



*Inyo - Dwelling Place
of the Great Spirit*



Jenn's Story



**Elder Passage Wilderness Quest
Badger Flat - Inyo National Forest
California July 2008**

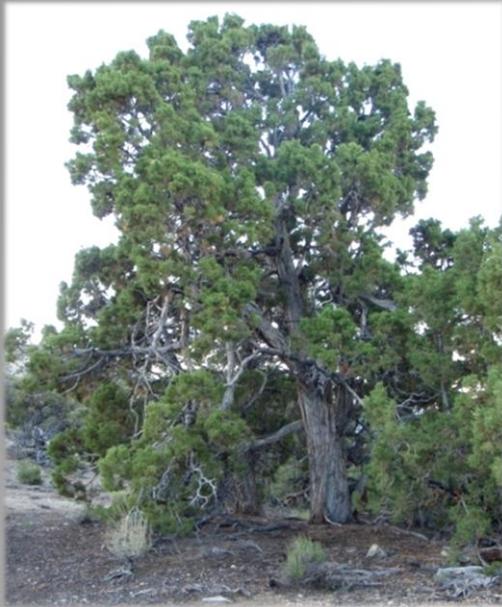
*Early morning sun ... on dwarf Indian paintbrush
Sea of sparkling gems*





*We gather, we learn
ancient ways of connecting
to earth and ourselves*





Tree - you are a great listener. Teach me.
 Tree - you pull energy from the heavens and the earth. Tutor me.
 Tree - you provide refuge for many beings. Mentor me.

I stand with you and feel your presence.
 What is your story? I listen and observe.

Then, with your permission, I touch your skin,
 lean into your trunk, and be with you as friend.

*Tree as
 Friend*



Marilyn sitting in a grandmother juniper



Lyn , you are a fabulous buddy - steady, strong, interdependent!

May you be sure of foot.

May you be joyful of heart.

May you be calm of spirit.

Jenn



My earth buddy, Lyn paints labyrinths on flat stones. Our new roots grow deep.



Jenn, I am in awe of your fullness, all that you do. I draw from your strength, your stories, your presence, your voice. I feel nourished by you.

Lyn at the story circle.



♪
 My sisters and my brothers are with me
 My sisters and my brothers surround me
 My sisters and my brothers are me
 ♪

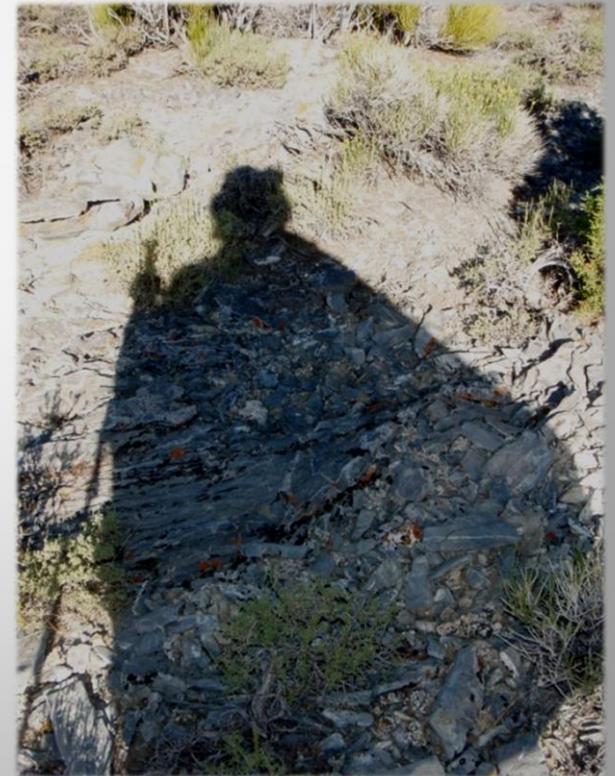
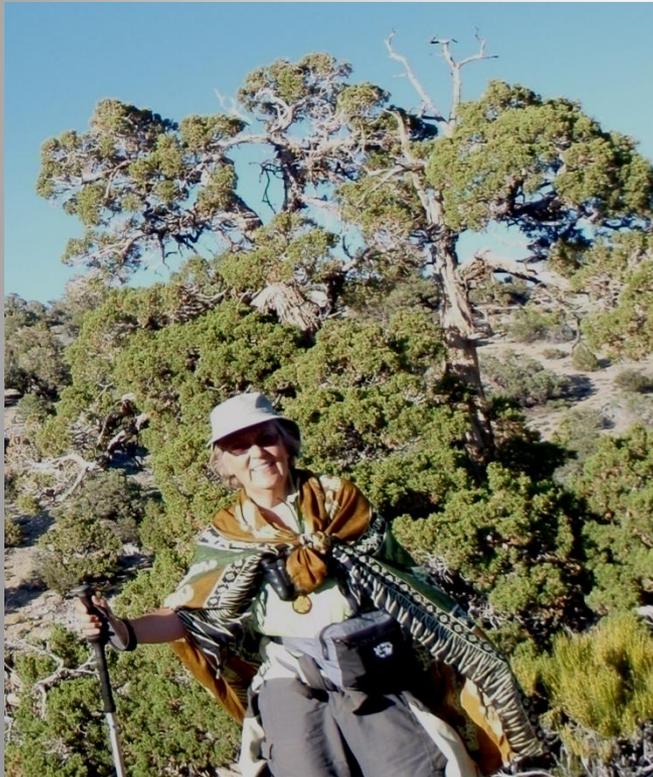
***Boldly facing east
 I take refuge in softness
 Juniper my home***





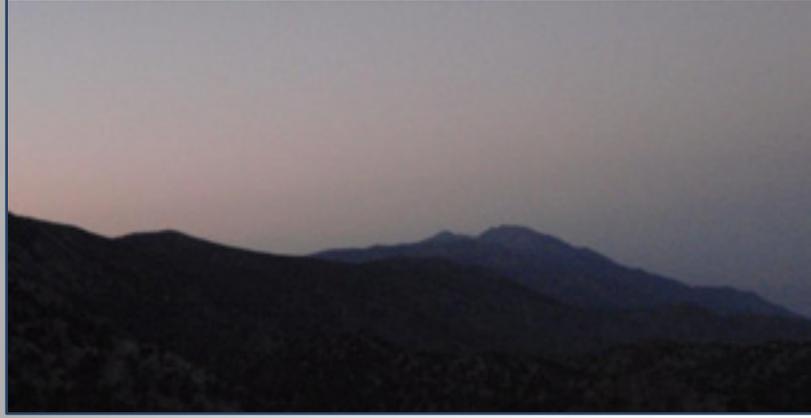
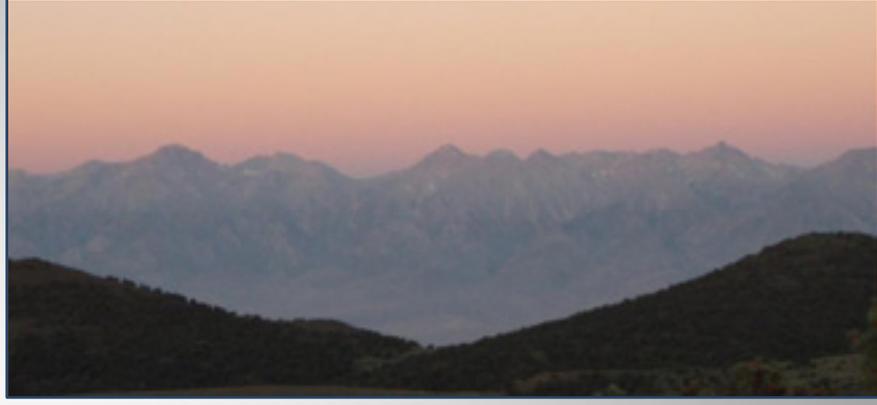
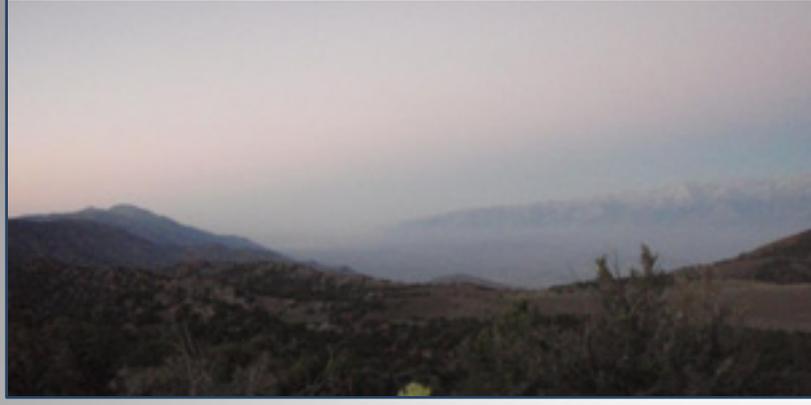
Walk, shepherdess, walk
and I'll walk too.
We'll find the ram 🎵
with the ebony horn
and the gold footed ewe.

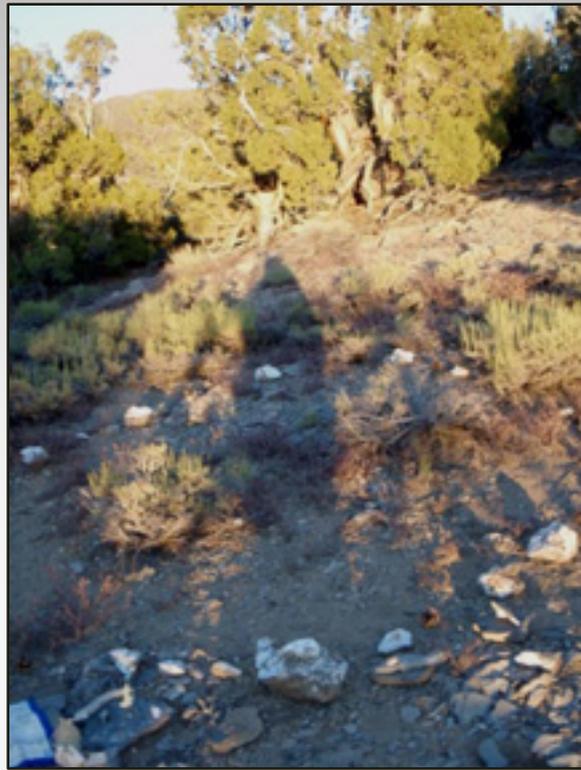
Walk, shepherdess, walk
Let earth breathe you.
You'll find yourself on
the east-facing ridge
where wind caresses you



I shepherd all the parts of my life on home ...

Dawn on the Sierra, as I walk along the ridge facing west





*As shadows grow tall
I build circles of balance
Kwan Yin, totems near*





This pretty planet 
spinning in space,
Our harbor, our garden,
our holy place.
Bright gold sun going down
Gentle blue giant
spin us around.
All through the night,
Safe 'til the morning light.





West

East

*Manifesting dreams
strengthen and
polish heartwood
Luminous within*

*Allowing, trusting
softens the heart,
mind, body
Spaciousness within*



1997
Diana's story inspires:
Life is precious.
Manifest your dreams now!

2008
Karen's story teaches
Life and death are one.
Live and die in wholeness!



**Bat flies back and forth
A welcome night visitor
Heralding new birth**





The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.
You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.
People are going back and forth
across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.

Rumi



With
grounded
presence,
I join
council of
elders

strong,
free,
balanced,
whole.





Earth walker, mountain woman,
shepherdess who walks mountains.

Yours is a very full and comprehensive
story. Good balance.

Coyote played trickster; while you were
letting go of the need to feel special , he
presented you with a very special rock!
The perfect gift!

I know something about living with
powerful people. Saw your tears as you
yearned to allow space for Joanie to thrive
in her own rhythms ... as she lives next to
your fire energy. Take in the gifts Joanie
has to offer; they will help you soften
round the edges. You are longing for an
elder “us”. Joanie is a big part of this.

It is profound that caribou is your power
animal/totem. Caribou is a critical part of
the “whole” ... the wholeness of earth.
Reflect your totem!

Ann Linnea

Sister of the earth.

You are returning to a beginning, returning
to this cutting edge, where you will find
balance. You’ve been given good medicine.

Your compromised physical condition
quieted your fire so that you could take in
new learnings. New vistas combined with
manifesting dreams and the elder skills of
compassion and wisdom will now warm,
soothe, and inspire all those who sit round
your fire.

Now, it is not about you. Now it is about
being one of us, one with us. You can relax.
A huge burden has been lifted.

You have unique, well-honed gifts –
tremendous skills . You, as elder, will bring
balance to all of your community. You are
capable of bigness, without being grandiose.

You - shepherdess with your crystal - have
everything you need.

Anne Stine



You were rocking yourself
the whole time you told
your story. You were
being your own mother.
Your voice in the circle
was clear in wanting to
continue on with the 3
day solo. This helped us
all be clear. You were
our shepherdess.

Marie

Happy 60th Birthday, Jenn!
It’s a great party!

Charlotte





*I join council of elders
who hold the world ever so gently
as it travels round the sun
who care for earth as mother
her mountains and rivers
her deserts and rainforests
her skies and seas
and all the plants and animals they nurture
knowing we are connected.*

*Council
of
Elders*



*I join council of elders
who take good care of themselves
as a gift to their communities
who allow space to be with what is
who trust the collective wisdom
who value, honor, and celebrate each person
as integral to the whole*

*I join council of elders
who voice their knowing with boldness
who rest in the mystery of their not knowing with ease*





*I join council of elders
who midwife those who
birth themselves anew
who midwife those who
die to this life and journey
to the mystery beyond*



*I join council of elders
who live beyond right and wrong
who embrace both/and thinking
who see beyond borders
who pray beyond doctrine
who draw outside the
lines of us and them
and dance the
circle of
weareone*



*for Marilyn -
We share this journey
with grandmother juniper.
Ancient friendship thrives*



Joanie Sue:
You are my mother
You are my sister
You are my daughter
You are my lover
As above, so below
As within, so without

An oak tree is brought into creation by two forces at the same time. There is the acorn from which it all begins, the seed which holds all the promise and potential, which grows into the tree. There is another force operating as well - the future tree itself, which wants so badly to exist that it pulls the acorn into being, drawing the seedling forth with longing out of the void, guiding the evolution from seed to maturity. It is the oak tree that creates the very acorn from which it was born.

Adapted from Eat, Pray, Love
by Elizabeth Gilbert



*Today, I am the mature Jennifer that has pulled herself into being over the last 20 years ... the last 40, 60 years.
I feel liberated from the tenacious self-improvement plan ... the do-it-big, do-it-grand plan ... that has set the stage for most of my life.*

*I have come home ...
and am living with greater joy, self-love, and compassion.*



Summer 2008



My intentions for this elder passage

To explore and strengthen my ability to allow and to trust
To live in celebratory balance of yin and yang,
of manifesting/organizing and allowing/trusting.

Seven Tobacco Prayer Bundles

My beloved extended family circle
Joanie Sue, my beloved soul mate and spouse for life
Earth and all her beings
My teachers
Those who need healing
Students from whom I learn so much
My ancestors

I burn in the fire before leaving on solo

My perpetual planning mind
My organizing to perfection
My doing toooo much!

I leave on the sacred mountain

My yearning to control
My need to feel special
My worry about financial stability in retirement

Allowing and Trusting

Allow time for Medicine Walks once a season.
Allow room for Joanie's rhythm to thrive!
Allow myself to be with what is.
Trust students are doing their best!
Trust process without being attached to outcome.

Healing insights gleaned from my experience in the death lodge

I experience compassion for myself and for each person who pays a visit, regardless of feeling hurt, betrayed or angered by something that happened between us. I reflect, and trust for the 1st time my true nature is indeed one of compassion.

When complications and suffering begin to appear in relationships, I see that my need to be special/recognized gets in the way of healthy connection. Wanting to be seen also leads to my doing "extra" things that please. AHA! A missing link - needing to be special and doing too much! With this new insight perhaps my intention of doing more of less will come to fruition!

Death lodge conversations with visitors always include:
I forgive you. Please forgive me. Thank you.
I love you. Good Bye.

I give away this elder quest to all my relations ... And I open my womb to the Light



Haiku created during my Medicine Walk in preparation for Elder Passage Wilderness Quest

I begin my walk
Trekking pole is my portal
Balance is key

*No destination
Nothing to do but allow
wonder to lead me*

Lying in the limbs
of old Buckeye, I dream of
making wise choices



Blood red sun rises
Greeting my passionate heart
Both are on fire!

*Stillness falls like dew
All my senses awaken
Thoughts disperse like clouds*

I live like a river
carried by the surprise of
its own unfolding

*From one common root
thistle buds, blossoms, blooms, dies
Metaphor for life*

*White parachute seeds
cling close, then rise with the wind
soar to sink new roots*