

MEETING DON MIGUEL RUIZ AND HIS INTRODUCTION TO MAYA – THE GODDESS OF ILLUSION

While I reveled in the wonder of this new understanding, Miguel shared with me the story of Maya, the world-renowned Hindu Goddess of Illusion, who had conspired to create a spectacular game of awakening for humans to play in The Magical Theatre on earth. The capricious and compassionate Maya embodied what I had long believed: that in this enchanted game we call life, our main purpose is to awaken to our divine nature. I felt an instantaneous surge of connection with Maya, accompanied by a strong sense that she would play a major part in my ongoing awakening. When Miguel explained that spiritual seekers in the Toltec tradition adopt both a teacher and a benefactor, I knew Miguel was to become my teacher—the spiritual guide who would help me navigate my path here on earth—and Maya would be my benefactor, a sort of celestial fairy godmother who would shepherd my exploration of the Great Mystery in the nighttime dream world.

Ignited by that first meeting, I embarked on a fast track to awakening. I became Miguel’s business manager, later working closely with him on his best-selling book *The Four Agreements*. In time, I joined with Miguel as his teaching partner and Nagual Woman, the female spiritual leader in the Toltec Eagle Knight lineage. Together, we presented workshops to thousands of people and led “power journeys” of spiritual awakening to sacred sites all over the world, including Peru, Egypt, Greece, Hawaii, and Mexico.

I must confess that I felt totally unprepared when I found myself suddenly catapulted into the role of Nagual Woman. As Miguel’s manager, I had learned to describe the knowledge of the Toltec tradition—but now I knew I had to live the knowledge so that I could teach by example. This meant giving up the last stubborn vestiges of resistance to awakening and becoming a role model for my students. I turned to Maya, who in the dreamtime helped me see that each of my life’s learning experiences was a keystone I had to embody in order to embrace my authenticity and awaken to the truth of my vastness.

It was through Maya’s unique voice that I was finally able to distill the heart of the process that forms the foundation for my teachings and this book. I came to discover that, while Miguel described the ancient Toltec wisdom in an esoteric way, in my own teaching I needed to translate that information into more grounded, accessible language. Maya provided this grounding, embodying the same thread of ancient wisdom that wound its way through Miguel’s lessons, while also showing me how to incorporate that wisdom into everyday life. Gradually, the essence of her lessons distilled into twelve principles for awakening that I came to refer to as “keystones.”

After many years, destiny took Miguel and me in different directions, but Maya remained with me as the voice of “silent knowledge,” or universal consciousness, that represents our highest possibility. Her keystones provided powerful tools for awakening, simultaneously encompassing many different mythologies and transcending boundaries of religion or belief systems. As I continued to work with students from many different cultures and walks of life, I realized that Maya’s keystones, when practiced with heartfelt joy, represented the true core of spiritual knowledge. No matter what other teachings an individual studied or practiced, these were the essential principles that, when seamlessly integrated into a person’s life, guaranteed awakening.

I am deeply honored to pass on these twelve keystones to you through the practical, compassionate, and occasionally outrageous voice of Maya herself. I intend that her deeply transformative lessons bring as much illumination and delight to you as they have to me.

Check back soon for my new book “Dreaming Down Heaven” - www.ginigentry.com