



Free Online
Presentation by
Ruben Cu:k Ba'ak
(Tohono O'odham)

Tohono O'odham Philosophy and Ethics

7 to 8:30 p.m.
on
Tuesday
May 11, 2021

"The O'odham Himdag, the connection of all things. Our way of life and our responsibilities to our way of life."

So says Ruben Cu:k Ba'ak, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's first guest presenter for the Indigenous Interests series. "O'odham Himdag, it's the simplicity in the connection of all things and our responsibility to that connection."

"It's simply following the teachings of Our Big Brother I'itoi in how we live and treat all life, existence, and the balance of all things."

In this first presentation of the "Indigenous Interests" series, Ruben interviews Tohono O'odham elders who talk about the O'odham Himdag, the destruction of land and archaeological sites in the traditional O'odham homelands both on and off of the Tohono O'odham Nation reservations, and how elders feel obligated to react to that destruction based on their Himdag upbringing.

(See next page)

If I Never Heal

Shudders of fears,
celebrating ethos of horrors,
dry and tasteless,
somewhere,
etching out a tale in my veins,
chumping in my heart like earwax,
deafening.

My wisdom fastens mediocrity
to the illusion of my intelligence
and springs me
like a lopsided pinball.
And I'm just sitting.
Lost,
tribal,
Present,
here in the open field.

A butterfly dances on the spirits
Of songs the land has
Always Danced to,
Balance,
the songs of worlds
Beyond imagination,
in colors so Beautiful
I can't see
them with my
Ugly
scarred eyes.

In the sun's first rays,
I am powerful,
I am the strongest energy on
Mother Earth.
I sing with the land.
Bending fears and horrors.

The requisition of
massacred soaked soils,
Bubbling like ancient bones.
Becoming fuels that will
Complete The conquer's' peace.
In my scared ugly eyes.

- Ruben Cu:k Ba'ak

Flyer date May 5, 2021

To register for the Zoom program go to

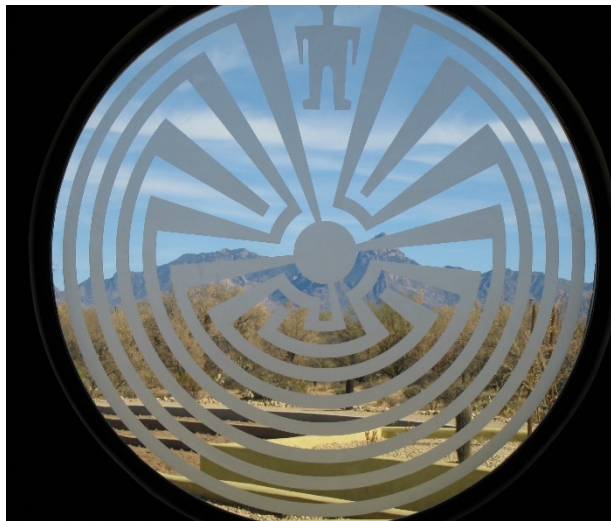
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LibeTVc-TGmRolQxcycz7g

For more information contact Old Pueblo at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.

Tohono O'odham Philosophy and Ethics . . .

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's guest speaker, Ruben Cu:k Ba'ak, is the current Curator of Education for the Cultural Center/Museum of the Tohono O'odham Nation. He is a traditional Tohono O'odham Member who participates in his O'odham Himdag Ceremonies and whose values and philosophies derive solely from his O'odham Himdag.

Ruben is also a poet who hosts a poetry series for Indigenous Poets and Writers every other month, which he has been doing for the past two and a half years. He is passionate about helping people recover from alcohol, drugs, and violence, as he has over 15 years and 11 months alcohol, drugs, and violence free.



View of Baboquivari Peak from inside the Tohono O'odham Nation Cultural Center and Museum (Photo by Jay Craváth)

For more information
contact
Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

info@oldpueblo.org

or

520-798-1201

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