

## The Story of Poder

(Adapted from Michael Meade (2010), Fate and Destiny: The Two Agreements of the Soul. Greenfire Press: USA, p.102-106)

Long ago, there were women, called midwives, who helped people during birth and death. Since birth and death are two of life's greatest mysteries, midwives were thought to be very wise and have a special gift called "second sight". Modern people may get ultrasounds to learn about the baby before he or she is born but back then, people didn't have anything like that. Instead the midwives would watch the pregnant mother and the baby closely during birth and they were able to see things about the baby that others could not. They were also able to see the divine or magical things that appear in the important moments of life. When the midwives would help the mothers give birth to their new babies, the midwives would watch for the signs and symbols that would show them the true nature of the baby and the inner gifts and talents that each baby had within them. That would help everyone understand who the baby was meant to be when they grew up and the role they would play in the world.

An old Mayan tale tells of a time when midwives could see with their "second sight" and attended carefully to each new soul coming into the world. That was before the disasters that made it so difficult for people to see the gifts that each child brings. They say the trouble began in a simple village where a certain woman went into labor and called for the midwife to come. Shortly after the midwife arrived, the woman began giving birth and the newborn could be seen for the first time. The midwife saw that it was a boy, but she could also see that the child came carrying gifts.

The baby boy had a green cloak on his back and he held a small bowl filled with water in his hand. In the excitement of the birth no one else noticed the child's gifts. The mother was too tired from the labor and the baby was too new and helpless to know anything about the gifts he carried. The midwife took the cloak and the bowl from the baby and hid them away.

After seven days, the midwife planned the traditional ceremony for welcoming the newborn and giving thanks that both the mother and child were healthy. Everyone came to celebrate the birth and welcome the baby to the world. The baby was washed and cleansed and given a name that had many meanings. He was called Poder, which meant gift, for every child is a gift to this world. Poder also meant power, ability and good luck.

After the welcoming ceremony, the midwife took the child's gifts and carried them out into the mountains beyond the village. She gave the gifts to certain people out in the hills and they hid them away carefully. No one told the family about the gifts the child brought with him and Poder, himself did not know about his gifts.

After being welcomed into this world and being nursed, the boy took to life and grew rapidly. He did all the things that a child was expected to do and had his share of the good and bad

experiences that shape childhood. Eventually, Poder reached the period when childhood ends and something else must begin. In becoming a young man, Poder began to ask the questions that young people often ask. He wondered why he was here and whether he had something to give to this world. When he was unable to figure it out on his own, he looked for the midwife whom everyone knew was a wise person.

When he found the wise woman, he asked her if there was a purpose for his life. He asked if he had a gift to give to this world and if the world has something to give to him. The midwife said that everyone comes to this world with gifts to give. She explained that each child was welcomed into the world by everyone because they knew they would gain something when the child became able to give forth what they had brought to this world. In the meantime, she said that it was time for him to leave his childhood behind. It was time for him to make a journey to the holy hills to find the answers for himself.

Poder wasted no time. He went to his parents and told them that he would be leaving in order to search for knowledge. His mother gave him food for the journey and a blessing for the road and Poder left the village and left behind everything he knew. With nothing but a little food and some water he began to wander in the holy hills. After a time the food was gone and all he carried were his questions about himself and the nature of this world.

After wandering about, Poder came upon some people having ceremonies in the hills. They welcomed him warmly and asked why he walked the hills alone. Poder explained that he was searching for answers and that he wanted to know if he had something to give to the world and if the world had something to give to him. The people answered that both things were true and that each person was meant to be part of an important exchange that kept the world going. After sharing food with the youth, they fetched the green cloak and the bowl full of water that he had carried when he was born. They handed the items to Poder and explained that he had been born with those exact gifts and that the time had come for him to learn the purpose of them.

Poder was introduced to a person who had similar abilities in order to receive training in how to handle and protect his gifts. That's when he learned that those who were born with a green cloak and bowl of water were meant to become rainmakers. Since that area was hot most of the time and dry most of the year, a talent for bringing rain could be lifesaving for everyone. Poder paid close attention and soon became able to roll up into the clouds and loosen the rain waters that they held. He learned how to handle his gifts and when to use them and he became ready to give something to the world.

When he returned to the village, Poder had his natural gifts and he began to serve the people by bringing rain down so they could grow corn and beans and enough squash to feed everyone. People recognized Poder's gift and the ways in which his ability to use his gift kept everyone in the village fed. He soon became a favorite son of the people. When he wasn't using his gifts, Poder kept them hidden.

There was another young man in the village who had no idea of his natural gifts. For some reason, no one else knew the nature of that boy's special inner gift either. As a result, that young man felt that he had no luck and no power of his own. No one seemed to know how to help him, so he became interested in Poder, who everyone else had an interest in. He began to follow Poder around in order to learn where he kept his gifts and how he was able to bring the rain.

One day, when Poder was busy somewhere else, the other young man found the cloak and the bowl and took them from the hiding place. He began to make the motions that he had seen Poder use to roll up into the clouds. Soon, he was able to roll up and land in some dark clouds that were laying low over the land. Once up there he began to experiment with Poder's gifts. Soon enough, the clouds began to rumble and rain started to fall down upon the world.

It rained and rained. People say that the whole world would have flooded had the Creator not become angry at the misuse of Poder's gifts. They say that it was the Creator who finally stopped the rain and sent the false rainmaker back down to earth. After that, Poder was able to reclaim his gifts and the people were eventually able to save the village and plant new crops once the land dried out.

However, after this incident, they say that no one, not even the midwives, were able to see the gifts that children bring to this world when they are born. That is why most people today don't know what their natural gifts and powers might be. Everyone is still gifted in some way, for that is an important part of human life and nothing can take that away. However, the gifts of many people remain hidden. Many live without finding their gift and learning who they are meant to be and where their futures may lead. To this day people wander about and often become lost because they fail to learn what it is that they have to give to this world and what the world has to give to them.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Who first discovers Poder's gifts, what does she do with them, and why?
2. Who does Poder speak to when he begins to wonder about his purpose?
3. What did the wise woman tell him about his gifts?
4. Who else did the wise woman tell Poder would benefit from him finding his gifts?
5. Where does he discover his gifts and what are they?
6. Who tried to steal Poder's gifts and why?
7. What does the story say happens when people are not able to learn what it is that they have to give this world and what the world has to give them?