

Developmental Significance in Child Bearing

Throughout the fetal and the gestation developmental stages, a baby will be naturally born within a nine month time period, as it is told that a baby is born to the significance of the Great Star Deities / Sq' Diyin Dine'é and the 'Shándíin' rays of her mother. While there was great anticipation, a certain order of methodology was used to assist mothers when giving birth in past early times. A brief native ceremony was usually performed by a delivery specialist, practitioner and, or midwives in general, whom are considered experienced and some with mysterious powers aided in assisting childbirth. This rite was done, so that a mother and her child were in the natural care of knowledgeable elders, as in the aforementioned and while accompanied by prayers and spirituality; The care insured procedural methodology, so that a mother and her child will not experience any hard labor, an unordinary event, or a life-threatening crisis in the delivery process. Special care was naturally inevitable in earlier times, because modern doctors and hospitals were of inconvenience and if there were any, they were distances away, as forms of travel and communication was also of a disadvantage. Despite the conditions and situations, childbirth and delivery of a child was considered a very sacred process.

Upon birth of a new family member, families visited, related and bestowed k'é / kinship and gifts of talent, wisdom and knowledge through means of adornment of a newborn in certain ways. Breast-feeding was more than a natural feeding nourishment for children in primitive times, as compared to contemporary ones; A traditional processes in which a mother's nourishment in milk form was fed with many good thoughts and prayers, mostly in terms of goodwill and a healthy development. Grandmothers and mothers taught expectant mothers the importance of motherhood and raising children. When children were in the process of weaning in past times, mothers never used supplemental baby food from the grocery stores, yet most ate daily traditional family meals; as young children were fed of natural herb roots, herbs, wild berries, processed corn meals and meat. Mothers' hand and mouth fed sopped corn bread and tortillas in meat broth and chewed-tenderized broiled meat to their little ones. During most of primitive times, people lived off the land; ate off and on the ground, as disease in germs and contamination was non-existent and a thing of foreign. As referenced to mouth feeding, gift giving also came in the form of sharing, atonement through and by means of: *atza't'iit'aał / aza't'il'aał, aah nanoogaał aah álnééh, áliil aah yilziłh, bee dóó bit na'ni'nihgo tsohodizingo bee da'alziłh.* "Yidiiskáadi, díí bee honiyóí dooleel, nilíí' hólóqdoó, béégashii,

łíí', dibé noosánígo bee ánt'éi dooleel, daaniigo hastóí dóó sáa' bizaad dóó bitsodizin yee da'asííh nt'ée' hoolzhishdée'." Grandparents, parents taught in terms of "t'ááhó'ájít'éigo / self determination" and expounded on 'ádiihwii'nííł, ádiihojii'nííł for mental well-being and betterment in outcomes in offspring(s). Most of these forms are not practiced any more and some became non-existent, though the knowledge and practice is still available. Other forms of compassionate gift giving include: 1) giving a child a sacred name. 2) informing a child of his or her clan and kinship values. 3) giving a child a personal image that he / she can relate to throughout her life, in the form of stories, life value teachings, skills and talent, special spiritual prayers and songs and, or offering and inheriting of material things.

It has been told that everything that happens and comes to pass happens for a reason in the why's, when's, and how they happened, for they all have specific meaning and their purposes. The Diné philosophical foundational structure and its relations are no exception, a reflection in a way of life that was planned and established by the holy deities at the time of creation. The following is in reference to such a teaching of White Shell Woman / Yoolgail Asdzáán. The teaching goes as follows: