

1st INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY AND INTER-RELIGIOSITY MEETING

This was a beautiful and inspiring meeting held by *Caminhos da Terra* (Paths of Earth) Cooperation Circle of the United Religions Initiative – URI, in Goiânia, Brazil. The great differential of the event was the conduction of it by two indigenous natives of the Fulni-ô Nation, from the lands of Pernambuco, Brazil. It is a great indigenous tribe, the only group in the northeast region of Brazil that has kept alive and active their own language - the *la-tê* - as well as a ritual that they call *Ouricuri*, which they currently carry out in the most secrecy to keep it safe. They were specially invited to this event by Isabel Cristina Medeiros, shaman and therapist, who has dedicated her life to the work with art and healing linked to the indigenous traditions. Isabel has found the *Caminhos da Terra* (Paths of Earth) Group, that organized this meeting. These two natives have been doing a great work of diffusion of the indigenous culture and traditions in Brazil. They have been invited to several events as well to some TV shows. The objective of *Caminhos da Terra* was to make a great event to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week, but given the natives' busy agenda, the closer date possible to schedule the meeting was December 14 to 16, 2016.

The Regional Coordination of the United Religions Initiative – URI – for Latin America and the Caribbean saw in this event a great opportunity to strength the interfaith cooperation in Brazil and supported the event covering the travel costs of the natives which together with the donations and volunteer work of the *Caminhos da Terra* CC, made this event open and free for the general public in Goiânia. The natives shared their ancestral wisdom, their practices of healing and reconciliation with nature during 3 beautiful evenings.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- ✓ Celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week bringing the ancestral and native tradition together with modern ones.
- ✓ Give the public of Goiânia the opportunity to get to know the indigenous spirituality, the wisdom of the Fulni-ô Nation, the experience with the Pajelance and the Medicine Wheel and the indigenous philosophy.
- ✓ Strengthen connections with Planet Earth through the energy of shamanism.
- ✓ Become aware of the importance of indigenous culture as an anchor for our daily lives.
- ✓ Cultivate inter-religiosity, through the participation of people of the most different religions and spiritual traditions.
- ✓ Build interfaith cooperation among people in Goiânia, in Goiás and in Brazil.

SCHEDULE

Day 1 – December 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We had the first encounter that was call Group Pajelance, where the Tafkea Warrior, head of the Clan of the Wind, spoke about the cultural tradition of his

Fulni-ô Nation. He spoke about how the natives see and deal with spirituality and healing. He sang, danced with the native warrior Miitxya and with the whole group. Then there was a moment of conversation, where participants interacted by exchanging ideas and discussing indigenous spirituality.

Day 2 – December 15, 2016, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We had the second meeting with the *Caminhos da Terra* CC and invited guests, again with presence and participation of the natives. There were representatives of several religions and spiritual traditions, such as Candomblé, Umbanda, Spiritism, Catholicism, Wicca and Spiritualism. The meeting was very productive: we talked, sang and danced together with Tafkea and Miitxya, on a journey with the sound of drums and maracas, healing our wounded hearts.

Day 3 - December 16, 2016, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

We had the traditional indigenous Medicine Wheel. We began with a shamanic prayer, the sacred fire ritual performed by the shaman Isabel Cristina Medeiros. Then the dance of the 4 elements, performed by Nathália Guimarães, representative of Wicca and then the entrance of Tafkea commanding the Medicine Wheel together with Miitxya, Isabel and Nathalia. It was a time of high vibration, with shamanic chants and the empowerment ritual of the power animals.

CONCLUSIONS:

In this beautiful event, we honored our indigenous ancestors and their millenarian practices of healing and harmony with nature and life. We better understood how indigenous spirituality works, learning directly from the source, with the natives of the Fulni-ô Nation.

We are more aware of the richness and depth of indigenous culture and tradition, which we must preserve, so that it will be a source of wisdom for future generations as well. It is necessary to have more interaction and integration between the people from different backgrounds and traditions and thus build lasting cooperation.

Around 150 people attended the meeting during the 3 days. We had the opportunity to talk about interfaith collaboration in many moments. The population of Goiânia has gained a lot from the wisdom and healing practices of our ancestors.

CONTINUITY:

Through the Roots of Mother Earth Project (www.raizesdamaeterra.com.br), which aims to bring indigenous culture and tradition to schools throughout Brazil and the world, we are preparing the visit of the Fulni-ô natives to the city of Goiânia soon again this year, for the Project in schools and some more Medicine Wheels. *Caminhos da Terra* CC, is working daily to achieve this goal.

With love and healing energies,

Isabel Cristina Medeiros
Coordinator of the *Caminhos da Terra* (Paths of Earth) Cooperation Circle of the
United Religions Initiative – URI.