

Parenting Lessons from Tribes Around the World

Written by Michelle Henning

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Monday, 01 June 2015 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 15 September 2017 08:19

Once you make pretty pictures, people go, What pretty pictures! Then they look beyond the pretty pictures and go, Wow, who are the pictures of? Aren't they amazing? Who is this? They start asking questions which we've not asked before. And if we don't find answers soon, these people will go.

If that happens, the world will go upside down, because these tribes give us the balance of culture, of knowledge of the world's last natural environments, traditions, languages. The world can't be all about progress and material wealth. It must also be about consolidation of what we already have, which is a natural, spiritual, mental, cultural wealth. We've kept ourselves busy for many, many generations, believing material wealth was the only way forward. We have to

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One hundred years later, look at America. In my opinion, it's one of the most culturally impoverished and socially sick places on the planet. They all have the biggest cars, but also the

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How my kids grew up is the polar opposite of how I grew up. I grew up not knowing my parents; at the age of 7, I was sent to boarding school with Jesuit priests for 10 years. My concept of physicality and nudity and the opposite sex was seriously handicapped, from my youth. Nothing was ever discussed. If it was discussed, you're going to hell, and you're going to die.

Now here I am, I've grown with the kids, in our physicality. We walk around naked when we're getting dressed in the morning. Nobody bats an eyelid. That all comes from growing up as a

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own mistakes. Otherwise they won't learn.

My mum understood that, too that is how she raised me.

I think we dissociate ourselves too much from our children. In the tribes, there isn't really a separation of child and adult, or old person, or teenager. The children are as important as the old people, but they have different strengths and weaknesses. Everybody works together as a community, as a unit, because you need each other to function and survive.

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