



FAITH matters

July 17, 2023

I believe my 'guardian angel' knows my needs and supplies them in an amazing fashion. Before I received Deb Rogers gentle reminder that *Faith Matters* this time is mine, I received from a friend out in Vancouver B.C. this Native American wisdom. It spoke to me and I trust it does so for you as well in this time of berries and fruit here in Benzie County. May we each take our faith and serve as we are called to do as "the one that helps us move love into action."

Chris La Tray, enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians, publishes a weekly newsletter in which the wisdom below came. He shares the "most beautifully rendered by Anishinaabe writer and healer [Asha Frost](#), in her book, [You Are the Medicine: 13 Moons of Indigenous Wisdom, Ancestral Connection, and Animal Spirit Guidance](#). It goes a little like this as Asha Frost tells us:"

In the early days of Their creation, before human People even, Kichi Manitou created an abundant world of plants and trees that bore all manner of beautiful and delicious fruit. Everything you can imagine, and more! All was good. Before long, though, all of these relatives began to take notice of their differences. They judged, and compared, and squabbled, and were generally becoming more and more shitty to each other. What had started out as a joyful and diverse community was becoming suspicious and mean.

Kichi Manitou was troubled and wondered what to do. That night Creator had a profound dream of a brilliant red berry. It carried its seeds on the outside and was shaped like a heart. When ripe, this fruit brought great sweetness. The name of it was the Strawberry – Ode'miin.

Kichi Manitou planted Ode'miin everywhere. Birds spread the seeds even farther. This spread of deliciousness was also a spread of love, because who could possibly not love the strawberry? So great was the fruit's influence that other relatives began rethinking their ways and sharing their fruit as well. They began to take care of each other in ways they'd forgotten how, despite their differences. And because of this, Ode'miin, Strawberry, became known as the Heart Berry, "the one that helps us move love into action."

Genesis 1: 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. **12** The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Faith Matters!

~Written by Pat Sheafor



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