



from

**Beautiful Painted Arrow
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Water Blessing Tree Ceremony

shared by Kristen Bissinger, Birdsong Peace Chamber – PA, USA.

After years of chiefing the Sun Moon dance in Pennsylvania in extreme heat and humidity I felt something had to change. The dances were powerful, harmonious and wonderful and all those participating brought their very best to their individual and our unified effort, but a part of me resented the heat. I questioned Joseph about moving the arbor to a shadier location. He reassured me that the location was perfect; heat, ancient wisdom, being an important component of the Sun Moon dance. I explored a variety of arbor coverings and prayed to be accepting. I continued to chief dances that felt authentic and inspired but in me an opposition to the heat, an inner resistance, remained.



above: photo of Joseph Rael, source not known

So, I asked Joseph for help. After some other suggestions, he gave me a simple ceremony; I was to pour water on the Tree in the center of the Sun Moon dance arbor then take the rest of the water in the pitcher to the nearest water source, be it stream, river, well, pond or lake, and pour the water there. He described how water travels to the ocean and from there evaporates into clouds to fall as rain. In the end nothing stops water, it flows, rises, rains, flows.

For me the ceremony is about letting go of resistance; being the hollow bone. I realized that with my preference, judgment or fear about the weather, a part of me was paddling upstream rather than fully letting the Divine carry both me and the dance. This teaching has been a healing, allowing me to fully go with the flow. I pray, “Thy will be done” and mean it.



So, once or twice a year as I feel called,
I do this simple ceremony to bless the Tree,
the dance, the land, and all our relations.

Together in joy, Kristen