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# THE EAGLE AND THE CONDOR

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A PROPHECY  
FOR OUR TIME

John Perkins



Pachamama  
Alliance

Most indigenous people of the world have prophecies that help explain the past in the context of the future in order to give meaning to our present. Many cultures have prophecies that are similar: a prime example is the Prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor. This is not just a folktale; it is a look into our past, ourselves, and our future.

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### A Prophecy Of Our Time

Every five hundred years there is an era called a Pachakuti; the Fourth Pachakuti started in the 1490's, and the Fifth began in the 1990's. This timeline is significant, as Christopher Columbus opened the world of the West to the "civilized" world in 1492, and in 1990 we began a time of universal communication as never before, an interest by people from the industrial nations in indigenous teachings and an opening by indigenous people to a sharing of their knowledge.

The Eagle and Condor legend most likely comes from the Amazon and dates back more than 2000 years, although we can not know for certain when and where the story originates. I have found versions of it in the Andes, through Central America, and have seen its influence on the Maya, the Aztec, the Hopi, and the Navajo.

The prophecy serves as a way of classifying and understanding changes in the world, from north to south and from east to west. It is an explanation of the two different paths that the human race has taken throughout history. These two paths have diverged time and time again, but the prophecy states that the time is here when the two paths will potentially conjoin to become one. This is a story of division and conflict, but also of union and peace.

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### The Two Paths, The Two People

This prophecy says that deep in the mists of history, human societies decided to take two routes and become two different people: the Eagle people and the Condor people.

The Eagle people are typically mind-oriented, industrial and related to masculine energy, often identified with science and technology. They have been the explorers, the colonists, and the aggressors in the records of history.

The Condor people are intuitive, creative, feeling, and related more to feminine energy. Indigenous people have usually identified with this path, as they prioritize the heart above the brain, and mysticism over rationalism in their cultures.

The prophecy says that for many years these two paths would not cross at all. Then, in the Fourth Pachakuti, they would come together and the Eagle would be so strong as to practically drive the Condor into extinction—but not quite. And we know that, following Columbus, this is what happened on many continents.

However, the Fifth Pachakuti would create a portal for the Eagle and Condor to fly together in one sky, to mate and create a new offspring: higher human consciousness. Some say that this offspring is represented by the quetzal of Central America, the Mayan bird that is the symbol of bringing together the heart and mind, art and science, male and female. The reality of this new progeny is being realized, in workshops, books, and teachings all over the planet.





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### Community And The Individual

It's important to recognize that throughout history the wisdom leaders—whom we might call the shamans, the shapeshifters—have taught that the personal and communal are interdependent. In recent times, in Western cultures and what we can refer to as the Eagle cultures, we've emphasized the personal often at the expense of the communal. Our pursuit of self-interests has wreaked havoc on the global community that we all share.

This prophecy brings together the individual and the community. Thus, we can look at the Eagle and the Condor as two individual birds or two individual people that come together. We can see them as uniting on a personal basis and moving forward into a joined life as a family or as partners in the workplace. We can also see them as part of this greater community that has two sides, bringing together the side that understands the science of the world, the technologies, industries, and innovations, with the side that understands the human soul, our connection to nature and the Earth herself, and, through this, know what we must do to move to a healthy, peaceful way of living. We then understand that we are in the process of demolishing the Earth and we recognize the impact of our actions. The Condor is telling us, with its great intuitive sense, "Yes, we are creating a nightmare now."

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### Our Two Sides As One

Each of us, and our culture, has these two aspects that have been referred to as the masculine and the feminine, or the Eagle and the Condor. Most of us grew up in the Eagle culture. Now we are coming face to face with the Condor culture, which is represented by the indigenous people, in a dance that began in earnest in the '90s. We have come through the technological revolution and are continuing to make progress in that area, but at the same time we're in the process of creating a Death Economy, an economy that's based on war, and also on raping and pillaging Mother Earth and destroying her resources. When we see the damage being done, our Condor side informs us that we know in our hearts we can no longer do this. It's time to change. Time to create a Life Economy.

There has been and continues to be a desire on the part of the Eagle peoples to understand Condor peoples, and an interest on the part of Condor peoples to share their knowledge. The shamans have come forward, now willing to offer their wisdom. They are also very interested in learning more about the Eagle people and science. This mutual interest and education is a manifestation of the prophecy.

But, and this is so important, the legend says We the People need to make it happen, we need to keep pushing to have the Condor and Eagle mate and create a higher level of consciousness. It is not by any means an automatic process. It will take all of us on both sides of the path.

**Learn how you can make a difference at [pachamama.org](http://pachamama.org)**

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### About the Author

John Perkins' work with shamanism began in 1968 when he was an apprentice to a shaman deep in the Amazon. Since then, he has studied and lived with shamans on six continents. His books have sold over 1 million copies, spent more than 70 weeks on the New York Times bestseller lists, and are published in more than 30 languages. As Chief Economist at a major consulting firm, his experiences advising the World Bank, United Nations, IMF, U.S. government, Fortune 500 corporations, and heads of state convinced him to devote the rest of his life to facilitating changes in consciousness and in social, political and economic systems. He was founder and CEO of a highly successful alternative energy company and is a founder and board member of Dream Change and The Pachamama Alliance, non-profits dedicated to creating a sustainable, just, peaceful and thriving world.

John has lectured at universities around the globe, and is the author of Shapeshifting, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, The World Is As You Dream It, Psychonavigation, Spirit of the Shuar, Hoodwinked, The Secret History of the American Empire, and The Stress-Free Habit. He has been featured on ABC, NBC, CNN, NPR, A&E, the History Channel, Time, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Cosmopolitan, Elle, Der Spiegel, and many other publications, as well as in numerous documentaries including The End of Poverty, Zeitgeist Addendum, and Apology of an Economic Hit Man. He was awarded the Lennon-Ono Grant for Peace 2012, and Rainforest Action Network Challenging Business As Usual Award, 2006.

**To learn more about John Perkins, visit [johnperkins.org](http://johnperkins.org)**





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The Pachamama Alliance is a non-profit organization based in San Francisco. Its mission is to empower indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest to preserve their lands and culture and, using insights gained from that work, to educate and inspire individuals everywhere to bring forth a thriving, just and sustainable world. **To learn more, visit [pachamama.org](http://pachamama.org)**

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