjects were despoiling each other with rape and intoxication, the Kings and captains gathered together in their secret chambers to take stock of their victory.

They said:

"We have broken the colored arc of those despicable outlaw children, many of them were slain, but many escaped in all directions. We must ensure that they are never again united, and that we need not fear their lies of love and freedom." Thus they conspired to enact an oppression that lasted for thousands of years.

The scattered Rainbow Remnants survived as best they could. They learned the labors of the "world", and though their hearts yearned for their Home, they went in secret to the gathering places of "The Light".

Having not the magic of their Garden to sustain them they began to bend and bow to mortality. They began to bear children, as the "world" seeped into their very pores, they learned that they were no longer wholly children, but were becoming like the men who'd destroyed their Home.

The wisest among them knew that the time would come when "The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light" would become legend, then myth, and then one day, forgotten. Steps had to be taken to preserve the memories and the knowledge of joy and love. The foresaw a great darkness upon the earth. They saw that they themselves would pass into Spirit in due time, and if there was any hope for "Light" to live again, that hope was

in their children, and the childrens' children. Some far distant generation, where the darkness has become bloated and weak and would not notice a little more light, that was their prophecy of hope.

So they told their stories, and they wrote them on skins, and on stone, and set tradition upon them to keep them intact through all the centuries.

They called it "The Oracle".

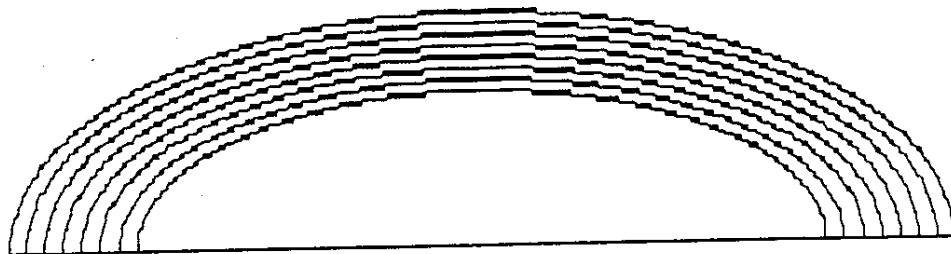
"The Rainbow Oracle".

Their enemies were not idle, for they too had their "wise" men, who foresaw the same future, but with an opposing point of view. They too, made "laws" and set them in stone, and wrote them on skins. They enforced their "laws" with bloody vengeance, waging fear and destruction. They too set a tradition upon their evil conspiracy, to pass it down from generation to generation.

The centuries went by, toiling and slow. The rulers of the "world" prospered and established their kingdoms. They warred with nature, they warred with each other, but the passion of their miserable lives was to catch a child of the light attempting to free the soul within. The Kings and princes found names and causes to justify their slaughter of innocence.

And now and then a light stood out in the darkness and illuminated all that touched them, but always there were the mercenary slayers of men, the enforcers of "Justice" that served the darkness, eager, ready and willing to snuff out lives like candles.

The "Oracle" of stories and truths that had begun in secret, began to grow larger in volume. Tradition had kept the words intact by the reasons for the tradition had been long forgotten. The Book finally found its way into evil hands, and there was found more opportunity for oppression.



"The Sacred Oracle of The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light" passed from the keeping of its rightful inheritors, and into the stingy clutches of the Kings and princes, and later the priests.

By altering, rearranging, omitting, and adding to the original text, the leaders of the "world" found a new dominion. It was religion. Many deceiving, but clever men found ways to confound all future generations about the "Land of Living Light". They seemed to suddenly be struck by revelations, and hailed themselves as holy men. They used their own version of the truth to teach that God gave them authority over other men, and that "Gods' Law" (which every light being knows is Love), was their own cruel predatory ways.

The time came when children of Living Light were born into the "world" and there was no one who knew that there was or had ever been such a place. They lived their lives as ordinary men, doomed from birth to labor under a curse that their "appointed leaders" said had come from God. By now the race of light had mixed with the race of darkness, and there was no longer much colorful distinction, though some clung to their color for some traditional reasons that they had no understanding of.

There was one part of the Oracle that had always puzzled and worried the thieves that had stolen it. That was that one day, a chosen one of God would come and free the slaves that the Kings, princes, and priests, had worked so hard to enslave.

It was as it had been foreseen so long ago. A generation of light rose undetected by the rulers who had long forgotten their own traditions having grown fat and lazy in their palaces and temples. A generation arose that somehow knew they were "Children of Living Light", even if they had no one to tell them. They told themselves.

There was talk of Love, there was talk of freedom, there was talk of a messiah, a Son of God, a deliverer. Some unwitting scribe must have let slip a prophesy or two. The whole Earth pricked its ears, and stirred in anticipation. Then it happened, and the whole world shook. Many remembered instantly, when seeing Him, many marveled at the great works, and the slaves were jubilant.

For a couple of years, hope had flared to an all time high. Joy had begun again. "The King of Light" had come!

Moment by moment he exposed lie after lie, putting Truth back in its rightful place. But he knew what was going on in the secret chambers of the lords and priests.

He said:

"I am, the Living Oracle."

Some knew what he meant. A few wise young men had foresight and saw what was coming, so they wrote all they saw, and every word He said.

They called it in later years "The New Oracle".

And in the chambers of the lords, once again they conspired to destroy this threat to their power and security. They laughed when he was brought, beaten and in chains before them, they congratulated themselves, most heartily when they nailed him to a tree. They danced in glee when the moans of agony escaped his lips, but they began to worry when he died. When he died, the sun was darkened to night, the earth shook, and the wind howled, and in the dark windy silence a voice rose above the hill;

"Surely this was a Son of God."

They, the kings and priests, hid in their chambers, for fear of the wrath of God. When they heard that the "King of Light" had risen from the death, some scribes even died of fright, right on the point of hearing of it.

The children of light who had heard the news, spread bravely across the face of the Earth, searching for their lost brethren, and sowing seeds of Love, Hope, and Truth, wherever they went. Though murdered for His works and words, this **Son of God, This King of Light** had surely demonstrated living light once more for the children.

It didn't take long for the kings, princes, and priests to repeat the process of their ancestors. By striving to cover up the facts. They could do nothing about **"The New Oracle"** because the word spread like fire across the planet, inflaming hearts of all kinds of people who were discovering the blood of light that was now running in everyone's veins, that it had touched.

There were even a small (a very small) number of the lordly, wealthy class, who, upon glimpsing the light within themselves gave all they had to find the source of it.

An intelligent man might ask: "why, if such a miracle of Hope, Love, and Life was here, like it was in all those precious moments, what fool would slay Him? And even having slain him by heart as well as by body, still cling so stubbornly to error in the face of the unrelenting facts".

It is difficult to say just how or when the way of **The New Oracle** became the same old kingdom again. Death has served the darkness well.

Oppressed by the "world", there were multitudes of faithful children slaughtered for their Hope, Faith, and for their Charity.

Once again producing "causes", "laws", and "justice", the rulers of the "world" strove mightily.

But the deception, by the more clever wit, proved once again to be the real demise of the powerful resurgence of the Light.

All those who had seen, and experienced the **"Magic Living Rainbow Light"** of

that era soon passed into Spirit, leaving a fire that could never be quenched.

But the kings and the priests already knew what to do.

They simply **said they** "saw the light" and that they were "holy men". They took the book and claimed they were "anointed" of God to rule the "new kingdom" and interpret **"The New Oracle"**. They promptly threw the whole "world" into the darkest pit of despair and despotism that has ever been remembered or forgotten since the beginning.

While the Spirit and the Light seemed to be away, **"The Children of Living Light"** were very active, I assure you.

There was ANOTHER prophecy.

There was one race of color that had escaped nearly all of this chaos, and while the "civilized world" was mucking around in the dark pit, they were illuminating an unknown land with all that they carried in their lives of light. They were true servants of the sacred, human though they be. The secrets of the ways of the Earth, they had kept faithfully and traditionally intact since they left **"The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light"**.

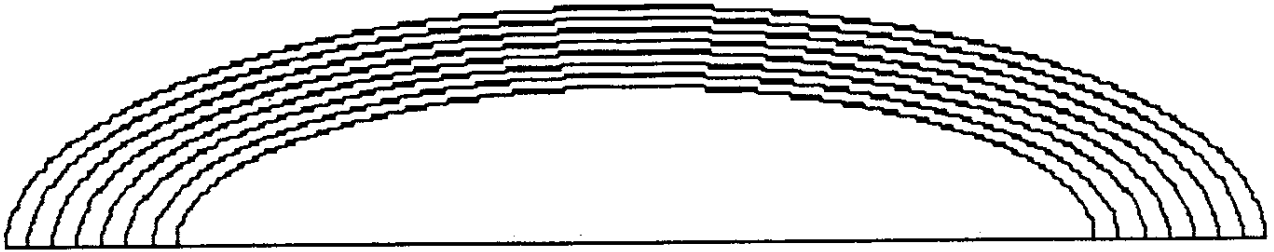
About the time that the "known world" was recovering from a horrible plague, that had nearly annihilated the population, the end results of such darkness and ignorance, a prophet walked on the plains in a far away land.

He was seeking a vision.

High upon a windy crag, overlooking the plains, the far land stretching to the horizon, he found it.

In fire, wind, rain, and great thundering it rushed upon him like a flood.

He saw the circle, he saw **"The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light"**, as it was and knew that the very ground he sat upon was sacred.



He saw that men would come, bringing the rest of the colors of the Rainbow in a swarm upon the land. He saw that his people would be trodden underfoot. He saw that their spirit would return, along with others in Living Light and that the Rainbow would be united to the end of time.

He saw that those that remained of his people would bear the seeds of their past by tradition, toward that day.

He had a difficult time being believed by his people, but to this day they continue to practice the sacred circle.

A generation or so later, the migration began. The it was frontier, next it was territory, and then it was a state. All but subdued and gone, the children of the "Prophet on the Plains" kept their tradition in their secret chambers, holding on, waiting for their appointed time.

Like a baby cooing as the dawning of a spring day, a Rainbow appeared through the smoke haze of the last bomb that was dropped earlier that morning.

Armies went home to have lots of children to replace the many souls killed in the war.

Life was young! There were marvelous new ways to enslave a "world" by making it look like something else. The children of light listened to all the bright promises that their war bred elders told them. They embraced Love, Truth, Justice and Freedom as right. There was one thing that the darkness did not foresee. In all they're conspiracies and dark rituals, in all their calculations, it never occurred to them what happened next.

It was song.

It was sung by many voices in many ways, yet it was the same. The Children of Living Light had a "Song".

Right when the presidents, governors, mayors, and priests were about to bind

them by fear, guilt, and their sense of honor, to the curse of the ages, right when they had them, right where they wanted them, The Children of Living Light began to dance and sing, and worshipping God right in front of them.

They sang and they danced, and spoke of Love and Freedom. They boldly denied the false authority and lies of the system of fear and death.

This enraged the senators, the police and the priests. They tried to stop it, by making them go die in a far off war.

But the song only got louder and more defined and The Children of Living Light stood face to face with the hoary beast.

The evil ones, knowing they were outclassed by the reason of who has and who has not, they retired into their secret chambers and conspired once again, against The Children of Light.

They smiled outwardly and pretended to give in to the demands of The Children of Living Light. The war was called off, but not until many had already died.

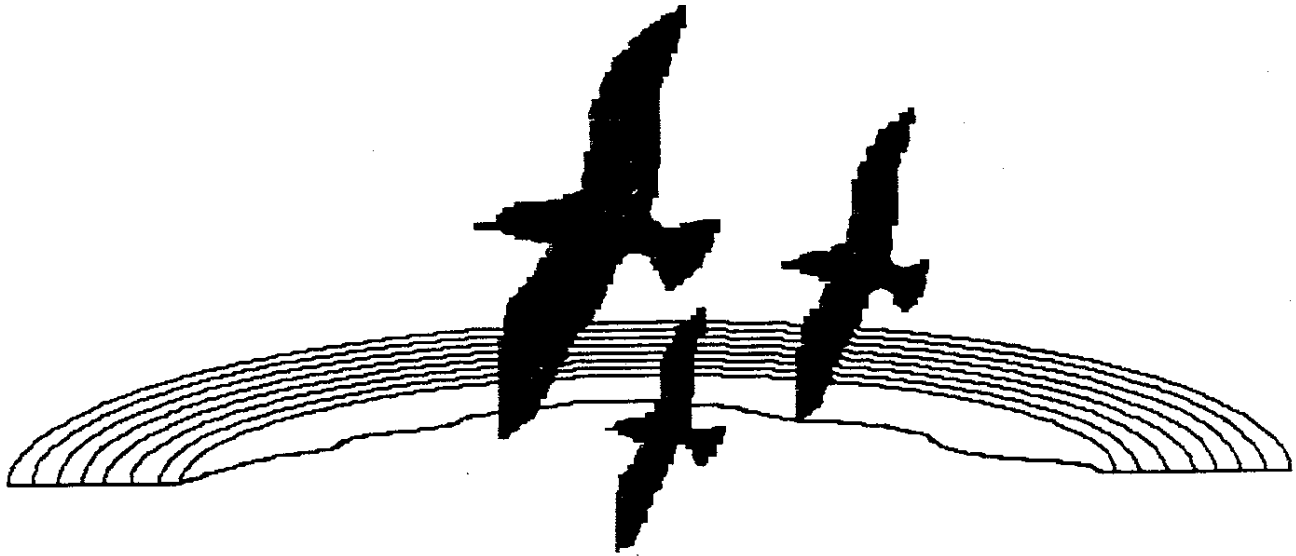
What a celebration on that day! All over the Earth was rejoicing for that victory of the Light.

Then all the children looked around in joy and saw that they were gathered like a "Family in Light". They saw the long awaited promise of "The Rainbow", and knew that they were "The Rainbow Family of Living Light".

It was found that "The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light" was something that all The Family of Light carried inside themselves, and every time they would gather together in Love and Light, the Magic Land would appear.

And over the gate to this new "Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light" was a sign that read:

"Welcome Home."



For a while "The Rainbow Family of Living Light" gathered more and more of the children out of the "world", into "The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light". However, the "authorities" were just as insidious as ever, and they sent spies, and inciters. They put on the Rainbow Robes and sang and danced their way to become "authorities" in the Rainbow.

Year by year they grew stronger and stronger, like a cancer growing on the heart of "The Magic Rainbow Land of Living Light", until one day the Magic was noticeably GONE. Those numbers who had chosen to ignore this unfortunate turn of events, were either disheartened and sadly turned away.

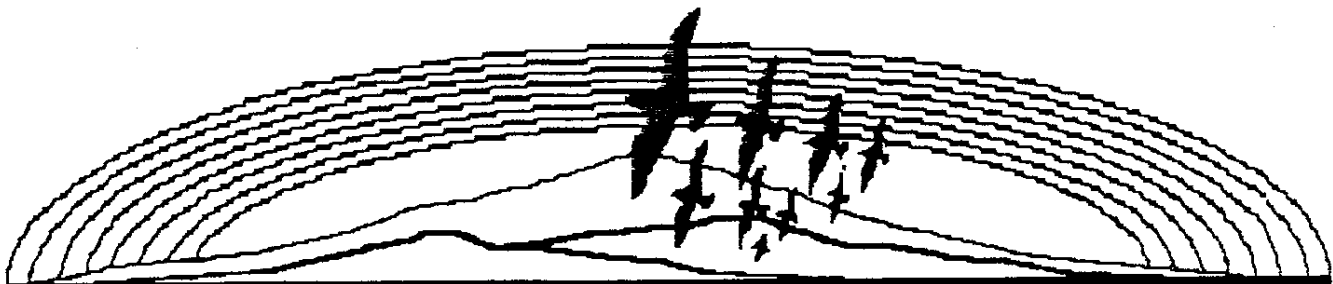
Those who did recognized what was happening were driven away or worse.

It began to seem like history was repeating itself.

But a cry went out in a song. It was a call to arms. To unite once and for all, forever in the Spirit, Mind, Heart and Body of "The Rainbow Family of Living Light". To stand at last to sing and dance our multi colored joy throughout Eternity.

I go now to answer that call!!!

"Welcome Home!!!"



The Philosophy

Chapter Two

Let us begin this chapter by explaining what "The Rainbow Family of Living Light" is NOT!

The Family, is Not a cult.
The Family, is Not a commune.
The Family, is Not an "organized" group in of itself.

What the Rainbow Family of Living Light" is, is a loose knit group of individuals who have come to realize one of the apparent "Lost" or concealed Truths of our existence. That Truth is that all human beings that have ever lived, live today, and those whose spirits have yet to born unto this planet, Earth, are a family.

That Family is "The Rainbow Family of Living Light". We realize also that very few members of this "Family of Humans" have come upon this actuality. Most people of this world live in an illusion that they are very different than one another, but when you look at the human being, you find that most of us are basically the same, in our beliefs, needs, and desires, no matter how we state them.

The differences, often lay in our interpretation of those beliefs, needs, and desires, as well as our political means of obtaining them. We do not deny our differences as individual beings, and our individual freedom to choose the way we live our lives. But as a larger group, that is all of human kind, those differences really fade.

As a "Family", we have placed certain restrictions, by agreements that are as old as the race itself, on the behavior of the "Family" unit.

As a "Family", we maintain our domicile as a home, and that dwelling is the planet

Earth. It would be totally unacceptable, for any "Family" member to damage, or endanger the "Family" Home for any reason, no mater how well justified.

As a "Family" we refuse unto ourselves the right to wage war or the destruction of our "Home", the planet. The "Family" is always "neutral" ground, to be a place of Love, and Peace.

As a "Family", we do not enslave other members of the "Family", in any form of bondage, whether we call it slavery, servitude, or captivity, for any reason, no mater how well justified, especially for that of profit.

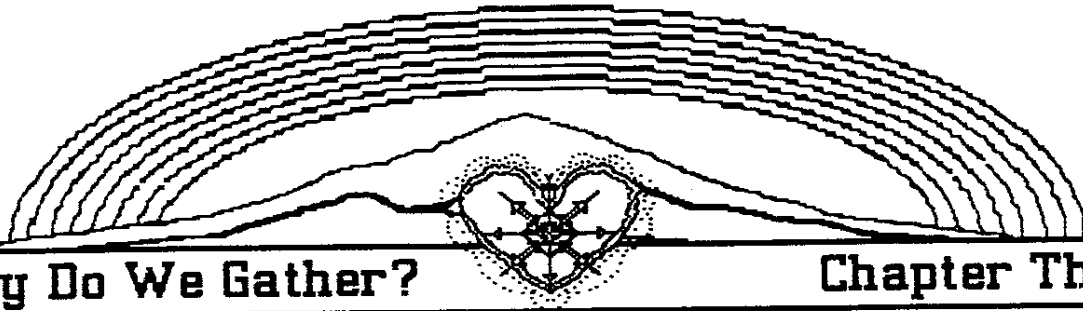
As a "Family", we recognize the basic needs of the individual members of the group, to decent housing, adequate clothing, ample food, proper medical care of a type of the individuals choosing, dignity, and the support of individual growth and worth.

As a "Family", we Love one another and Respect our special differences.

The main variation between "The Rainbow Family of Living Light" and the "Blood" families, is that "The Rainbow Family" does not require a strong individual leadership, but instead relies on individuals taking responsibility for given areas of interest and activity, for which each of us are best suited. This allows for a higher tolerance of the individual in our society. This places "politics" outside of the family spectrum, as it is totally unneeded in a "Family" based on Love.

As a "Family", we Gather together every so often for the purposes of Love, Respect, Guidance, and Prayer.

So we pray that all who read this, become aware of their "Family" ties, and in doing so recognize in their hearts, that they are also members of "The Rainbow Family of Living Light".



Why Do We Gather?

Chapter Three

Why do we "Gather"? The "Gatherings" are a basic function of human existence.

Almost all "Blood" families on the planet gather together, from time to time, to re-establish their Family bonds, and to maintain their Family traditions.

Religious groups gather together, in "Congregations", on their days of worship, for prayer, guidance, and Love.

Social groups gather together, for the purposes of social amenities, good humor, good works toward their communities and needy individuals, and dissemination of current events.

People gather together for cultural events, such as music, poetry, drama, humor and fun.

Countries and States gather together members of society for the purposes of "defense", and to wage WAR on those whom seem to have different objectives than their own.

We send our children to gather together for the purposes of education, social skills and help them to determine what they wish to do with their lives within the social aura.

All in all, the most common thing for the human being to do, is to "Gather".

"The Rainbow Family of Living Light" is no different. "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gatherings", are a combination of all of the above.

"The Gatherings" are a Family Reunion, in which we meet and see old friends whom we have been absent from, and to greet new relatives in the spirit who have just arrived. We celebrate and maintain our traditions (which have developed over the years).

"The Gatherings" are our place of worship, where we come together to pray, each in

our own way, for "Peace" for all of the Human Family and the planet Earth.

We pray that our efforts reach out and touch all that hear of it, might be touched, so that the day will arrive, when all are at peace with themselves, their society, and their Home the planet Earth.

We pray that the "leaders" of the world, will put away their WARS and weapons of WAR, forever, and learn to sit and council among all the world, so that they learn that those things that they consider to be their strengths, are really their weaknesses, and those things that they consider to be weaknesses are really their strengths, so that they do not destroy our Home the planet Earth.

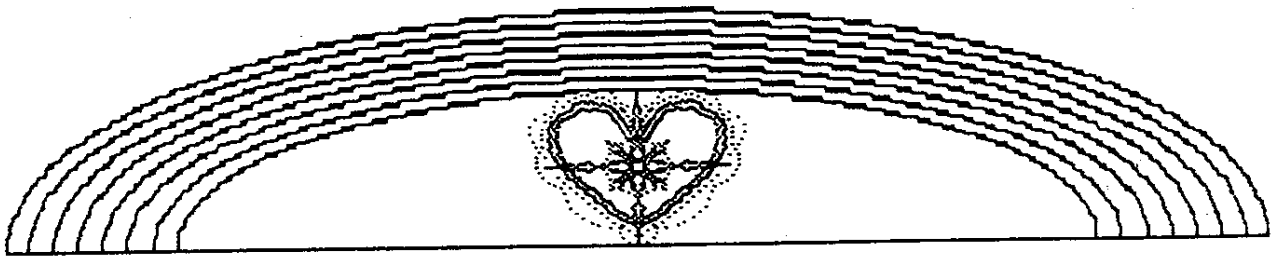
We stand in a circle in silent prayer, for many hours toward this purpose. We pray in "Healing Councils" for the troubled in mind and spirit. We pray so that we might respect our individual distinctions, and contrasts.

We Gather, in prayer, so that those of us that are sick of body, mind, or spirit, might be "Healed" of their discontent.

We Gather to prayer that Love, Respect, Honor, and Joy becomes the "Laws" by which each of us live our lives.

We Gather together to celebrate, in prayer, the Light of the Rainbow which was given to us as a sign against "Wars" of total destruction.

"The Rainbow Gatherings" are our "Congregation", where the Human Family might join together in Love, Respect, Joy and Prayer, each in our own way.



"The Rainbow Family" is a social group, which at the "The Gatherings" we discuss and determine methods by which we might improve the lives of all of "The Family" and its members.

The Family does this in as many various methods as there are individuals in The Family. The primary method though is through "Councils" and "Work Shops".

In the Councils, we disseminate current events, history, causes, visions and ideas to small and large groups. All participants in the event are encouraged to speak toward the issues that are currently in discussion at the Council, in an orderly manner. A Facilitator providing focus, these events are in the form of a circle, with all participants respecting the symbol (usually a feather or a staff) of the spirit and the speaker as a fellow Human Being.

Special Councils are convened, to solve individual problems, co-operative disagreements, Service area planning, etc., if a decision is reached that pertains to the entire event, that decision is carried to the Main Council Circle, where it is placed before the entire community for discussion, and decision, based on "Consensus". That is everyone in agreement to the point that none of the participants have strong enough reasons to dissent from that decision.

The Work Shops are usually round robin exchanges of direction and techniques for the improvement of our lives. These Work Shops are presented by individuals and small groups who have developed new or alternative methods for living, or optional techniques for the use of tools. The Work Shops are also called for the teaching of traditions, and the verbal transmission of the Family History.

There are Traditional Events which bind us together, some of those are: "The Silent

Prayer for World Peace", which takes place the morning of the Fourth of July, which is the major focus of the event.

The Children's Parade and Celebration of the Tribes, which takes place on the Fourth of July, immediately following "The Silent Prayer". This event signals the end of the prayer as the children parade throughout the site. "The Vision Council" which takes place at the end of the event on the Seventh of July, where the discussion centers on the location of the "Gathering" for the following year.

"The Gatherings" are also cultural events, with music, comedy, drama, and fun for all who attend. If you cannot have a good time at a "Gathering", you are not trying, for Joy and Love surround you.

We at "The Gatherings" do not require a militia, for we provide for our security, with love and respect for each other. We do have dedicated people who provide help, they are referred to as "Shanta Sena", or the keepers of the peace. In reality, all persons who attend the event, are their own "Shanta Sena", organizing fire watches in their "neighborhoods" (camping sites), "Hug and Kiss Patrols" to spread the Love and Joy of the event. From the time that you first enter the site, at the Welcome Center, and as you defuse your urban energies, while walking for one to two hours into the Site, this Love and Joy is apparent. You are provided information on the event at various places on "The Gathering Site", this is done in Love and Joy, for this information is part of "Shanta Sena".

Violence of any kind, is not permitted at "The Gatherings", and is not usually a problem, as Love and Joy prevail.

The Co-operations Lodge provides the focal point for the discussion of any disagreement. We have disallowed "WAR" in our lives, but we are in the process of "Waging Peace".

Our children are very important to us in "The Rainbow Family", and at "The Gatherings", they have a special place, among us. We provide the "Best" that we have for them and their use. The best food, the best equipment and most help that we can manifest are theirs.

There is always a "Kiddy City" located on the site, where parents can leave their children, with out fear.

The "City" is peopled by the a dedicated, fun loving group of participants, who provide a special form of education and guidance for the children. They teach such skills as kitchen skills in the woods, fire control and management, alternative non-competitive games, and respect for each other.

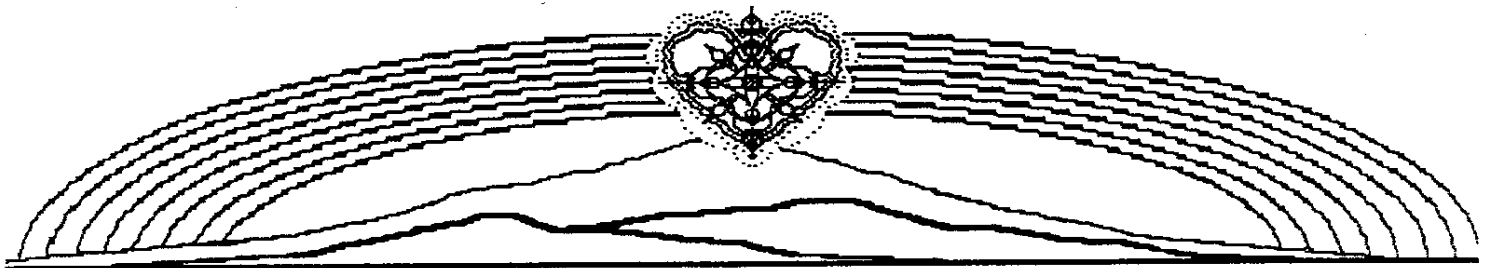
This our "School", and it teaches alternatives to the ideas which general society has provided the children during the year.

This "City" is a small scale duplication of "The Gathering", it has its own "Supply" facility, which the children manage. It has its own "Children's Council", and "Co-operations Lodge", it has its own "Welcome Center", and "Information Center" as well as a well staffed "MASH-CALM" medical center.

All of these areas are well facilitated by "Adult" children, who are Patient, Loving and full of the Joy of the Children.

All children who have lost their parents, are taken, to "Kiddy City".

As it was stated at the beginning of this chapter, "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering", is a product of the common human need for assembly and companionship. "The Rainbow Family" will continue to Gather, even after "World Peace" is established, not because of a cause, but instead because of the need for Love, Respect and Joy.





The Agreements

Chapter Four



As members of "The Rainbow Family of Living Light", it is our responsibility to do everything possible, in a peaceful alternative way, to live in the Light, in Love, Respect, and Joy, for God did not put us here to suffer, as the leaders of the "world" would let you believe.

It is our responsibility to see that the leaders of the "world" do not lead the Human Race, down the road that leads to the destruction of our "Home", the planet Earth, and with it the Human Race.

This is part of the awareness that occurs, after an individual becomes aware of their place in "The Family of Living Light". This perception does not happen just at "The Rainbow Gatherings", but day to day in our lives, as "Light Bearing Human Beings". As such we have been given a "Trust", and that "Trust" is to live our lives as examples to others who have yet to and touch "The Light of the Rainbow". We do this not in a passive way.

We take our examples of this from the great teachers of the past, such as "Buddha, Jesus, and Gahandi", who taught the a non-violent way is superior to, and will always achieve victory over violence.

We of "The Gatherings" have, over the years developed certain "Agreements", which help us learn these methods. We have developed "Agreements", instead of "Rules" or "Laws", because "Agreements" can be changed as need, by group "Consensus", while "Rules" and "Laws" tend to be written in stone and are not even changed, even by a majority, and can be manipulated by the "world leaders" to meet their needs for power and greed.

In Respect, and Joy, the Agreements are:

1. We shall Respect, Love, and be Considerate of the rights of all beings to be free in the Light.

2. We shall never commit acts of violence of any kind, toward each other, or any other being who live in our "Home", the planet Earth.

3. We will never use tools for weapons, and shall not carry into a Gathering, Guns or any other tool which has an inclusive purpose, of the commission of violence against "Peace".

4. We will Respect our differences, and shall ^{NOT} force our individual beliefs, on other members of "The Family", but shall by using "Work Shops" have the opportunity to state those beliefs to those who wish to hear them. We Gather in the spirit of "Curba You're Dogma".

5. We do not use expediency, which leads to violence, to solve our problems and disagreements, but instead, we shall use the "Circle", and "Council", which have been given to us for this purpose.

6. Each of us will be responsible for our own actions only, and shall give freely, to the whole of the event. Those things that are give freely can not be stolen, but those goods that are given with hesitation are already pilfered from its possessor.

7. Alcohol shall not be present or consumed at a Gathering, for it tends to lead to violence.

8. Each of us will be responsible for our own actions, only.

9. Respect each other, and use proper sanitation methods and facilities, for unlike the animals and other spirits of the Earth, most of use live in the "world" and tend to bring with us the illnesses of the "world".

Since its inception in 1972, the Rainbow Family has successfully created one of our generations truly unique events, "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering".

This annual World class event is now in consequential jeopardy. Since 1982, when this phenomenon descended on the mountains of Idaho, there has been a gradual disintegration of the spirit, vision, agreements, and traditions of the event.

The Spirit was violated, when the Gatherings were moved East and placed in the hands of the "Mid-Atlantic Rainbow Alliance". This group, who saw fit to disavow the pioneer epithet, are well intentioned folks who through their delinquent guidance have orchestrated a condition, where by the Gatherings are no longer referred to by the people as a WORLD class event, but instead an event of NATIONAL importance. This change in emphasis, has reduced and watered down the assemblage and its effectiveness with artificial regionalism and confining Nationalism.

We do not assemble to only pray for this country, alone, but for all in prayerful hope of WORLD PEACE!!!

The accent has shifted because of this deviation in focus. The event has been embroiled in legal chicanery to the point the every Gathering since 1985 has been challenged in court by local or federal "authorities". This lead to the 1986 Federal Court decision by which we as a group were legally recognized and thereby provided our detractors with a target by which they have tried to impose their local and state regulations.

Even though the events have successfully taken place, this has forced the "Alliance" into providing more and more of the resources available for the event (human and otherwise), into defending our Constitutional Rights to Gather.

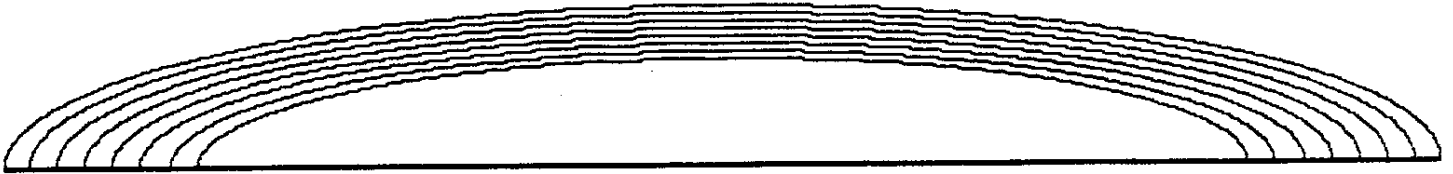
This has successfully undermined the dream. By tradition we have, attempted to provide solutions by alternative means. By consensus, we have always felt that if an person sees what is perceived to be a problem, that individual has a responsibility. The responsibility is to attempt to make changes, in an alternative way. We also recognized that the solution of any problem cannot be obtained by sitting around and complaining, without alternative, nonviolent action.

The "Alliance" has become entirely too expedient in how it deals with the traditions.

In the beginning there was a real attempt to deal with individuals in a loving and caring manner. If there was a problem we would congregate into a small council where the specific problem, not necessarily the human being involved, was identified, discussed, entreated, prayed upon, and resolved to all participants satisfaction. The decision (if it was of import to the entire assemblage at the Gathering) was then taken to the Center Circle, for consensus of the entire group. We would never have considered taking individual action, against another person without Council consensus.

At the North Carolina Gathering, I personally witnessed a brother being ejected without this process being invoiced. The brother had committed an act of violence against a child, and rightfully should have been ejected, but only after a Council had convened and spent some time in council and prayer with the brother. This was not done, to our own sorrow. The brother then went into Ashville N.C, where the Media was ready and waiting to hear his side of the story, which he had not be allowed to express in council.

At the November 1987 California "Regional" Gathering, which was sponsored by persons who have aligned themselves with the "Alliance", there was an attempt by



those persons to eject me from the event for Creating Dissension, which I refused to acquiesce to, only then to watch another brother bodily eject another for being stupid(?). The brother was tied with his own coat and walked out of the event. He was not allowed to secure his personal possessions, and sent down a road, which dead ended (for walking) on a military reservation. The brother who did this was applauded for his efforts in removing this "unenlightened being". The only accepted reason for ejection of anyone, according to the agreements, is for the commission of violence against another. This has, in the past, been the last possible solution to even this type of occurrence.

The lack of acknowledgment of any individual authority other than personal responsibility has been a Hallmark of the Gatherings from the beginning. The power games that have been played in the recent past need to be curbed by our traditional methods of Council and Consensus, not by these highhanded assumptions of power.

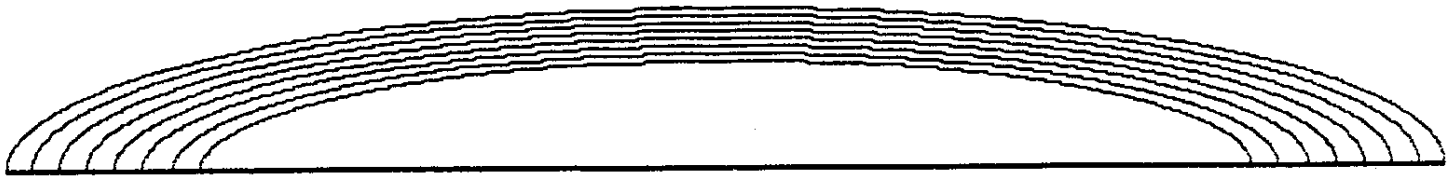
While traditionally, individuals have accepted responsibility for given areas of service (kitchens, bakeries, supply etc.), they have done so with common agreement among the participants, and if the individuals were unable to maintain a level of adeptness in those areas of responsibility, other members of the family would sit and council the person, providing guidance, additional help, or provided an alternative person who assumes this area of responsibility, without demeaning the efforts and abilities of the existing facilitator.

Traditionally, one of the nonviolent methods providing solutions to problems, at the Gatherings has been the holding of "Work Shops". Up and through the Washington Gathering in 1981, there were so many work shops that the individual participant

could not attend all of them. By the North Carolina Gathering in 1987, these work shops had all but disappeared. In their place has developed an atmosphere of party and play. While these elements have always been part of the event, it was never the primary focus in the vision.

One of the traditions that has fallen by the wayside, is the teaching of the traditions via verbal communication, with the telling of the history of the event. This function, has been superseded by written documents (Rap 107s', Howdy Folks, etc.), which wind up being unread litter for the cleanup crew to remove from the site. We need to return to the use of verbal communications of our story tellers, so that those persons who are new to the event, fully understand what it is that we are trying to create.

By agreement, consensus, and tradition, we have in the past left our vehicles in a supervised parking facility, some distance from the event. This created a situation where every participant (other than early arriving work crews) would experience a defusing of urban attitudes, through a one to two hour walk into the Gathering Site. Vehicles were never allowed on site after the first few days of Site preparation. Although I personally see nothing wrong with letting Large Vehicles enter to drop off heavy equipment (kitchens, supplies, etc.), before the Tenth of June, before there are many people and children present. No Family vehicle should enter the site after this time. At the North Carolina event this had digressed to the point that there was no parking lot. Instead all of the vehicles that could be driven to the site, were. When the belated attempt was made late in June 1987 to close the road into the site by members of the family, it created a confrontation with the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. This situation continued through out the event.



The situation was chaotic, cars were parked along a narrow one lane road for several miles. Convoys of vehicles were escorted by law enforcement vehicles, to make sure that the road remained open. We were forced (by necessity) to use a flag system and provide shuttles for those who had parked on the US highway two and one half miles down the one lane road. What we had there was the "Great American Rainbow Road Show" which distracted from the focus and vision. Cars and Gatherings DON'T MIX, but because of the lack of awareness on the part of "Alliance" and many of the participants, there were the cars, despoiling the event.

Tradition and Agreement says that the next years site should be chosen in Vision Council on the Seventh of July. Tradition also states that if any one state is turned down in council Three (3) times during this Council that that area will not be considered again that year. Consensus is only blocked for legitimate alternative reasons, not for reasons of politics. If no Consensus is obtained it is left up to the Thanksgiving Day Council to make the determination of the location.

This method has always been a source by which politics have infiltrated the event. If we change the Council so that ALL those that are able to sustain, prepare, and facilitate the event should be allowed to do so for their areas. The concept of One Gathering in Many Places is a very viable option, for the more that pray for peace on the Fourth of July, the better.

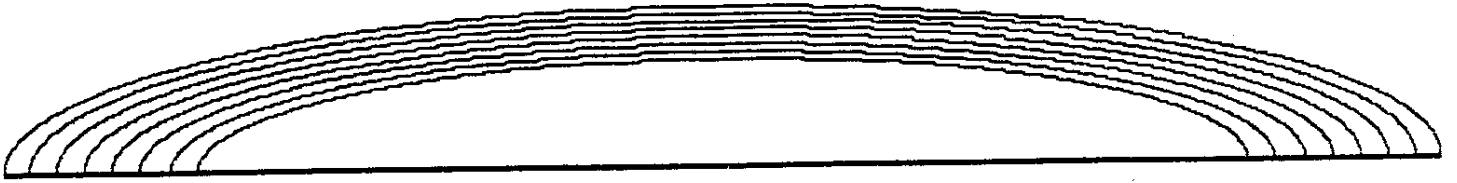
At the North Carolina Visions Council, those persons who had come and placed much effort into the event, who were from the west coast, presented a strong dream for the Gathering in the State of Nevada. Consensus was blocked, by a brother who stated, "I cannot support Nevada, because it

is to far away from the National Political Conventions in Atlanta, and New Orleans". By our agreements this blockage of Consensus should have not been allowed by the facilitator, for it was for obvious political reasons. Later that day the Texas supporters were also blocked three times, mostly because of their high handed actions at the event (refusing to feed, in "their" public kitchen, anyone who did not support Texas) and a mistrust on the part of many, of their ability to find an adequate site, as these were the same people that had located the North Carolina site.

There were about five hundred persons in attendance at the time. By tradition both sites should have been removed from consideration until the following year. On the Eighth of July, after the event was ended, those persons who supported Texas, took over the Council (which had not adjourned) and that Council of Twenty overruled the Council of the previous day and claimed that while in prayer that they had received a vision for Texas. This was power tripping on a level that we have not seen before.

Tradition states that on the Fourth of July, all members of the family who wish to should gather somewhere on the site and pray in silence for World Peace. This is the Major Focus of the Vision. In the past we have had circles in which Thousands have participated. Those who chose for one reason or another not to participate in the circle, at least remained silent in their endeavors or left the Site proper (except for the Krisna's).

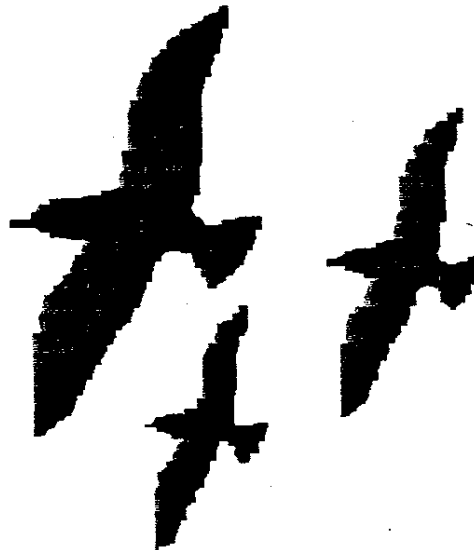
At the last few events the silence has attracted fewer and fewer folks. According to news broadcasts, the Texas event in 1988 attracted less than two hundred persons for this circle of prayer. Let us return the silence to its proper place in the event and respect it.

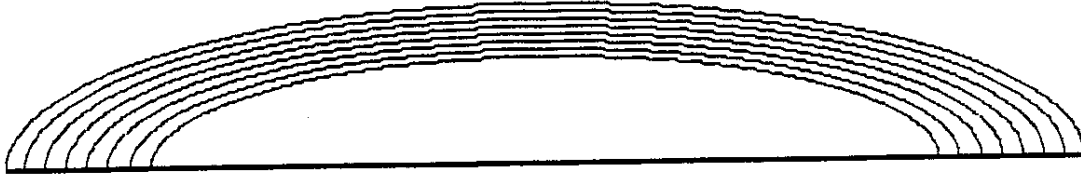


While there are several other areas of disagreement with "The Mid-Atlantic Rainbow Alliance" and their methods of administrating the event, it is the purpose of this letter try and bring to light the need for all persons who consider themselves to be members of the "The Rainbow Family of Living Light", to come together and ask this group (The Mid-Atlantic Rainbow Alliance) to rejoin the Family, maintaining the traditions, agreements, and customs of "The Rainbow Family". As it stands now "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering" has ceased to be, only to be replaced by an event in which has a focus on power plays, fun and frolic, and expedient measures, while the original purposes have been relegated to secondary positions. While they have "legal" recognition from the federal government as "The Rainbow Family", (which will be their eventual downfall), THEY DO NOT HAVE CONSENSUS. We of the vision deny them this authority, for we are free individuals who once a year "Gather Together" in the name of World Peace. Let us not turn our backs on the Vision, because of the inappropriate actions of others.

Let us come together to council on these issues this Thanksgiving, Valentines Day, and at the Gatherings. Taking the politics out of the event, changing those functions which allow for politics, such as the Visions Council and recreate like unto the Phoenix, "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering".

"Baker" Paul,
Bandon, Oregon,
October 17, 1988





The Rainbow Oracle II

Part II

How to Build A Rainbow Gathering!

"Facts are important, the Truth is paramount, and Love is required." anonymous

We do not gather to "Party", though we do find occasion to celebrate the gifts that God has given us. We have to take our inheritance seriously these days.

There is much WORK to be done, and it is within our abilities to do all that is necessary. Experience is helpful, Information is welcome, Spirit is necessary, and Focus of Vision is essential.

We do not gather to teach, nor should we presume that those we meet have not heard the news. If there is any thing we can demonstrate, it will be Love, Unity, Respect, Honor, Spirit and Vision.



Chapter Six

THE COUNCILS

AN OVERVIEW

"Let us begin by clearing up one misunderstanding about the Rainbow Gatherings. That is that the event just happens, July One through July Seven. The reality is that the event takes many months to mature into what happens July One through July Seven. The Gathering actually starts with the Thanksgiving Council and proceeds through the year from this infancy to its conclusion when the last member of the family leaves the Site, after cleanup."

Barry "Plunker" Adams
Thanksgiving Council,
Missoula, Montana
November 1980



"The Councils"

"The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering," begins on Thanksgiving Day, the year before the actual event.

While the Event provides many avenues and methods for celebration and joyful prayer, the Councils follow one method and one method only, and that is the circle.

The design of the "Thanksgiving Council" provides a format by which we as a family can sit and discuss problems which have arisen over the previous year.

The "Thanksgiving Council" is normally a four day event, which is divided into four parts. The first part of the Council is Thanksgiving Day. This day is set aside so that the participating Family members can enjoy each others company, partake in a Family "Pot Luck" dinner, and get to know new and old friends late into the evening.

The second session is held the day after Thanksgiving, and unlike the previous day, this Council sits and listens to individual Family members who provide the Council with information, on the previous years Event, Traditional procedures, including the format by which Councils are held and the reasons that these methods are used in Council. A verbal description of "How to Build a Rainbow Gathering" are provided. This day is traditionally "Facilitated" by a brother, while the following days are "Facilitated" by a sister.

The third days schedule is "Problem Discussion", where any one who sees or perceives a problem or problems may state them in the spirit of "Council", which is silence, with only the speaker talking with all others in sitting and listening in silent

respect. No decisions are made on the third day, but the problems are to be discussed, prayed, and slept on during that evening and night.

The fourth (and usually the final) day of the Council, is in the same format of the third day, with the same "Facilitator" and the previous day, who keeps the discussion on the problem topics which were "floored" the preceding day.

After this portion of the session is ended, the discussion turns to the Site Location, and either the affirmation of the July Seventh's "Vision Council", or because of various reasons, which include, lack of participation in the Council by Members of the Family who are willing to participate in the year long process for that area, or if the Council decides that there was too much "Political Influence" in the "Vision Council" decision.

This Council has traditionally been given the authority (by the "Family") to redirect the Event to another location. This is no easy opinion for any Council to reach, and is done in a spirit of love, vision, focus, and prayer.

The third portion of the last days agenda, is the formation of the "Transitional Council", where individual members of the Family, state their intentions to participate in the Event from the Council forward, until the Event ends, after Cleanup.

Members of the Family at this point state which areas of specific interest which they will assume responsibility. This group then gets together, and decide on where to locate the "Transitional Council".



"The Transitional Council"

The Transitional Council, is the group of Family members, who spend the year together, preparing for and facilitating various functions, and events leading to and including the Event. This Council hold the Spirit, Focus, Vision and Love of the Family collectively. Those Family members who make up this Council, group together in a City, Town, Village, Hamlet, or on the land, located in the area, or state, which was decided on, in consensus, at the Thanksgiving Council.

The "Transitional Council" has the responsibility to prepare themselves and other members of the Family for the Event. Those responsibilities include obtaining and preparing all of the tools and facilities for the Seed Camps, Work Camp and the Event. Individuals in the Council, by accepting certain "Areas of Responsibility", take on the additional responsibility to council with all who have interest in the specific area, and present, at least once a week, at a Working Council, all new information and general status of the area. This council has the responsibility for locating a location for holding the "Valentines Day Council".

The "Transitional Council" has the responsibility to update the mailing list, and oversee the publication, and mailing of the "Howdy Folks". This work should be ready to mailed by the "Valentines Day Council".

The "Transitional Council" has the responsibility to the Family, to find and obtaining a Site, that is Suitable for our use, using positive alternative methods in dealing with "Local" and "Federal" officials. It is very important, that these dealings be done in the Spirit and Focus of the Event.

The "Scouting Parties", should originate with the "Transitional Council", and although any Family member is welcome to

participate in, or facilitate a "Scouting Party", Site selection needs to be done by consensus of the entire "Transitional Council". This is done, so that all of the information available can be presented to members of the Family, who did not find the individual location, but instead may be looking at several choices presented to them. There should not be a "Scouting Council" unto itself, although the "Scouting Parties" should council among themselves before presenting their information to the "Transitional Council".

The "Transitional Council" has the responsibility to locate and obtain suppliers and cache gifts for "Main Supply".

The "Transitional Council" has the responsibility to publicize, by using alternative, loving methods, the Event and to encourage "Local" participation, all members of the Family are welcome to participate in the preparations of the Event. The council is responsible for outreaching to the "Local" community, through special local events (Pot Luck dinners, Concert events, Beach parties, sweats, etc.). The council shall be peopled by volunteers who have decided to spend their entire focus on the Event. This core group, will carry the vision forward as the year progresses and by this continued centering on the vision and focus, the event will grow like a lotus, small at Thanksgiving, and growing to extraordinary size, by its maturity, on July 4th..

The "Transitional Council" will transfer its Family authority at the beginning of the "Valentines Day" Council. After this time, the work that was being performed that council will be transferred in to small working councils, which will center their efforts into "Areas of Responsibility".

The "Transitional Council" will meet one more time toward the end of May to make the Site decision.



"Valentines Day Council"

"The Rainbow Family of Living Light" holds only two dated events in a given year. Those are the July 1st through July 7th Event, which is know as "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering", and the event which takes place on February 14th, Valentines Day.

The "Valentines Day Council", is a two day event, February 14th and 15th.

This is where we as a Family put all of the pieces of the Event together. The "Howdy Folks" should be available, in its final form (except for a map), on view at this council. Except for the actual location of the Site, all of the support facilities should be available, in storage, or in operation, so that the Event could start as of this date. If any are not, by the time this council is held, those "Areas of Responsibility" shall be this councils **First and foremost** responsibility. Those present whom have not yet decided on a specific "Area of Responsibility" should be encouraged to volunteer for these "Areas of Service".

The second function of this council is to facilitate formation of "Working Groups of Responsibility", so those areas that are already represented in council can be encouraged to group together in "Areas of Service" and in those areas that have joint responsibility (Calm-Mash, Sanitation, Water Supply, etc), or similar background (Kitchens, Bakeries, Supply, Banking etc.), should work together in "Service Councils".

The third responsibility of the "Valentines Day Council" is the formation of "Scouting Parties" and to look at advanced reports of areas which have been scouted in the past. The council needs to sit and council the "Scouting Parties" as to what makes up an acceptable site. The needs for an adequate parking facility, some distance from the

"Center of the Site" but to be considered part of the Site. There should be at least a one to two hour walk from this area. There should be **NO** roads on or through the "Center of the Site", and if a supply road is available, it should not be close enough to the center so that vehicles can be heard. There needs to be more than one or two water sources. Water should be tested by an independent laboratory, as government tests in the past have tended to be faulty. There needs to be large enough open spaces for the Family to Gather.

"Scouting Parties" should be focused toward those areas which have already been scouted and reported on, first. The use of the government to provide the Family with a Site should only be used as a last resort.

The Councils fourth responsibility is to facilitate the organization of the "Seed Camps" and the transference of the Families authority to these camps as "Working Councils", with the qualification that the decisions made at these Councils are limited to the focus established by the "Valentines Day", the "Transitional Council", the "Thanksgiving General Council", and the "Vision Council". Locations for the camps should already be arranged by the "Transitional Council". All working and functioning "Areas of Responsibility" should be moved to a "Seed Camp", if not immediately, sometime prior to the beginning of the "Work Camp" which will be on the Site of the Event.

The final responsibility of the council should be the resolution of any problem which was presented at "Thanksgiving Council" and that had not been resolved by the efforts of the Family members that participated in the "Transitional Council".



"The Seed Camps"

Immediately after the "Valentines Day Council" the "Seed Camps" are formed. In years past there have been from one to seven "Seed Camps".

There is no set agreement on the number of "Seed Camps" that are needed for any one years Event. Generally "Seed Camps" are formed around the "Scouting Parties" and transform to centers, which set in motion the "Working Groups of Responsibility" and "Areas of Service Councils" (commonly know as "Service Councils").

During the faze in which the camps primary focus is the "Scouting Parties", the vision needs to focus on the formation of the "Working Groups" and "Service Councils". All members of the Family who participate in the "Seed Camps" need to gather together at least once a week in a "General Camp Circle", and all of the "Seed Camps" need to assemble a "General Seed Camps Council", at least once every three to four weeks, where common problems are focused on, discussed, and praying for guidance for there solution.

"Seed Camps" are generally for the gathering together the Family members who wish to help focus on specific "Areas of Responsibilities" and the gathering together the necessary supplies and materials for the construction of specific facilities, such as the kitchens, bakeries, showers, Calm-Mash, Info-Center and Rumor Control, co-operations, water supply, tools, 55 gallon drums, food, supplies, sundries, etc., etc., etc..

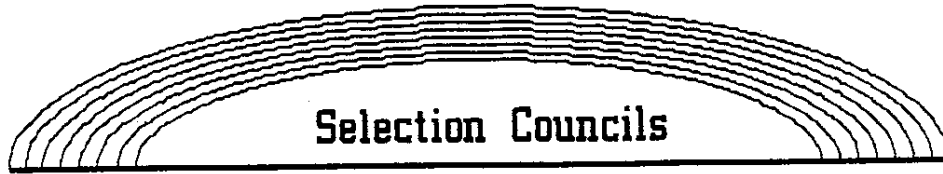
We recognize that this diffusion of the Families authority, might tend to weaken the focus, but in reality what happens is that because there are Family members at the camps who have dedicated themselves to specific "Areas of Responsibility", and also there are those who also are dedicated to the "Focus of the Vision", who have prepared and qualified to facilitate most problems or crisis, that could ever confront them. If such a situation should occur, there will be

those who come forward with alternative solutions to these problems. This process would always involve the council circle process, with as many members of the family in attendance as possible. Any decision made that directly effect the "Seed Camp" should be taken directly to a "General Camps Circle", so that if it affects all, all are informed as to the possible results, before it happens.

Note:

During the year various camps are created by individual members of the Family, they are commonly called "Peace Camps", "Winter Camps", or "Survival Camps". All of which assume some sort of Family authority without council consensus. While these camps have a vital function, that is feeding and providing shelter of some sort, they are most accurately referred to as "Survival Camps", and should at least go to the "Thanksgiving General Council", or let the "Transitional Council" know that you are planning such an event.

It is very important NOT to use the Family name for purposes and events, which have any major political focus, or of which is not an entirely "Free" event. In the past it was not considered within the agreements to use the name of the Family, for any enterprise no mater how worthy, other than "The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering".



Selection Councils

This is the last rendezvous of the "Transitional Council" for the year, but it is the first of three "Selection Councils" held during the year, the second being the "Visions Council" on July 7th. The third is the "Thanksgiving Council", but only under the agreements which have already been explained in the beginning of this chapter.

There are major differences between these three councils.

The Thanksgiving Council as it is described earlier in this chapter, is the most formal of our councils, in its structure, purpose and methods of procedure.

The May **Transitional Council** is a three to five day council, which is centered evaluating on the descriptive evidence of on site surveys that have been presented in an orderly manner by the "Scouting Parties" and other individuals who may have input to present to the council.

They spend days and hours looking at maps, photographs, charts and graphs, information on the water, supply availability, emergency services, roads and the proximity of the road to the site, the parking lot, the main trail, soil conservation, and all other things that have to be examined in order for the Event to be placed on, absolutely, the finest Site that is available in the assigned area.

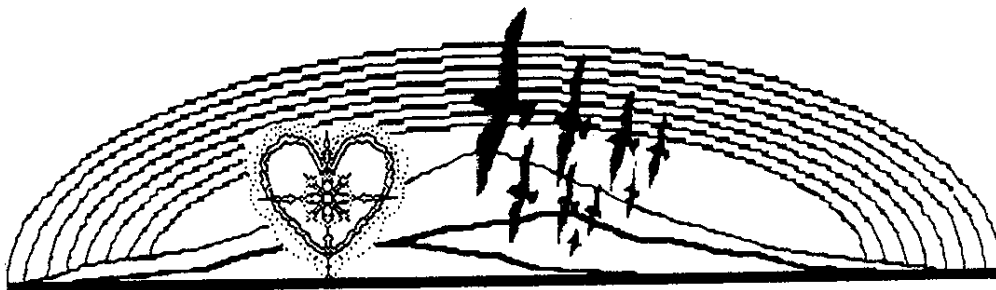
The "**Vision Council**" is a one day council that begins and ends on the 7th of July, at

the "Gathering Site". The selection process here is done by "**Vision**", and in any given year, there have all ways been many appropriate visions on this subject.

This council is **NOT** a political arena, and blockage for political reasons are not acceptable, as very few "**Political Visions**" have proven to be accurate in the past.

The inappropriate action of beginning this council before the 7th of July, allows politics and "**Political Visions**" to become driving forces, behind this council.

There should as minimal discussion on the following years Events during the "**Gathering**" itself, as it tends to distract from this year's Event. The proper place for this discussion is in the "**Visions Council**" and then through the "**Vision**", which we all have been touched by, in so many different ways. That each of us with our little piece of that "Vision" might come together so that we might see through to the greater "Vision", so that all can see where that "Vision" is taking us next, and not where **SOME** of us would **LIKE** to go.



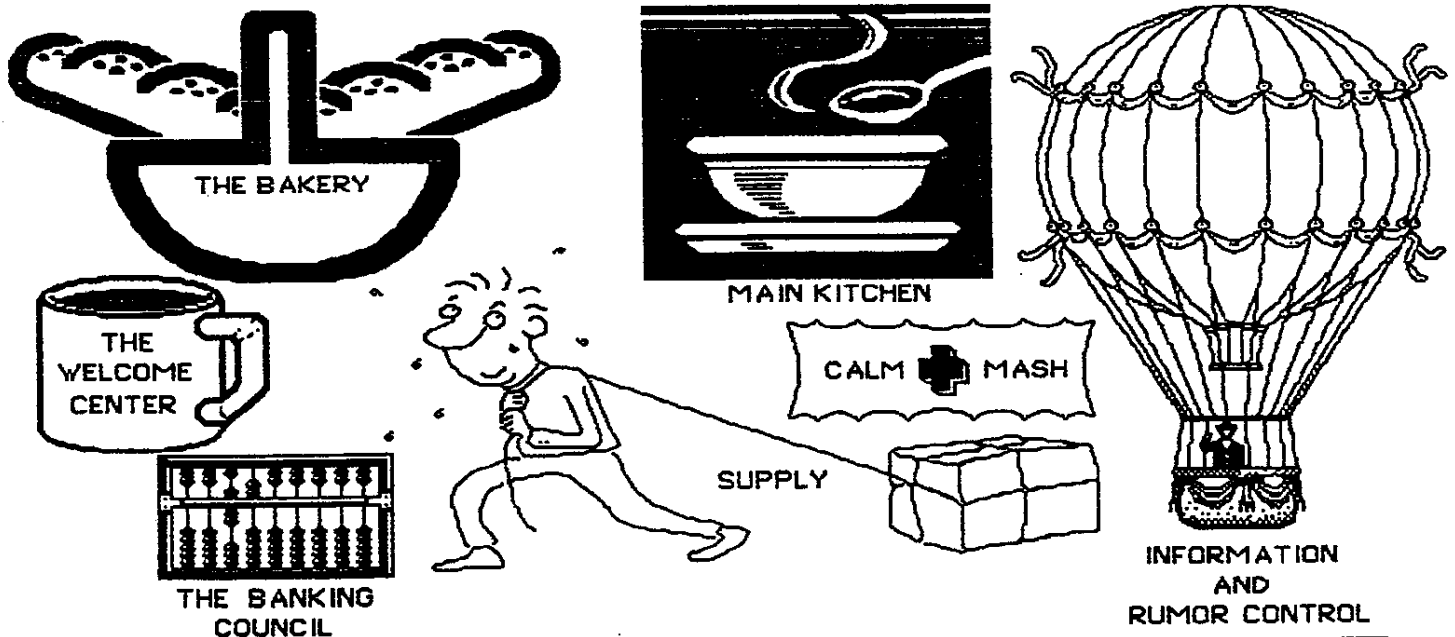
Chapter Seven

THE SERVICE AREAS

AN OVERVIEW

"This is the portion of the Vision which provides a real look at miracles in action. Miracles do really happen, but usually they take a lot of hard work and are incredible fun."

"Steve"
Idaho "Rainbow Gathering"
Council, Idaho
July 7th, 1982





The **Service Areas** are those vital portions of the event which provide for the needs of the family at the Gatherings.

There are many areas of service and in this chapter we will try and describe how some of these areas function -- in the world of the Gatherings. We will approach the areas as if we are just arriving at a Gathering and we introduced to the event through these areas.

The first thing that we see as we arrive at the Gathering is not even on the site. We are picked up while hitchhiking to the Gathering, several miles from the site.

The vehicle that stops is a **Shuttle Car** that is packed to the brim with all of the people and gear that the driver can conceivably put in.

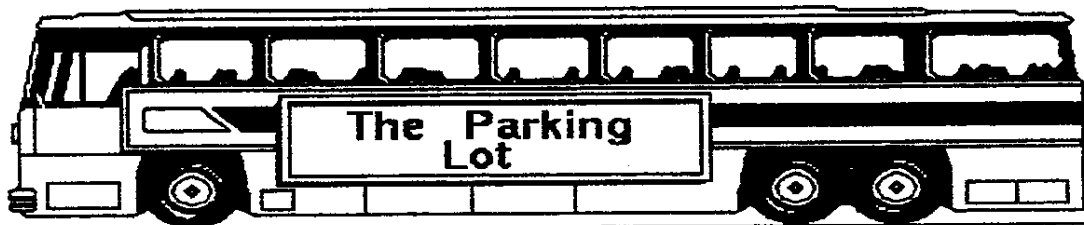
He finds room for us anyway, and for

The shuttle driver brings his vehicle to a stop and the multitude of humanity pours out of the car. They find themselves next to a large field where there are other people helping new arrivals park their cars and get heavy gear off of the vehicles and help carrying the larger items up the **Main Trail**.

We pick up our backpacks as the shuttle driver turns around and quickly leaves, returning to town to find more of the family and bring them to the Event.

We have found ourselves next to the **Parking Lot**, at the beginning of the **Main Trail**. Before we leave we need mention a few things about the **Parking Lot** crew.

There is a cook preparing food for the crew in the crew kitchen. Supply vehicles are being unloaded. The shuttle crew mechanic is



about twenty minutes, we are as close to other members of the family than we have been in many months.

The shuttle driver is a member of the **Shuttle Service**. This group of people who have decided to place into service to the family their cars and drive between local communities and the site to pick up any one who needs a ride to **The Rainbow Gathering**.

The shuttles are run by donations as are the drivers. All gas, oil and minor maintenance should be provided out of the magic hats in the cars and at the **Welcome Center**. Major repairs, tires and brakes are normally are provided for by the **Bank** through the larger center circle Magic Hat.

The shuttle drivers usually form their own council and meet together when there is a need. Well on with the story.

working on a vehicle, but most of the people here are fulfilling several vital functions. The first is to welcome everyone who arrives with a **Welcome Home** and a Hug. They encourage everyone to proceed as quickly as possible up the **Main Trail** to the **Welcome Center**. They also act as resource persons for family members with specific problems, such as finding help moving large parcels and equipment into the site. They also are on the look out for alcohol which they ask everyone not to bring into the site. All of those family members who have decided to participate in this service do so with love and joy for they are the vanguard. They set the mood of love, joy, respect and happiness.

This is the last time we will hear the sound of a motor vehicle, the remainder of the time that we are at **The Gathering**.



The Welcome Center

We began the one and a half hour walk to the Gathering with great anticipation. By the time we had strolled up **The Main Trail** for about twenty minutes, we become acutely aware that we are leaving **The World** behind.

The walk in is of vital importance to the **The Rainbow Gathering** for this is a defusing period. We can no longer hear the activities in the parking lot. We are being treated to the golden sounds and songs of the natural world. The sound of our own feet as they touch the earth of the path are the loudest sound that we can discern.

We meet and pass several other who are making the trip out of the site and with each there is a hearty "**Welcome Home**" from all parties.

We are becoming attuned with our natural surroundings. After a period of time, we come to **The Welcome Center**. There family members greet us with wonderful hugs and another "**Welcome Home**" greeting.

The **Welcome Center** personnel ask that we stop and relieve ourselves of our burdens. They then provided us with hot drink, and food if we need it.

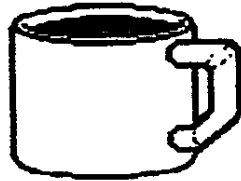
A family member asked that we sit and listen for a few minutes, while they explain the Agreements, and purpose of the Gathering. They also provided us with verbal and written information (such as the "Howdy Folks" and the "Rap 107's") on the event, and the natural surrounding area. They tried to make everyone feel welcome, and aware of the positive nature of the Gathering. They also informed us of any possible natural dangers of the site. They passed **The Magic Hat**, explaining that even though this is an entirely free event, that this method of raising funds is our sole method of doing so. They explain the councils, and provide each that will take them a current map of the site.

Each person who passes through the center is asked to be responsible for their own property. To camp in neighborhoods and not in the main meadows.

All are encouraged to help and to participate in one of the service areas, and those service areas that need assistance are presented for the first time at the center.

There are members of the family at **The Welcome Center** who provide storage for your personal belongings that you might need to drop off until you have found a camping site. You are warned that even though this service is provided, they are not responsible for the greed of others, who might see this as "**free pickings**" if you get our drift.

Anyone who needs help moving gear to their camping site can usually find assistance at the **Welcome Center**.



The **Welcome Center** has a full time kitchen that provides food for those who have just arrived and are hungry. This is not the **Main Kitchen** though, and members of the family that are already on site and not providing service at the **Welcome Center**

are discouraged from eating here for there are many other kitchens throughout the site, including the meals that are provided at the **Center Circle** for breakfast and dinner.

The Welcome Center is usually on the fringe of the Gathering itself, so that members of the family can find a camping site within a short walk from this area of service. At night the **Welcome Center** provides temporary camping facilities for those who do not feel comfortable with trying to set up their camps in the dark, but they are encouraged to find a site to camp the following morning.

When we leave the center, thanking those who are providing service to the family there, we follow the main trail into the Gathering and proceed to **The Center Circle**.

The Center Circle

As we walked out of the **Welcome Center** we proceeded up the **Main Trail** toward the center of the site. We found an appropriate camping site in one of the neighborhoods, set up our camp, and stowed our gear. After we had finished we then went back to the center of activity on the site, **The Center Circle** which may or may not be the physical center of the site, but is the center of activity.

This is where the family meets several times a day for **General Council** and meals are served at this location twice a day, from "The Main Kitchen". This is where the family conveys news and information, verbally, that is of importance to all present at the event. The center circle is where the family prays and celebrates in song and music. This is the every day focal point of the event. Most of the major service areas are located near or around the **Center Circle**.

You will find the CALM-Mash center (Creative, Alternative, Living Medicine) in close proximity to the **Center Circle**. Nearby is the Information and Rumor Control Booth, as well as Service Orientation and the Co-operations Lodge. The Banking Council usually meets at or near the Center Circle. In the evening and all night long a fire is built in the circle and the drummers can usually be heard and seen through out the night.

The Main Kitchen and the Bakery are located nearby, but not on the Main Meadow of the site. The Main Trail runs close to the Center Circle, through the Main Meadow. The Trading Circle is located just up the trail, as several of the smaller specialty kitchens, such as

the sprout and tofu kitchens. There are side trails joining the Main Trail every so often. These lead to other service areas, such as Supply, special areas, such as "Meditation Meadow and "Madam Frog's Tea Kitchen". There are side trails that lead to neighborhoods and to special camping areas, such as "Bus Village". One of the trails leads to "Kiddy City".

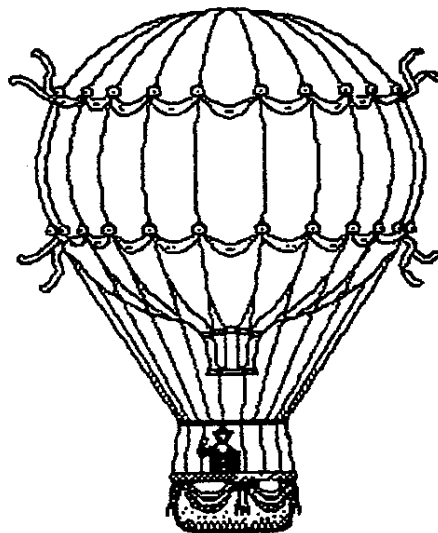
There are workshop areas scattered around the **Center Circle** and these are where individuals and groups hold and attend the various workshops that are held through out the event. We leave the **Center Circle** and begin our tour of the various service areas of the Gathering. Our first stop is at **Information and Rumor Control**.

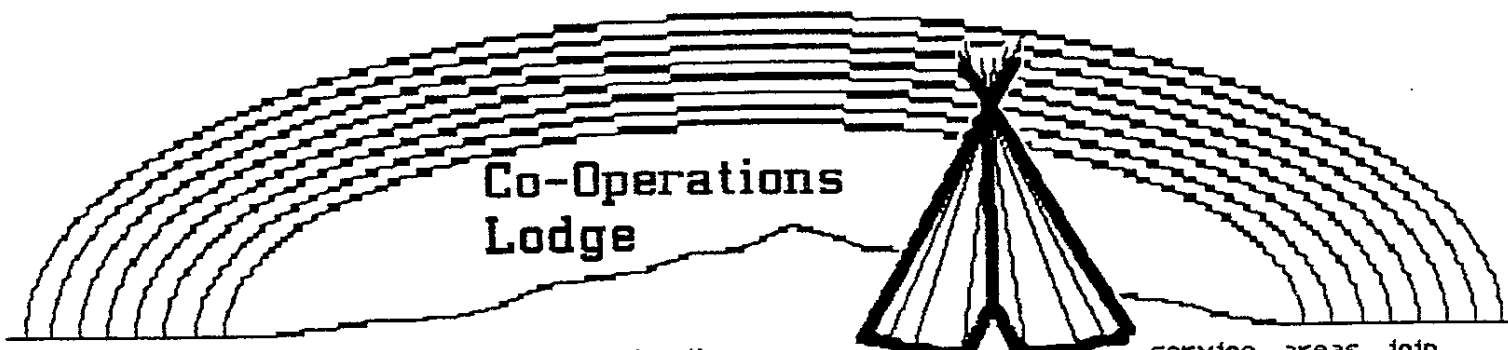
Information and Rumor Control is where individuals can go to post notices of Workshops and leave messages for their friends on the bulletin boards. In this area, the focus is on providing the family with **ACCURATE** information on a multitude of subjects.

There is nothing in the form of general information posted here that has not been verified by the service areas folks. The daily news paper is produced here and if you have a question or have heard a rumor that you need to verify, this is the place to ask these questions. You will find a variety of information about the history of the event here. You can find information here in regards to other events.

The bulletin boards are crowded with small pieces

of paper, which let friends know where people are camped, and there are requests for rides, when the event is over.





Co-Operations Lodge

After we spent some time at the **Information and Rumor Control Center**, we walked over to the **Co-Operations Lodge**.

The **Co-Operations Lodge** is where operational problems and individual difficulties that relate to the Gathering are considered and facilitated by council.

This council is in continual session using our council process and rectify via love and respect for all involved, in an assertive but non-confrontive manner, such problems. If this council is unable to come to a consensus these problems are referred to the general council. Any decision which is reached at this location which affects the event is also referred to the **General Council**.

There is a CB radio being monitored so that all of the service areas that are involved in the communications process can co-ordinate through one location for decision making (there are CB's at The Welcome Center, Supply, The Information and Rumor Control Center, CALM-MASH, as well as in various other locations on the site). There are also individuals who are roving around the Site looking for problems. They are carrying portable CB's for instant communication.

Any person who attends the Gathering is welcome to sit on the **Co-Operations Lodge Council**, or as a matter of agreement on any other council at the Gathering.

This council area of service is unique in that all persons who sit there are in a facilitative role.

This service area is also the area in which the **Service Areas Council** takes place once or twice a day. Here is many of the

service areas join together to discuss common problems which they all face in providing the maximum level of service to the family with a minimum amount of supervision.

When we finished at the **Co-Operations Lodge**, we walked to the **CALM-MASH** center.

This is the Gatherings healing center. Here many practitioners of various forms of the healing arts, from traditional western medicine, eastern acupuncture, spiritual healing, chiropractic specialists, and various other healing methods are practice co-operatively in this center.

The dedicated family members who facilitate this medical facility firmly believe "if it works, us it". If one method, does not work, they (without ego games) consult others, who might have alternative non-tradition healing methods.

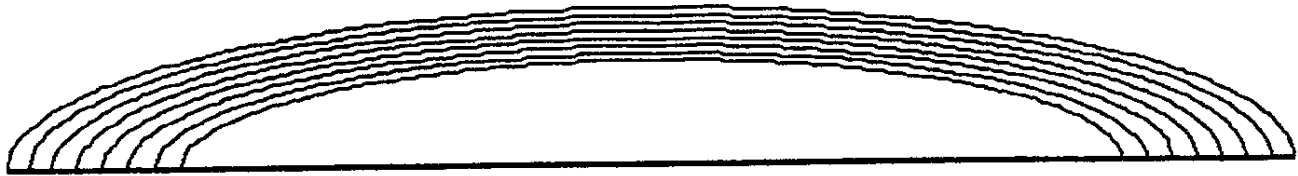
There is a CB radio at this location, and members of this team roam the site with hand held radios, which keep them in constant communication with the healing center.

The center is responsible for the maintenance and operation of all emergency vehicles and co-ordinate with local hospitals in the case of a major medical emergency.

If there are problems with individuals of a mental nature, this is where these persons are directed to in a loving manner, and those in the center who practice the mental healing arts are there to help.

CALM-MASH is as complete an alternative medical facility as we can possibly make it.





HUG AND KISS PATROL

As we are leaving the **CALM-Mash** area, and returning to the main trail, we are "accosted" by a group of four brothers and sisters. These individuals walked up to us and suddenly threw their arms around us and give the best hugs that we have had all day.

This is a **Hug and Kiss Patrol**. They have a vital function at the Gathering. They spend a portion of their time spreading love, joy and happiness around the site.

They walk around and do exactly what they did to us and to everyone that they meet. If you really want to have fun and have that special effervescent quality, you really should form such a crew.

MANANA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Another group that we met on the trail as we proceed is a group of people who are returning from digging a latrine. This self styled sanitary construction crew is part of a larger group that is often called **Manana Construction Company**.

This group provides people power for the various construction and maintenance crews that are need to keep the gathering running smoothly.

If you are into really hard fun check at information and rumor control to see what area that this hard working group is facilitating out of.

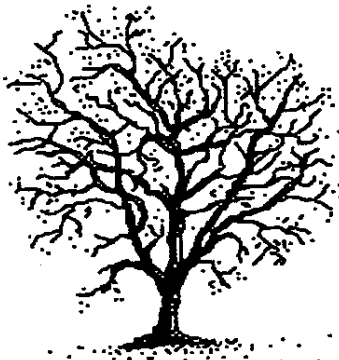
THE "g.o.d." SQUAD

We notice that at every camp and every service area through out the site. There are complete recycling centers, with plastic trash sacks hung from wood support racks.

These centers are plainly marked with signs over each of sacks which designate what goes in each ie. paper, plastic, compost, glass etc...

The crew that maintain these facility are the **g.o.d. Squad** (garbolligists on duty), and they have assumed the responsibility to see that the site is kept in as close to a natural setting as possible, by placing, replacing and removing these sack form the site.

They also have some very amusing methods of informing **litter bugs** of the error of their ways. The greatest compliment that may be received from one of this group is "gee, we can't find any thing to eat in your trash".



RUNNERS

We have noticed as we are walking that every once in a while we see that some one is carrying a shoulder bag and running from one service area to another.

They are the **Runners** who provide private message carrying service, between the various areas and individuals. They carry messages of a nature that are not for common consumption through the CB radio network.

If there is a problem in one of the service areas of a sensitive nature, such as if shanta sena is needed there. **Runners** are used if at all possible so as not to create unnecessary, additional problems.

These Runners are vital in the case of an emergency situation.

We continue our walk and our next stop will be the **Main Kitchen**.



THE MAIN KITCHEN

We turn off the **Main Trail** where a side trail will take us to the **Main Kitchen**. It is in this kitchen that most of the food for the **Center Circle** meals are prepared.

The bulk of the task is performed over open pit fires that have been dug into the earth and covered with grates. There are people cooking over these fires and others of the crew are hauling water from a nearby stream. The wood gatherers are continually walking to and from the wooded areas searching for, finding and hauling wood to this kitchen area. The Main Kitchen prepares simple, basic wholesome foods. There is a crew bringing a continual trail of food in from the **Supply** facility, carrying sacks of beans, rice, flour and other food stuffs. All that work here are filled with the joy of the task. The kitchens have an additional set of agreements under which they operate so as to provide the family with clean wholesome meals. Those agreements have developed over the years and those agreements are:

1. Everyone who enters a kitchen area shall wash their hands and the kitchen shall provide several hand washing stations at its entrance and around the area.
2. No one shall prepare food in the nude (nudity is a tolerated practice at the Gatherings).
3. Any one who is ill in the body, or in the spirit should not be working in a kitchen.
4. All utensils that have been used in the preparation of food shall be properly washed and dried immediately after use.
5. The water source for any kitchen must be upstream from the kitchen area and guarded.



6. The utensil washing area shall be down stream from a kitchen.

7. All food is to be prepared in a loving manner.

The food is transported to the **Center Circle** twice a day. At the **Center Circle** they then wait to serve the food while the workers and the family gives thanks for this nourishment.

There are many other kitchens around the site, which provide various types of food for the family. The other kitchens often take food to the **Center Circle** so as to provide a variety, but **Center Circle** meals are vegetarian out of economic necessities. After we leave the **Main Kitchen** we then proceed back to the **Main Trail** and walk to the **Bakery**, which is also on a side trail.



THE BAKERY

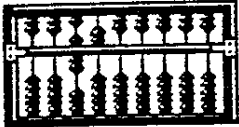
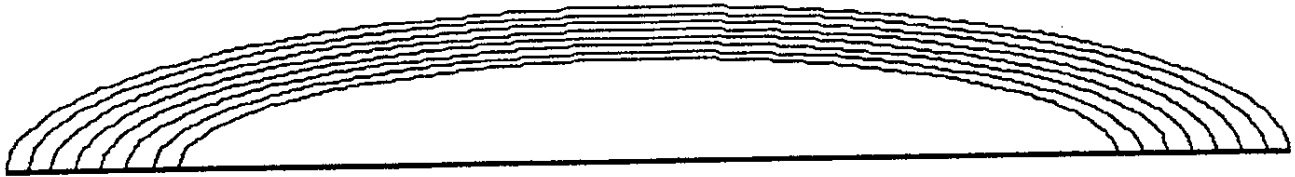
The **Bakery** is where the daily bread is prepared. We have found, over the years, that if the **Bakery** and **Main Kitchen** are combined they tend to distract from one another.

The **Bakery** follows the same special agreements for the preparation of food as the **Main Kitchen** and all other food preparation areas.

The **Bakery** is capable of providing all of the bread that the family needs and also provides the family a special sacrament on the evening of the fourth of July.

In 1982 the family met in circle at eleven o'clock at night for this traditional sacrament with four to five thousand family members in attendance. One brother handed out one wafer to each person in the circle while all others waited patiently in respect for all.

We leave the **Bakery** and return the **Center Circle** where the **Banking Council** has just begun.



THE BANKING COUNCIL

When we arrive at the **Center Circle** we find that the **Banking Council** has just started. There are seven or eight people who are sitting as the council. Several service areas and individuals are there to inform this

council of their need for funds and/or supplies.

This council -- like all other councils -- is open to any and all members of the family who are participating in this years Gathering and wish to sit in on it.

The **Banking Council** is responsible to the family to see that the monies that are generated by the magic hat are distributed to those that have need for it. All are heard before any money is distributed. All of the money that is collected in the magic hats and at the collection in the **Center Circle** is brought and placed on the ground and counted to see how much is available.

The money is then distributed to those areas of service and individuals as their need is determined. This determination of need is the primary function of the **Banking Council**.

THE SUPPLY CENTER

When we leave the **Banking Council** we head for the **Main Trail** and on to the **Supply Center** which is off on a side trail near the **Main Kitchen**.

When we arrive at **Supply**, we see that a supply truck has just arrive and the members of the family that work in this important service area are busily removing goods from it. Where the **Center Circle** is the heart of the Gathering, **Supply** is the mouth and lungs, for all most

all of the materials for the preparation of the site and most all of the food flows through it. This facility has the sole responsibility of distributing everything that it receives as rapidly as possible to

the **Areas of Service** that need supplies. Nothing should be

left in supply for more than a short time as it is not a storage shed but a distribution center.

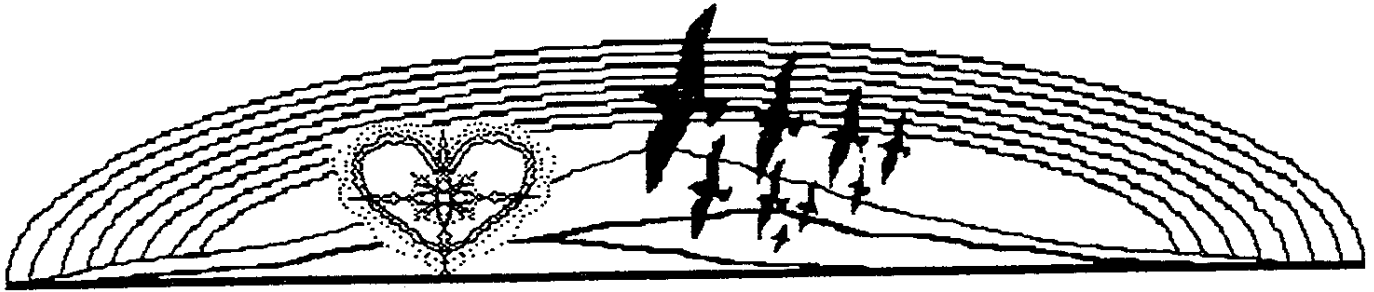
This area needs the help of all members of the family, in love, joy, work and play. If you do not need something from **Supply** or wish to work there, please do not go there. It is not a secret place, only it is incredibly busy. The road that leads to and from **Supply** is not for foot travel, or is it a short out to the **Parking Lot**. It is where emergency vehicles and supply vehicles are parked. This road needs to be kept clear at all times for **Supply Vehicles** are arriving day and night.

We have attempted to cover in this chapter most of the major **Areas of Service** at a typical **Rainbow Gathering**. This is an impossible task, for there has never been a typical Gathering.

In any year you will find many other service areas for you to channel your energies into, but these that are listed here are the ones that have appeared year after year. Some appear sporadically, such as the **Service Orientation Center**. Some have been already covered in preceding chapters, such as **Shanta Sena** and **Kiddie City**.

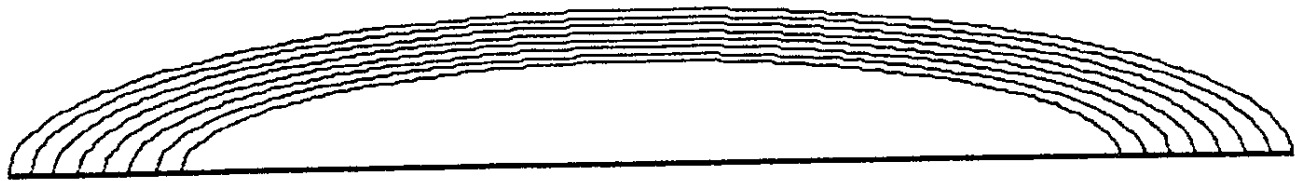
We did not touch on some areas such as the **Trading Circle**, for even though it is the family store where goods are bartered for, it is **NOT** an **Area of Service**.

All service areas are important for these provide for an individual to be touched by the spirit of the vision in a way that is unavailable in any other way. This is not work, although hard work is involved. This is the highest form of play and prayer that you can experience at **The Rainbow Family Gathering of the Tribes and World Peace Gathering**.



Part Three

Quotations



Chief Seathl {commonly know as Chief Seattle} (c. 1790-1866)

"The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? The Land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?"

"Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience on my people."

"We know the sap which courses through the trees as we know the blood that courses through our veins. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfume flowers are our sisters. The bear, the deer, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crest, the juices in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and man, all belong to the same family."

"The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is sacred. Each ghostly reflection in the clear waters of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father."

"The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give to

the rivers the kindness you would give any brother."

"If we sell you our land, remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. The wind also gives our children the spirit of life. So if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers."

"Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth."



"This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

"One thing we know: our god is also your god. The earth is precious to him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator."

"Your destiny is a mystery to us. What will happen when the buffalo are all slaughtered? The wild horses tamed?? What will happen when the secret corners of the forest are heavy with scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills is blotted by talking wires? Where will the thicket be? Gone! And what is it to say goodbye to the swift pony and the hunt? The end of living and the beginning of survival."



"When the last Red Man has vanished with his wilderness and his memory is only the shadow of a cloud moving across the prairie, will these shores and forests still be here? Will there be any of the spirit of my people left?"

"We love this earth as a newborn loves its mother's heartbeat. So, if we sell you our land, love it as we have loved it. Care of it as we have cared for it. Hold in the mind the memory of the land as it is when you receive it. Preserve the land of all children and love it, as God loves us all."

"As we are part of the land, you too are part of the land. This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you. One thing we know: there is only one God. No man, be he Red Man or White Man, can be apart. We are brothers after all."

[Joseph Campbell -- The Power of Myth], by Bill Moyers, 1988

Editors Notes:

This excerpt was removed from the text in toto...

This letter which was sent to the President of the United States answers the dichotomy of the question of the difference between western mans concept of land ownership and the native americans vision of being part of and in harmony with the land.

The God relationship of the pacific northwest tribes in their caretaking of the land and their brotherhood with all spirits

that dwell within it are very important to the Rainbow Familys' vision as we have learned to accept the native philosophy of union with the land verses the western mans impression of land ownership.

**George Sanatayana
(1863-1952)**

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

"Fanaticism consists in redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim."

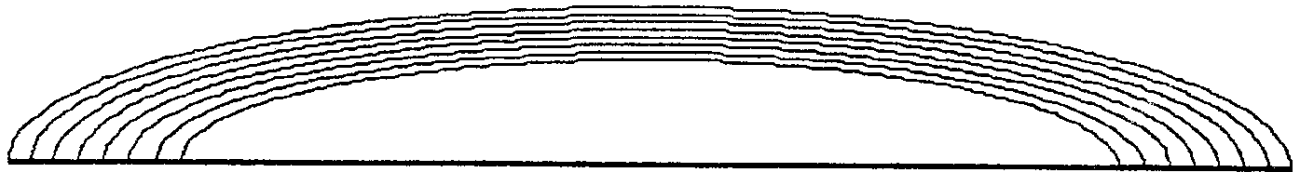
The Life of Reason
[1905-1906], vol. I

**Joseph Campbell
(1904-1987)**

"One of our problems today is that we are not well acquainted with the literature of the spirit. We're interested in the news of the day and the problems of the hour."

"It used to be that the university campus was a kind of hermetically sealed-off area where the news of the day did not impinge upon your attention to the magnificent human heritage we have in our great tradition -- Plato, Confucius, the Buddha, Goethe and others who speak of the eternal values that have to do with the centering of our lives."

"When you get to be older and the concerns of the day have all been attended to and you turn to the inner life -- well, if you don't know where it is or what it is, you'll be sorry."



"Greek and Latin and biblical literature used to be part of everyone's education. Now, when these were dropped, a whole tradition of Occidental mythological information was lost. It used to be that these stories were in the minds of people. When the story is in your mind, then you see its relevance to something happening in your life. It gives you perspective on what's happening to you. With the loss of that, we've really lost something because we don't have a comparable literature to take its place. These bits of information from ancient times, which have to do with the themes that have supported human life, built civilizations, and informed religions over the millennia, have to do with deep inner problems, inner mysteries, inner thresholds of passage, and if you don't know what the guide-signs are along the way, you have to work it out yourself. But once this subject catches you, there is such a feeling, from one or another of these traditions, of information of a deep, rich, life-vivifying sort that you don't want to give it up."

"The individual has to find an aspect of myth that relates to his own life. Myth basically serves four functions. The first is the mystical function -- that is the one I've been speaking about, realizing what a wonder the universe is, and what a wonder you are, and experiencing awe before this mystery. Myth opens the world to the dimension of mystery, to the realization of the mystery that underlies all forms. If you lose that, you don't have a mythology. If mystery is manifest through all things, the universe becomes, as it were, a holy picture. You are always addressing the transcendent mystery through the conditions of your actual world."

"The second is a cosmological dimension, the dimension with which science is concerned -- showing you what the shape of the universe is, but showing it in such a way that the mystery again comes through. Today we tend to think that scientists have all the answers. But the great ones tell us, 'No we haven't got all the answers. We're telling you how it works -- but what is it?' You strike a match, what's fire? You can tell me about oxidation, but that doesn't tell me a thing."

"The third function is the sociological one -- supported and validating a certain social order. And here's where the myths vary enormously from place to place. You can have a whole mythology for polygamy, a whole mythology for monogamy. Either one's okay. It depends on where you are. It is this sociological function of myth that has taken over in our world -- and it is out of day."

"But there is fourth function of myth, and this is the one that I think everyone must try today to relate to -- and that is the pedagogical function. Of how to live a human lifetime under any circumstances. Myths can teach you that."

[Joseph Campbell -- The Power of Myth], by Bill Moyers, 1988

Editors Note: Mr. Campbell suggests that without mythology the human family loses its humanity. This is one of the reasons that we in the Rainbow Family have been so careful to establish traditions and yes, if you will, myths!

Anonymous - Rainbow Gathering - Washington, U.S.A. - 1981

"If you are not finding joy and contentment in what you are doing. Go and do something else!"