

Swirl of Smoke Touch the Universe

I struck out on a hike after having found what I felt was a spiritual and magical pathway leading into the red rocks. Recent rains trickled through a wash weaving around river worn, granite stones. It sang beautiful songs. Birds in nearby trees sang in unison, creating a choir of music drifting on the wind. The red rocks made a small ledge that I climbed up on finding an ancient desert cedar tree. The curve of its trunk made a chair with limbs seemingly wrapping around the person that might sit there. Whoever sat there could easily hear the ancient wisdom of the Earth. Beyond the tree, it opened to a flat red rock mesa. In the center was a huge medicine wheel with a fire pit in its center. I moved closer and could feel many ceremonies were in the wind and so I sat in its eastern door. The top of the red rock was sitting in the sky and all around me far below was a canyon.

Its sacredness pulled at me to bring my pipe into the circle. I had been questing for a vision for a new painting. I watched closely and felt it was sitting in the wind. Magic swirled into the

circle when I held a pipe towards the sky. It was then a mystical being appeared not far from me. Almost instantly the vision of my next painting came to view.

This spirit appeared to hover, moving towards me. His robe blew in the breeze. While he was moving towards me, it blew open revealing the universe. It seemed to contain all of the cosmos. His face felt like it protruded from the waters of the universe and in one eye was the morning star, and his heart, the evening star. One side of the face appeared female while the other was male. It was a vision bringing all that exists.

My painting 'Swirl of Smoke, Touch the Universe,' was the vision of this magical being that came to me at the top of red rock formations. I sit in ceremony making an offering of smoke and gave a thank you to the winds of the Great Mystery. Many gifts had come my way. I don't usually speak of such visions but because this was a vision for seeking a painting intended for everyone, then I believe it was also for the ears of the people.

Above this spirit was an eagle spirit whose wings wrapped the cloud to the top. The Wolf Nations, Bear Nations, Hawk Nations and Buffalo Nations danced in the clouds.

This painting evokes the true sense of spirit. It creates deep connections for many and to others can seem ominous. This painting can call to mind many deep universal principles felt by some people moving on sacred journeys.