

Malia Craver

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THE ANCESTORS' WISDOM LIVES ON

I want to express my greetings of ALOHA to God, my Heavenly Father and Jesus, my Lord and Savior. I love you Heavenly Father and Jesus. To my ancestors, and all of your ancestors, I greet them with a fond aloha and I love each of you.

My name is Malia Craver. In Hawai'i, I am known as Aunty Malia to our *kūpuna* [elders], *makua* [parents], and *kamali'i* [children]. It is an endearing name that demonstrates respect for an older person. I am from *Ho'okena, Kona, Hawai'i*. Hawai'i is the largest and youngest island in the state of Hawai'i with three majestic mountains --

~~Maunakea, Maunaloa, Hualalai~~ and the home of the great Hawaiian warrior chief, Kamehameha.

It is an honor for me to be in your presence this evening. I welcome this opportunity to address this distinguished group of world leaders, diplomats, ambassadors, families, friends and my brothers and sisters all over the world. Aloha!

I want to talk about some relevant spiritual and cultural values of our beloved ancestors who are beyond a thin veil that separates them from us. Yes, I have had many beautiful and memorable teachings of these basic values from my family and home since birth. My family

was a great influence upon me and there have been great teachers who taught me as well. Their wish was that I live a life grounded in cultural and spiritual values and principles that would be reflective of their teachings and their love for me.

*Ke kukui o ke ola, o ke Akua nō -- The light of life is indeed God, my Heavenly Father.*

"In the beginning was God. In Him was light and the light was the light of all people. The light shines in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not."

Each beautiful day as I was growing up in Ho`okena, Kona, Hawai`i, I was taught by my loving family that we do have a supreme God who loves you and I. If we know God, then we must know His son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior. I was also reminded daily to walk closer with God and to communicate with Him through prayers in Jesus' name. God is real, He lives and He is here with me and those who believe in Him. My family also taught me that God is universal. God has many names in the different nations and He is worshiped in different fashions. God is love and we love each of you from deep within. Peace begins with one's self.

*Lōkahi ka mana`o -- be of one mind.* To be unanimous in agreement, to bring harmony, peace and unity for people, families, friends and even our enemies, according to our wise and beloved ancestors.

Yes, our ancestors were people of wisdom, the "torches of wisdom."

The principle of lōkahi is base on the connection with God, with each other, and nature. This sacred relationship underscores the belief that we are NOT the masters of the universe. We are an important element of a sacred relationship with God and nature. Our very existence depends on the harmony we strive to maintain through **love, honor, respect and reverence** for one another. There is no end to this spiritual connection to God, ourselves and all of nature.

Each day, peace and harmony are key factors to this meaningful relationship with God and each other. This, to me, is truly the only way for you and I to live each day. You and I know that many of us are no longer on this beautiful and spiritual pathway of old. It was Heavenly Father who granted all of our ancestors this positive principle of life.

Spirituality is truly a connection of God, ourselves, and nature from the beginning of time unto this present day.

*Ka mana o loko -- the power within.*

I remember hearing this phrase often when I was growing up from my family. My folks told me to use that power within me to change my life for the betterment of others and myself. To do this, I needed to talk with our supreme God through daily prayers. This power can be yours if you have faith in your God.

They also reminded me that there are two pathways in our lives.

First, the pathway of God is the pathway of light. Second, the pathway of darkness is of Satan, the devil, and it is evil! Believe me, the power from within does work and you are in control of your life to make beautiful changes for yourself.

This is the same way with people also. There are some people who are presently walking upon God's pathway because this is the way to peace. Others are comfortable strolling upon the pathway of darkness.

Peace can be yours if you have a desire within to establish a loving relationship with your family, neighbors, friends and enemies enabling one to have peace today. So let us, you and I, work on it now.

You and I do need to act lovingly with people at all times. Do not tell them that you are doing it. You just be it. This new spirit will be seen by this group and in time, they will tell you the changes they see in you.

*Aloha - love.*

In our culture, there is a simple word that has great meaning and serves as a foundation for all that we believe in and sums up the soul of us Hawaiians. This word is Aloha. It is an expression that is uttered from within one's heart, mind and soul to an individual, to a group, and indeed, a nation and its people. Aloha means love, affection, compassion, mercy, sympathy and kindness. Aloha means to be able to translate differences into uniqueness. To be able to see and feel a person's uniqueness, though they may present differences to you. It is that love, caring and spirituality that allows us to appreciate our differences as being unique and beautiful strengths that binds us rather than sets up apart.

We Hawaiians are a seafaring and spiritual people that have a tradition of island living. Our ancestors have traveled the Pacific with double-hulled canoes for thousands of miles, when the rest of the world continued to believe that the earth was flat.

Our unique island living and traditions have taught us the importance and value of learning to get along with each other. Long Ocean voyages in a small canoe demanded teamwork. Thus, living on an island that is relatively small in size and in the middle of the Pacific Ocean requires that we all learn to live in harmony with our God, our 'āina [land] and each other.

The world today is like an island. Technology, air transportation, and communication have brought the world's different cultures to each other's doorsteps. We must learn to appreciate each other's uniqueness and learn to connect with each other through this aloha spirit.

There is a proverb that says, "if there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there is love in the home. If there is love in the home, there is harmony in the nation. And if there is harmony in the nation, there is peace in the world." Peace and love also applies at home. People at peace, speak to each other, those in love communicate. Peace is forgetting a grievance; love means true forgiveness. People can exist in peace, and live together through love.

Mankind still faces the greatest challenge of all -- to spread love and lasting peace throughout the world. The beginning of this great responsibility is not in the capitols of the world. It is in each human heart, you and I, how we each conduct our individual lives.

We all need to improve our relationships with one another. We all need to be aware of the urgent need to remember that we are all related. As people, we need to be needed, to serve and to give of ourselves to kōkua [help] others.

In closing, I would like to say that I am grateful for the time given me to share with you the wisdom of my kūpuna [my ancestors]. I strive to live my life by these teachings and find that it has guided me well through the pathways of life. It has enabled me to appreciate myself as a Hawaiian and a member of our world family. Most important, it has helped me see the beauty, strength and uniqueness in others.

Let **ALOHA** be your guide. Do not be afraid to take the first step to reach out to others and share ALOHA.