

Something that the Indians used to do kind of fascinates me. They used to search for a vision that would guide them for the rest of their lives. They called it their power vision, for they believed that they derived power from certain elements of the dream that they encountered in real life. To obtain this vision usually, they would travel out alone until they reached some place that in some way held sacred qualities for them, and they fasted and meditated, perhaps only ingesting certain herbs which contained hallucinatory chemicals. There they would stay, crying out to the spirits for a vision. This was so important that in some tribes they could not come back to the village until they had accomplished their mission.

This vision gave them a special meaning and purpose in life; it made living special, allowing them to rise above the mundane, simple style of living that they were accustomed to. Their very name might reflect the power that they felt from it; and many times this had to do with the animals. Someone like Crazy Horse, for instance, had a great vision which gave him the power to be a leader over the people. He believed that as long as he lived according to the dream, he could not be injured except by his own people, but could charge right into the center of the battle without harm. And, strangely enough, this came true many times.

You may wonder why I am discussing this; I just believe that we really don't think enough about our purpose in life. We could take a lesson from the Indians, who forced themselves to think about it. In some way we need to meditate on just how we fit into the universe; what we are going to do and be in our lives. We need to be conscious of this early in life, for too many are confused about it by the time they try to choose their career or their mate. As a result, they find themselves making decisions that they wish they hadn't. From our 'vision' of ourselves in relation to the world, we will be able to contribute because we know what our purpose is.