

'To Fill Modern Gaps'

Kahuna to Explore the Ancient Ways

By Nadine W. Scott

Morrnah Simeona is a kahuna, a Hawaiian sage, who tries to use the ancient wisdom of her people to bring about psycho-spiritual growth in the peaceful way of life for individuals and groups.

In an interview, Simeona said she teaches the Hawaiian healing art of ho'oponopono and Hawaiian philosophy, the simple but workable way of life of the Hawaiians long before the days of the monarchy.

Jean Charlot, the great muralist, author, painter, once said you cannot touch anything Hawaiian without touching religion, and "Hawaiian culture fills gaps I think we feel today."

It is these "gaps" Simeona addresses.

A herbalist and kahuna lapa'au, medical priest, Simeona has travelled extensively throughout the central and eastern United States and Canada in the past few years, speaking at universities and medical schools about her method.

She teaches at the University of Hawaii College of Continuing Education.

Simeona possesses great dignity, is the apotheosis of the modern Hawaiian matriarch, soft-spoken, thoughtful, with a ready smile.

WHEN SHE was only 3 years old, Simeona said, she saw the faces of the whole pantheon of Hawaiian gods. "Kane, Lono, Pele. . . who are only God's helpers. . . talked to her, taught her," she said.

According to Simeona, Pele once asked her how she perceived the goddess, and she answered, "as the creative mother of the universe." Pele said she has many faces, makes new lands in many places with the force of her fire, Simeona said. Pele's residence is at Halemaumau, she said.

"I began to realize the universality of her appeal"

From age 3, she had the talent for healing and could heal on the strength of a person's name, without even seeing them, Simeona said. She uses prayer, but thinks of her work more as applied philosophy than religion. She believes she has the power to get into the computer of the mind and release it from unhappy situations.

Simeona said she has exorcised ghosts, mischievous spirits and released people who were "possessed". The approach, she says, is to appeal to the divinity in all of us, to the divine creator, to how we identify ourselves with God.

SHE IS coordinating the symposium "I-identity of Man" for Pacific Seminars, which opens in the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel.

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Ho'oponopono, which she will discuss at the seminar, is a system of problem solving that was used daily by the ancient Hawaiians to clear the path and open the way to whatever situation one was involved in.

Ho'oponopono has universal application, she said, is all encompassing, embracing past lives, reincarnation and conception. "It is a cleansing process" for the self, for the land, for material things.

"The world is in a chaotic situation, but you can bring it into balance – first through yourself." Expressed outwardly, this peaceful way touches other lives and the circle becomes larger and larger so that people are living together in peace and harmony as brothers and sisters.

She hopes to bring the essence and knowledge of ho'oponopono to others so they can help themselves and, in time, help others.