

freedom and power restored to him. Thank you for dropping to your knees with me, with us, over and over, in reverence and in awe in recognition of Jerome's Vast Reach.

One of our final conversations involved him sharing his pain regarding how addiction treatment isolates people from those who they love and who love them the most - how lonely he felt in his attempts to get and stay sober. It was a source of deep frustration for him and I alike. While I understand now more than ever the complexities of keeping folks in recovery as well as those around them safe, I also will be listening fervently for ways to contribute to the much-needed evolutions and REvolutions needed in our very fragmented and often myopic treatment systems and in the overculture at large. I heard you, Jerome. I am listening. Many of us are listening.

What I would say here for now is that I encourage us all to bring those who are suffering with addicted Parts close to our hearts. As close as they will allow themselves to be drawn in. This can and does exist alongside the necessary boundaries, AND they need to know that they are not forgotten, muchless cast aside. It is my truth more than ever that the battles they are waging inside of themselves belong to us ALL and that connection, curiosity, willingness to FEEL, learn and forgive will pave the way for what changes can come if we stay engaged with the complexities that lie at the ROOT of these struggles. They truly do belong to us all. Our youth deserve our protection and each one of us has a piece to do here. I invite us all to keep reaching for our own next levels of growth, development and healing as parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, practitioners, friends and educators - to keep reaching for expanded levels of awareness and action. We are all shamans and healers in this way. It is our right and our responsibility to listen for what is ours to respond to and create.

It was always evident to me that my son was an extreme empath, as well as a unique variety of ancient shaman. My matrix was changed irrevocably as soon as he was with me. He works through me now, stronger than ever, guiding my work and path everyday. Listening to his system and attempting to help him find more comfort and ease here has walked us through the doors of dozens of teachers and healers: midwives, osteopaths, craniosacral practitioners, energy healers, chinese medicine doctors, integrative pediatricians, herbalistas, curanderas, bodyworkers, naturopaths, family therapists and mediators galore, integrative psychiatrists and counselors, somatic educators, educational consultants and advocates, wilderness therapy, sweat lodges, plant medicine ceremonies, ancestral healing journeys and many more gateways, seen and unseen. He has walked me toward and down the many roads that have shaped and defined not only my professional development, but also my worldview and my own deep healing journey. And I know it's just the beginning. He has been and will continue to be a profound teacher for me. It has been an honor to walk with him, and, at times, carry him as far as I was able to. An honor.

When he was 7, I was called to work with very potent plant medicines in Santa Fe and then in Peru. As soon as I was down on that ancient holy land, it was evident to me that it was actually Romey's soul that had brought me there so that I could necessarily expand into such profound places of magic, awakening and spiritual integration. My understanding would come later as to