

Womanity Workshop: A Bahamian Unfolding



The Dream Team

Introduction

The miracles of our pilgrimage came to us through dreams, intuitive knowings, people showing up at the right time and the waters and hospitality of the genius and brilliance of the Bahamian people. Four women said yes to 4 conversations around lamentations, the body, freedom and abundance in 4 different locations. We all agreed that we did not have the calling around the story of women in mind for ourselves. We have been supported and loved on this pilgrimage, a journey we are so grateful we undertook as we received the gift of transformation on our way!

Day 1



The journey started at Clifton beach, a former slave plantation where we acknowledged the story of slavery and its impact on women. We drank a bitter drink called Cerasee and started with our lament because for some women in our world today things have not changed or moved at all.

We then continued to Sacred Space where Antonius Roberts' carvings of slave women formed the back drop as we stood in community and shared our laments for the world and for ourselves.

The place where our tears changed to champagne as it was held by the dolphins and the rain.



Day 2

The island of Eleuthera was the place where our conversations around the body started. We reflected on the relationship we have with our bodies and how that has been



influenced by the taken-for-granted ideas and beliefs of our cultures and society at large. The beautiful bodies of water in the Bahamas were the medicine that healed this relationship. The day ended with a dance on the beach and in the water, the ocean also celebrating the healing and new relationship with our bodies with us!

'As I swam, years of pain were being transformed.'

Day 3

The island of Eleuthera, which means freedom, was also large enough to host our third conversation around freedom! We had the opportunity to each state the kind of relationship to freedom we want to stand in, and what it means to each of us. Powerful stories and declarations were gently held by our web of connectedness in this community of women.



Day 4



Andros, the island of abundance, not only hosted our conversation but held all our requests for whatever abundance meant for each of us: touch, rain,

nature, food, wisdom, forest, water, crabs and conversations. Collectively we co-constructed what abundance meant for each of us as our web of stories became our story of abundance for women.

Reflections by the participants

We started out calling the journey through these 4 conversations, the Journey of the Feminine but recently it has been renamed, Womanity Workshop. A story for another day...

Olivia

The Journey of the Feminine, A Bahamian Unfolding was a validation of the divinity of the feminine and proof that the universe is operating a conspiracy to facilitate us living into and manifesting the divine. The Journey began with the blessings of the rain, ended with the blessings of sunshine interspersed with deep and intense and intentional introspection, conversations, sharings and commitments. The Journey was a remembrance and re-emerging of forgotten love, joy, life, living, abundance and divinity.



Tracey



Journey of the Feminine, May 2012 in the Islands of The Bahamas was a beautiful experience. I received many gifts from Chené, Joan, Olivia, and Quanita. In the world that we crafted together I received delight: watching us twirl on uneven sands in brightly-coloured dresses to the sound of local music and the roar of a rushing sea. I received joy: jumping into the haunting waters of a forest-edged 'blue hole.' I received peace as well: serenity as our boats and planes ploughed calmly through wind and rain. Most of all, I received a key to

ease, companionship, happiness: hearing each person speak into how our day should unfold and walking into time shaped by each person's dream. Would that we had more time.

Quanita

Our first participant, thank you for joining us Quanita!

The first day we shared our laments that brought release after which we had to let go of our grief as we got a chance to step into forgiveness and reconciliation. On this trip I got the chance to be baptized by the water. As I swam, years of pain was being transformed. Andros brought the lesson of abundance where we laughed so hard I could hardly stand it. In the middle of this was pure joy, not where I would expect to find it but there it was teaching me to keep looking in the unexpected places. Everybody's journey was unique and different. This journey weaves into the context of your life.



Joan



A uniquely special unfolding of the power of the feminine! We stepped into the waters of the ocean where a new freedom was found. On each step of the journey we were baptized and birthed into a new dispensation of grace which kept reminding us of our power as the feminine and that in this new age we are being called upon to bring forth, to bring forth. This was a water journey as we experienced the moisture of the rain, the torrent from the ocean and the tears on our checks as we shared our gifts and talents with each other on the journey. It was a cleansing experience. It was a rebirth. It was a release.

It was a journey back in time to and over the watery Middle Passage. With the buoyancy of the ocean each Sister held the other up in her gifting and sharing. A fantastic voyage of the feminine!

Chené

This journey was born out of a desire for the re-writing and re-authoring of the feminine narrative and the return of the Feminine from Exile. My relationship to the old stories of the feminine such as isolation, competition and scarcity was transformed into voice, connection, liberation and abundance. Looking at myself in the photos taken on the way, it all shows in the body, radiant, woman, owning, living into and becoming. I am forever grateful to the women of the Bahamas who dared to offer the abundance of the islands as birth ground for the unfoldings of the Journeys of the Feminine!



Faith



Faith joined us on the first day of the Journey.

I spent only one day with the group but confirmed again that black or white, coming from a history of enslavement and oppression or not, our narratives can help each other grow in this world. Our narratives can change the world.

I wanted to learn what this concept called “the feminine” was. Most of all, I decided that the feminine must be connected to spirituality in some way and I wanted to focus on the feminine and spirituality. As we shared our thoughts, it became evident that we have at least one thing in common – the desire for growth/change. I did not continue onto the next spaces in the journey but followed the journey on Facebook (Ah! Technology!). I am grateful for the brief narratives and photos of laughter (so good for our health), adventure, Bahamian delicacies and hospitality, beautiful landscapes -- looked so liberating! I want to listen to their narratives for the transformative beginnings that will be continued on the next journey of the feminine. I want to be there.