



The Cherokee Full Circle: A Practical Guide to Sacred Ceremonies and Traditions

By J. T. Garrett, Michael Tlanusta Garrett

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A comprehensive overview of Native American spiritual principles and their application for personal spirit-healing.

- Includes traditional sacred exercises, teaching tales, case studies, and suggested rituals for individual and group healing.
- Outlines the core principals of Native American traditional values and teaches how to apply them to the contemporary path of wellness and healing.
- Publication to coincide with annual Full Circle gathering in September 2002

The Four Directions, the four seasons, and the four elements that make up the sacred hoop of the full circle must be in right relationship with one another or disharmony will result. Native American ritual has always emphasized the restoration of balance through ceremonies that provide a forum for learning, transition, and expressions of personal growth. Now Cherokee authors J. T. and Michael Garrett share Native American traditions to explore interrelationships as a tool for growth and transformation.

The Cherokee Full Circle gathers techniques representing Native American cultures from across America--stories, exercises, and individual and group rituals--to teach the inherent dynamics of right relationship and apply them to the healing path. The authors provide a comprehensive overview of Native American spiritual principles and traditions and demonstrate how these ideas and methods can be applied universally to deal with life's situations--from depression and grieving to finding purpose and establishing positive relationships.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY

The Cherokee Full Circle gathers techniques representing Native American cultures from across America to teach the inherent dynamics of right relationship and apply them to the healing path. The Four Directions, the four seasons, and the four elements that make up the sacred hoop of the Circle of Life must be in right relationship with one another or disharmony will result. Native American ritual has always emphasized the restoration of balance through ceremonies that provide a forum for learning, transition, and expressions of personal growth.

In *The Cherokee Full Circle* Cherokee authors J. T. and Michael Garrett offer traditional Native American exercises, teaching tales, and rituals that explore interrelationship as a tool for individual and group healing. The authors provide a comprehensive overview of Native American spiritual traditions and demonstrate how these ideas and methods can be applied universally to deal with life's situations--from depression and grieving to finding purpose and establishing positive relationships.

J. T. GARRETT, Ed.D., is a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee from North Carolina. His son, MICHAEL GARRETT, Ph.D., is the author of *Walking on the Wind* and together they are the authors of *Medicine of the Cherokee*. As students and teachers of Indian Medicine, they draw on the ancient wisdom teachings of their Medicine Elders on the Cherokee Reservation in the Great Smoky Mountains. Each fall the authors convene a Full Circle gathering, at which they teach ceremonies for right relationship.

About the Author

J. T. Garrett, Ed.D., is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee from North Carolina. His son, Michael Garrett, Ph.D., is the author of *Walking on the Wind* and together they are the authors of *Medicine of the Cherokee*. As students and teachers of Indian Medicine, they draw on the ancient wisdom teachings of their Medicine Elders on the Cherokee Reservation in the Great Smoky Mountains.

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From the Introduction

Long ago, the wise old chiefs and the wise old women taught the children how to grow up and to love one another. All the land belonged to all the people and all the children felt that every man or woman was a father or a mother. So there was no hurt child wandering alone and unloved and there was no old person who did not have people who looked after him or her. When the young, strong hunters went out to kill buffalo or antelope or deer or elk, they would bring back to the old people, and to the widow and the weak, the best of the meat. So there was goodness and a common purpose among the people . . . [who were] in tune with something far more wonderful, the Spirit of Life.

Native Americans have always stressed the importance of cultural ways and traditions as taught by the elders from our ancestors. Attitudes and behaviors associated with various Native American values have been expressed by Riles as follows.

Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors

Cooperation There is a sense of belonging in being a member of the group and in not being placed in a position above or below others by being singled out; improving on one's past performances is encouraged, though not to the detriment of the group.

Group harmony The needs of the group are considered over those of the individual. Consensus is sought in times of decision.

Modesty Boasting and loud behavior that attract attention to oneself are discouraged. Personal achievement and humbleness go hand-in-hand.

Autonomy People are not meant to be controlled or manipulated. One is taught not to interfere with the affairs of another by asking questions or offering advice.

Silence Silence should be comfortable as it is a reflection of self-control, endurance, patience, dignity, and reverence. Silence can also be used to mask feelings of discomfort in the presence of others in order to determine what is expected.

Patience The ability to wait quietly is considered the quality of someone possessing a great deal of inner strength and wisdom.

Generosity The ability to share and give freely of such things as property and food reflects a sense of connectedness with the group and the Circle of Life.

Reciprocity Universal interdependence dictates that for everything taken something must be given in return, in order to maintain harmony and balance.

Humor Humor is used among trusted persons to connect and relate.

Moderation in speech Ideas and feelings are conveyed through behavior rather than speech. Talking for the sake of talking is discouraged. Emphasis is placed on the feeling component rather than the verbal one.

Avoidance of eye contact Avoiding prolonged direct eye contact is a sign of respect. There are appropriate times for looking at respected persons.

Careful listening Listening skills and keen perceptive abilities are emphasized as evidenced by the importance of storytelling and oral recitation. Insincerity is easily detected.

Careful observation Nonverbal messages as relayed by facial expressions, gestures, and tone of voice are easily perceived and understood. Children learn through observation and patience.

Imagery Any topic can be spoken of in terms of legends, anecdotes, or stories that relate a specific idea or feeling through metaphor and visualization. Thoughts and action emphasize similarity to other relevant situations through the use of images.

View of time as relative Time is constantly flowing and always with us. Things are done as they have to be done; events begin and end when everyone is ready. Time is not "to use us" but "to be used by us" since it has no beginning and no end.

Present-time orientation One lives each day as it comes. We should be more interested in "being" in the present than "becoming" in the future. Everything has its place.

Veneration of age Wisdom comes with experience and age. Tribal elders are treated with great respect and dignity; their knowledge and abilities are utilized for the continuance of the circle (family, clan, tribe).

Respect for nature Humankind and nature are thought to exist as one-in-the same. Lifestyle is formed by living in harmony and balance with nature. Disharmony arises from breaking the balance with nature, whether it be in the mental, physical, or spiritual realms.

Spirituality Spiritual practices emphasizing harmony with nature and the entire Circle of Life pervade every aspect of a person's existence.

Importance of the family "Family" denotes a relatedness experienced with all aspects of nature and other living creatures, including blood relatives. Emphasis on extended family provides support and a strong sense of belonging. "Fictive kin" are often claimed as legitimate family members.

Holistic view of health Illness implies an imbalance within a person or between a person and his or her universe. People can either be "in step" with the universe or "out of step" based on lifestyle and choices.

Caution Information about one's family is not freely shared. Personal and family problems are generally kept to oneself, in part due to hesitancy about how one will be received by others.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Isabel McNeal:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or goal; it means that book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are reading whatever they have because their hobby is usually reading a book. Consider the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, individual feel need book once they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Cherokee Full Circle: A Practical Guide to Sacred Ceremonies and Traditions.

Charlene Stidham:

Now a day folks who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Studying a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this The Cherokee Full Circle: A Practical Guide to Sacred Ceremonies and Traditions book as this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Shaun Richards:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this The Cherokee Full Circle: A Practical Guide to Sacred Ceremonies and Traditions publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation The Cherokee Full Circle: A Practical Guide to Sacred Ceremonies and Traditions as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Tammy Mangold:

On this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. On the list of books in the top list in your reading list is The Cherokee Full Circle: A Practical Guide to Sacred Ceremonies and Traditions. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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