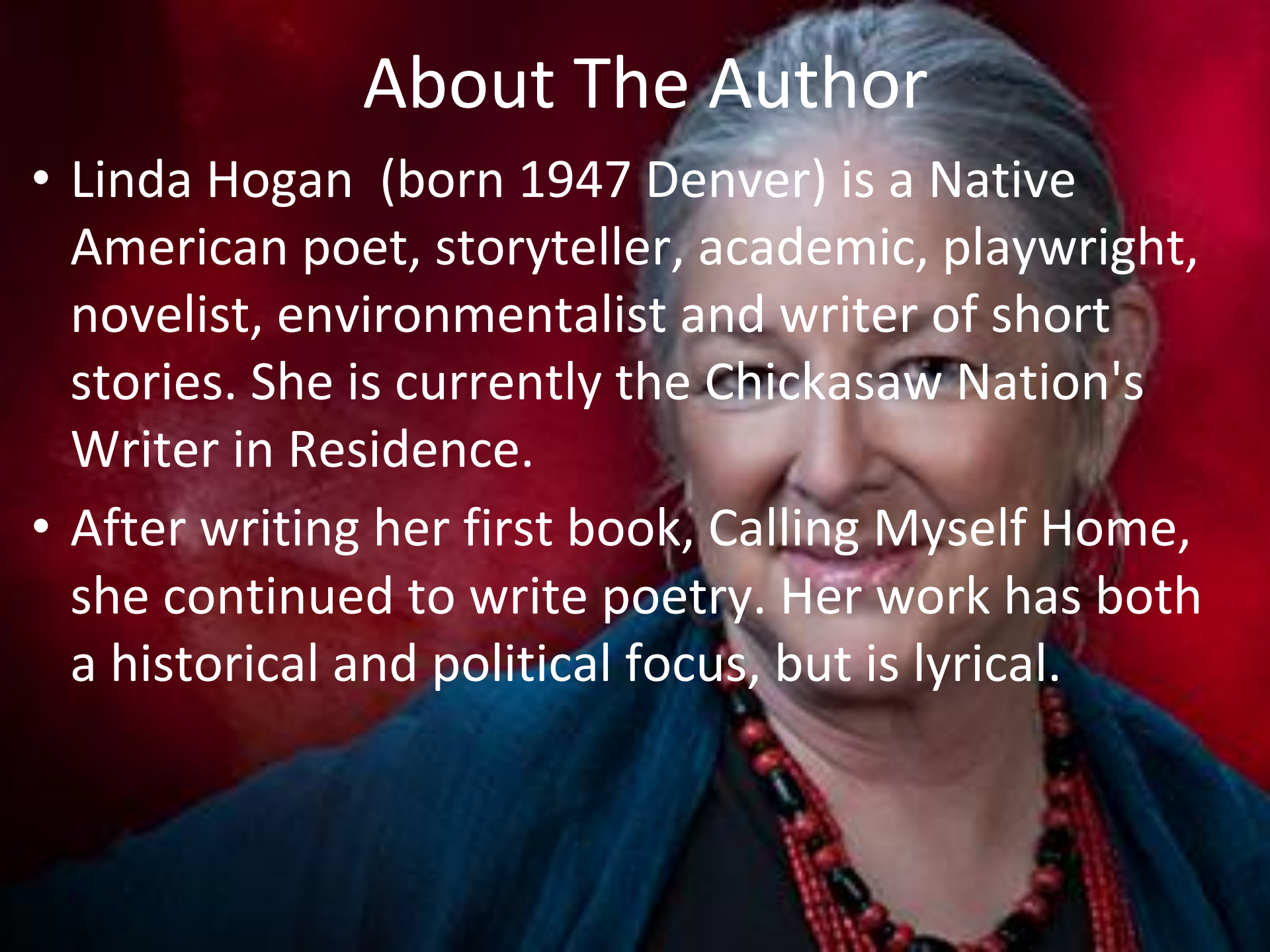


WAKING UP THE RAKE



About The Author

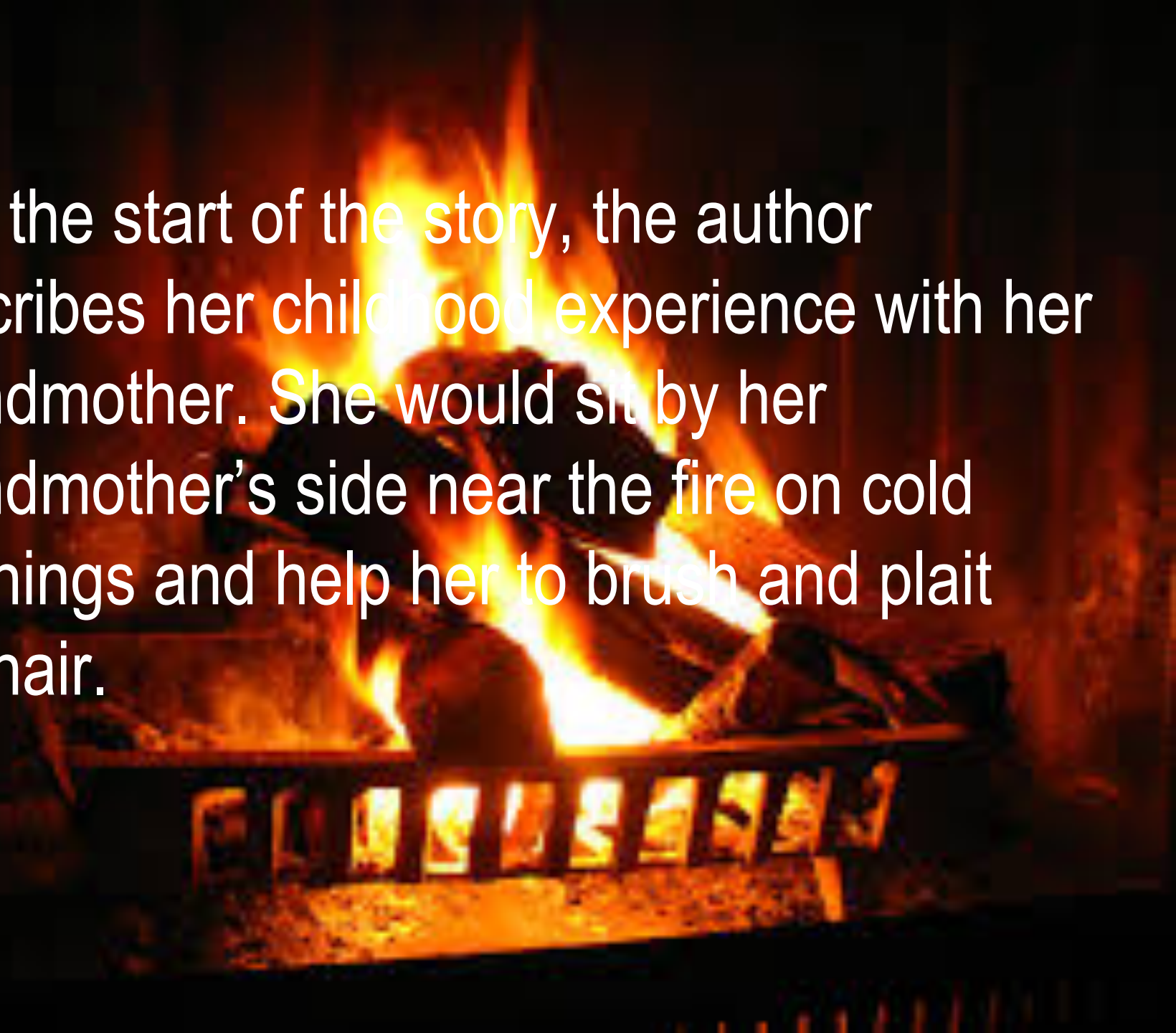
- Linda Hogan (born 1947 Denver) is a Native American poet, storyteller, academic, playwright, novelist, environmentalist and writer of short stories. She is currently the Chickasaw Nation's Writer in Residence.
- After writing her first book, *Calling Myself Home*, she continued to write poetry. Her work has both a historical and political focus, but is lyrical.



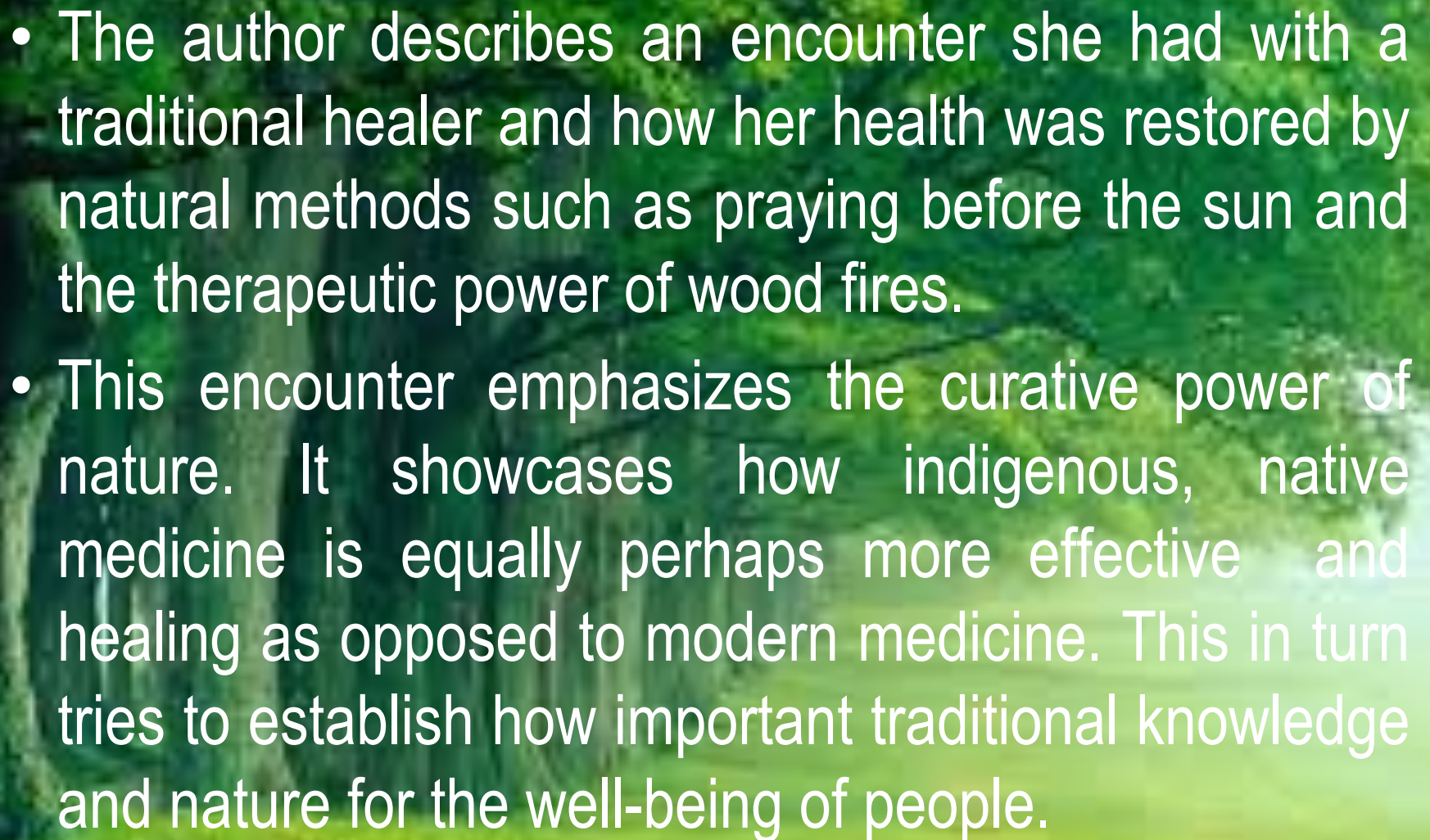
Significant Themes


- **THE VALUE OF WORK**
- **THE BOND BETWEEN NATURE AND MAN**
- **THE INTRISIC AND INCONCEIVABLE BEAUTY OF NATURE.**

- At the start of the story, the author describes her childhood experience with her grandmother. She would sit by her grandmother's side near the fire on cold mornings and help her to brush and plait her hair.



- The author describes this magical time as one in which old and new were intertwined.
- She was the epitome of her grandmother's youth and her grandmother represents the image of the author's future.
- She also describes the time in the morning as a fusion of old and new as well as a new day begins and the earth itself is a day older turning over and over.

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- A lush green forest scene with a path leading through trees towards a body of water. The path is made of dirt and is surrounded by tall, green trees. The water is visible in the background, reflecting the greenery. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.
- The author describes an encounter she had with a traditional healer and how her health was restored by natural methods such as praying before the sun and the therapeutic power of wood fires.
 - This encounter emphasizes the curative power of nature. It showcases how indigenous, native medicine is equally perhaps more effective and healing as opposed to modern medicine. This in turn tries to establish how important traditional knowledge and nature for the well-being of people.



The traditional healer on the author's departure
gave her a profound word of advice .

“Our work is our altar”

It is on the premise of these words that the crux of
this story revolves around.

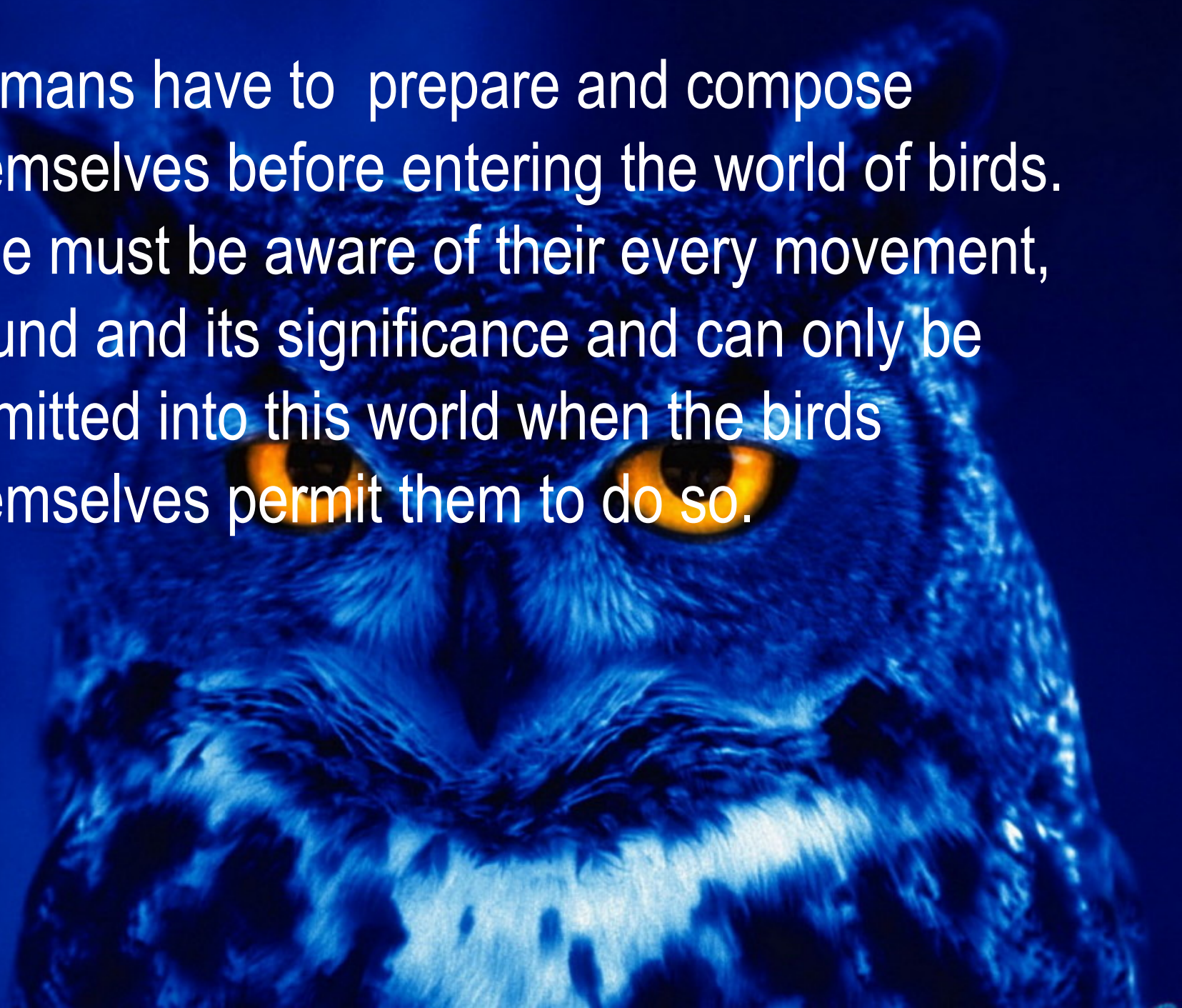


The author now works in a bird sanctuary
“Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation”
and cleans the cages of the birds there.

- She highlights the value of work as the very first phase in spiritual progression. She tries to convey that no matter how small a job may be, it has immense significance and importance.

- The author recognizes the splendor of mundane things. She sees beauty in animal carcasses, observes the fine details of animal physiology . Each body part of the animal, even its bones, she describes as a priceless, exquisite jewel.

- Humans have to prepare and compose themselves before entering the world of birds. One must be aware of their every movement, sound and its significance and can only be admitted into this world when the birds themselves permit them to do so.



- The most important facet of working with birds is to make them feel comfortable in human presence. To set them at ease, humans must consider themselves equal and on par with these creatures.
- The tone of the author and her words signify that she accords a higher place to animals and consider them superior to humans.

- The rehabilitation center for the birds is a paradox in itself. Humans are the reason the birds are hurt and humans themselves heal them.
- The author says of the relationship between humans and nature in general “We are the wounders and we are the healers.”

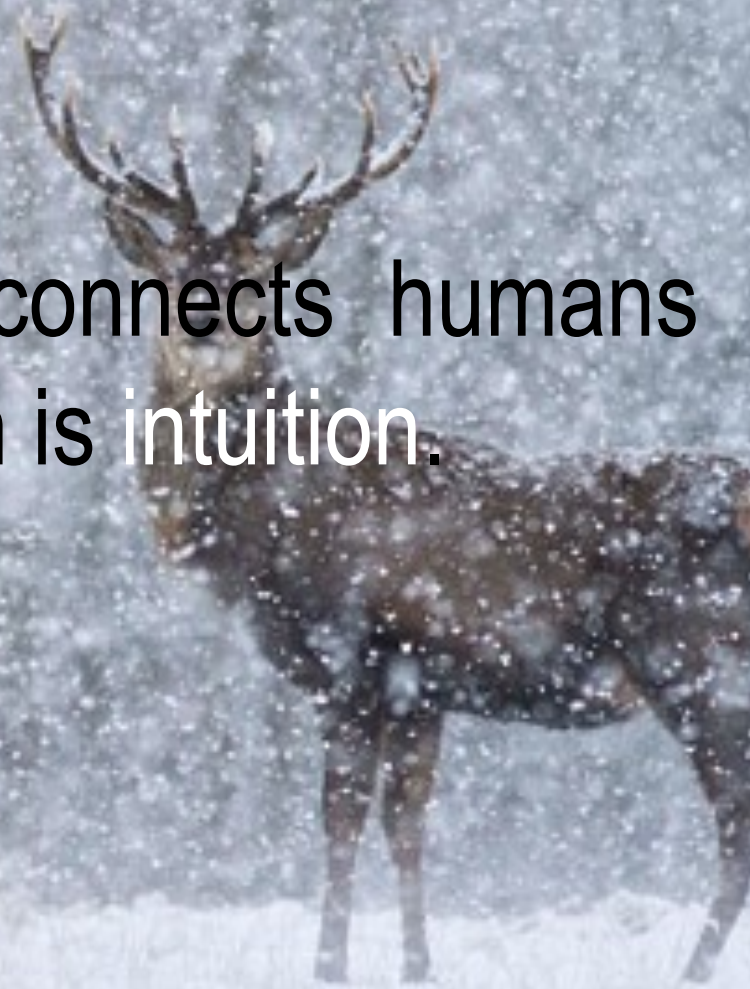


This work teaches the writer crucial life lessons.

“Doing work that has to be done over and over again helps us to recognize the natural cycles of growth and decay, of birth and death, and thus become aware of the dynamic order of the universe.”

- In doing her work, the author begins to comprehend the mysteries of the universe and the true meaning of life. It allows her to observe the world around her in the proper perspective.
- Life in any form whether it be an ant or an elephant is equally majestic and precious.
- As she lives in the midst of nature she begins to perceive the laws that govern all living beings.

- This ultimate “law” that connects humans and the world around them is intuition.



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- She derives joy from simply seeing a recovered bird flying freely in the sky, a snake slither past the grass, or a turtle glide smoothly into the water.

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- A photograph of a Zen garden. In the foreground, a large, dark, irregularly shaped rock sits on a bed of fine, white sand. Behind it, several other smaller dark rocks are scattered. A tall, slender, weathered wooden post stands upright in the middle ground. The garden is enclosed by a low wall made of stacked stones at the base and a smooth, light-colored plaster above. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating dappled shadows on the sand and wall.
- FINALLY THE AUTHOR ANALYZES THE VALUE OF WORK IN UNIFYING HUMAN BEINGS WITH NATURE.

***“WORK DONE WELL
IS THE BEST
WORSHIP”***