

Aunty Malia Craver

THE ANCESTORS' WISDOM LIVES ON

Good afternoon everyone!

It is indeed an honor for me to be in your presence this afternoon. 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 do have a brief protocol that I must do as a Hawaiian of the Polynesian Race and that is my right. And, as an American Citizen, I do have that right and that is to recognize my Higher Power and my ancestors and your ancestors too.

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. And, to my ancestors, and all of your ancestors, I greet them with fond aloha and I love each one of them.

My name is Malia Craver. In Hawai`i, I am known as Aunty Malia to our kā puna, our elders, to our parents, our makua, and to our children, our kamali`i. It doesn't matter what age it is. Even 90-year old people call me Aunty and that is okay with me. It is an endearing name that demonstrates respect for an older person. I am from Ho`okena, Kona, Hawai`i. Hawai`i is the biggest island, the largest and youngest island in the State of Hawai`i with three majestic mountains -- Maunakea, Maunaloa, Hualalai, and the home of our great Hawaiian warrior chief called Kamehameha.

I want to talk and share with all of you about some relevant spiritual and cultural values of our beloved ancestors who are now sleeping beyond the thin veil that separates them from us. Yes, I have had many beautiful and memorable teachings of these basic values from my family and in our home since birth. My family was a great influence upon me and there have been other great teachers who taught me as well. Their wish was that I live a life grounded in cultural and spiritual values and good principles that would be reflective of their teachings and their love for me.

1. Ke kukui o ke ola, o ke Akua nĀ -- 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

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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 with those who believe in Him. My family also taught me that God is universal. God has many names in different nations and He is worshiped in different fashions. God is love and we love each of you from deep within. Peace begins with self.

2. IÇ kahi 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 in ancient times. Yes, our ancestors were people of wisdom, the "torches of wisdom." I mean every ancestor of every ethnic race. They were all the torches of wisdom.

The principle of IÇ kahi is based on the connection with God, with each other, and nature to the fullest. 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 or however you address God. It was Him who granted all of us these positive and workable principles of life.

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

3. Ka mana o loko -- the power within us. We have received this power from the Higher Power.

I remember hearing this phrase often when I was growing up from my family, especially when I was a little naughty. My folks often told me to use that power within me to change my life for the betterment of others as well as 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 always reminded me that there are two pathways in our life. First, the pathway of God, and that is the pathway of light. Second, the pathway of darkness is of Satan or evil. Believe me, the power from within does work and you are in control of your life to make it beautiful and positive 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 gain peace. And yet, there are others who are comfortable strolling along 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 even your enemies. Make peace with them today. So let us, you and I, work on it now.

First, 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 that they have seen in you.

4. 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 as Hawaiians and you too. Aloha means love, affection, compassion, mercy, sympathy and kindness. Aloha means to be able to translate differences into uniqueness. Aloha means 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 separates us.

We Hawaiians are a seafaring and spiritual people that have a tradition of island living. Our ancestors have traveled the vast Pacific Ocean 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. That is number one in our way of life. 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 `~ina or land, and with 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 term or word called the aloha spirit.

There is a proverb that says and I quote, "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 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 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 kã puna, my ancestors. I strive to live my life by these teachings and I 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 the world's family. Most important, it has helped me see the beauty, strength and uniqueness in others or my fellowman not only in Hawai`i but all over the world.

Let ALOHA be our guide. Do not be afraid to take the first step to reach out to others and share ALOHA or LOVE today with one another. Mahalo!