

2016.4 Thief of Time Tour -Tony Hillerman "A Mystery of Love and Loss and Harmony"

1 Blessings of Rain , D. Y. Begay 2015.58 G259 –

largest NA group in US and speak their own language –

- ^ D.Y. Begay is a Navajo, born to the Totsoni' (Big Water) Clan and born for the Tachinii' (Red Running into Earth) Clan people. D.Y. - **4th generation weaver**. Grew up surrounded by female weavers – exposed to herding/shearing sheep, carding/spinning wool, harvesting plants--> dyeing and learning to weave in the traditional Navajo fashion. (NY Times article "CRAFTS; A NAVAJO WEAVER IN NEW JERSEY")
- ^ SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET - best textile 2015 SW Association for Indian arts swaia.org – How does the artist keep your interest? FIRST PHASE STYLE WEAVING
- ^ Song for weaving "Blessings of Rain" literal – symbol reflect a love of the land/harmony=Hozho
- ^ What has Leaphorn loved?
- ^

1 Olla 90.106– Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi = "Enemy Ancestors," - Navajo) – some ~ 12th c BCE

- ^ Coiled - large storage ollas, to hold food/water. Woman with water olla/how function influ shape
- ^ decorative pattern of black and white --interlocked lines of small white squares with a dot in the middle -- traditional three-step cloud motif and also refer to lightning, ? summer rainstorms. The square and dot design = maize kernels, a staple food -- Ancient Puebloans.
- ^ painted freehand, showing the artist's great talent and skill.
- ^ Ancestral Pueblo culture/loss of environment/their migration
- ^ **what loved/ lost** – Chee – Mary Landon WI - tie to culture– how does their relationship symbolize modern Dine's relationship to the larger white culture
- ^ Elliot Anthropologist -- studies Anasazi bone - genetics from bone - Maxie Davis – from old money, the best schools, – obsessed with Maxie, who scorns his background

1 Ernest Whiteman -

- ^ Wind River Reservation sw WY-- ancient Arapaho petroglyphs/rock carvings.
- ^ Incised, scratched or pounded onto rock formations -- 2500 B.C. to the middle 19th c
- ^ Little is known about why made or what they meant -- predate written records
- ^ Whiteman --> ancient form of written communication+ filled with spiritual power: respect earth as living being, a gift from the Creator—survive/flourish-- harmony animals /land.
- ^ **Modern materials of steel and neon honor--** elongated shapes hanging left arm= **rain** -- cupped right hand - **scoop up and harvest** the gifts . The **long wavy line** cut through the steel and illuminated by a **bright red neon light =heart line** – connects the mouth to its heart = great power. **hearts and heads are connected, -- >blessings of peace/prosperity from earth/sky."**
- ^ **PROCESS:** fresh plate of steel – plasma cutter – applied a concentrated salt mixture, which caused the steel to rust, giving it a more ORGANIC and natural look.
- ^ Lives St Paul MFA U MN – teaches important to give back
- ^ Petroglyphs looking to lost past to find harmony present – harmony heart and mind
- ^ Leaphorn Seeking Harmony find E F-B. Antiquities: Houk=\$/anthropologists=fame & fortune
- ^

2 Magdalene Odundo – identify individual potter by studying style – Inspiration/Evolution of Style Dr.

- ^ Contemporary artist Odundo achieves perfect symmetry in her work without mechanical aids: all of her pieces are formed by handbuilding and coiling techniques. Born in Kenya but trained in Nigeria and New Mexico, Odundo draws on her knowledge of African utilitarian vessels
- ^ How do things fall apart/out of harmony? Eleanor Friedman-Bernal digging ancient sites – What is the controversy? Why don't we just go in and quickly dig things up? Context: hula hoop – provenance

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2 Wesley Dow The Destroyer

- ^ "discovered" Jap woodcut – flat, simplified forms, lines, colors --> **Pursuit of Harmony in Ptg**
- ^ River=destroyer + builder. Early 20th c Am artists -->organic,geometric abstract(modernism)

- ^ Great River,: builder: silt, minute shells settled bottom of primeval ocean Why The Destroyer?
- ^ **Nature as a reference point not a goal.** quest to seek harmony.
- ^ Have any of you been to the Grand Canyon? What did feel in that place?
- ^ What is the role of water in physical landscape? -->Leaphorn on the river in kayak?
- ^

3Georgia O'Keeffe Black Place I 2009.62

^ The Black Place - **favorite painting sites, Bisti Badlands in Navajo country, about 150 miles northwest of her home in Ghost Ranch.** It was a stretch of desolate gray and black hills that the artist said looked from a distance like "a mile of elephants." From 1936 to 1949, her visits to the Black Place sparked a torrent of work--- Between 1944-45 – completed six canvases.

^ Which painting Dow or O'Keeffe? Dow's influ as a teacher--> **fill a space in a beautiful way.**

^ Mystery novels are about good vs evil. – How characters we become evil?

^ Losses Leaphorn, Chee, Houk)

^

4Kiki Smith Worm 2011.74.14 –Etching, aquatint, photogravure, cutouts/collage on black Japanese paper.

- ^ Prompted by her father's death--> explored: body, human organs, fluids decay, death – **bodily fluids, which also had social significance as responses to the Aids crisis (blood) and women's rights (urine, menstrual blood, feces).**
- ^ Dissected photographs of herself to create a worm-like figure, emerging below a body contorted into the fetal position and framed by a rectangle. The curled figure is a photographic negative, creating an unnatural glow that dissolves the face and hands—as though the body were **decaying into light.** -->ambitious investigation of mortality and the physicality of the human body. Animals= symbolic meaning – combine animal/human imagery -- "myth and fairy tale and religion." ? very similar to the construction of our own identities
- ^ I learned from my mother...to trust my intuition above all." Leaphorn trusted his intuition to search for E F-B.
- ^ Blessing Way multi-day ceremony: chanting, sand painting and dance – **Blessing Way** restore hozho, "melding beauty, harmony, and well-being – means "walking in beauty" – or living in a manner that strives to create and maintain **balance, harmony, beauty and order.** The other ½ is **Enemy Way.** (traditional ceremony for countering the harmful effects of alien ghosts or **chindi,**
- ^ Death and Harmony (Leaphorn and Houk) – relationship of harmony & Justice : Schizophrenia Brigham & Elliott

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Thief of Time Summary – Year written 1988

^ Emma's death Joe Leaphorn grieving ? Navajo Tribal Police

^ anonymous report woman stealing Anasazi relics from protected lands – thief of time

^ Chaco Nat Pk - missing - Dr. Eleanor Friedman-Bernal anthropologist/ ceramics- ID individual potter

^ Leaphorn thinks the anonymous call reporting Dr Friedman-Bernal and her disappearance-- connected.

^ Chee: Digging equipment tribal motor pool- stolen --traces thieves.

^ Slick Nakai/preacher. Leaphorn/Chee separately @revival meeting. Leaphorn: Nakai sold pots Eleanor.

^ Leaphorn: same Navajo help revival—works w/ Maxie Davis/Chaco.

^ Chee: backhoe, find it bottom of a canyon. 2 dead men: Joe B. Nails & Jimmy Etcitty

^ Leaphorn visits Maxie & Randall Elliot -info Eleanor--she was likely out checking her latest discoveries.

^ Leaphorn meets Chee at the murder site-->the missing anthropologist/missing motor pool equipment.

^ Chee counts the bags. Three removed --only two are filled with pots and pieces. The third bag turns up in Elliot's kitchen trash, filled with Anasazi bones, tagged for one of two important sites.

^ Leaphorn pursues the trail of the pot Houk sold to an auction house after buying it from Jimmy Etcitty – NYC buyer has the form showing the exact place the pot was found, --details of the site are correct but the canyon is on Navajo land.

^ Houk is murdered; writes a note to tell Leaphorn she is alive.

^ Slick Nakai's brother describes the same site to Chee, who then finds the exact locations by tracking where both Elliot and Dr Friedman-Bernal made applications to dig

^ Chee learns that Elliot was not in Washington DC the day Dr Friedman left for her weekend away; instead he

rented a helicopter, as he has again done. Chee rents a helicopter and a pilot on the spot.

^ Leaphorn uses Houk's rubber kayak to find Eleanor – Brigham Houk is still alive, living in the wild with the help of his father. --meets Brigham, who has been expecting him. Wounded Eleanor, pushed down a cliff by the bad man; she is now unconscious and feverish.

^ Elliot shows up, confessing his actions, including three murders and one attempted. He reported Eleanor for pothunting to free the site for research sooner due to the supposed thieving.

^ Brigham gets his bow and kills Elliot with an arrow. Within minutes, the helicopter brings Chee.

^ Leaphorn asks Chee what he saw, which included Elliot's corpse and the glimpse of another man slipping away. Leaphorn says, do not mention any of it, we will talk later.

^ Leaphorn is impressed with Chee's work. Elliot's body will be found after the animals have gotten to it. Leaphorn will not retire; he plans to stay to meet Brigham at the next full moon/tell father's death.

^ He asks Chee to arrange a Blessing Way ceremony for him.

Characters

Joe Leaphorn: Lieutenant in the Navajo Tribal Police,

Jim Chee: Officer in the Navajo Tribal Police, under Capt. Largo. He is about 30- trained to be a hatahalii.

Eleanor Friedman-Bernal: Anthropologist

Maxie Davis: Beautiful-friend to Eleanor, part of archeology team that is sorting the Anasazi sites

Randall Elliot: Anthropologist-Anasazi genetics from bone fragments,

Harrison Houk: Mormon,lost family 20 yrs -schizophrenic son's violence -no scruples pot hunting Anasazi sites.

ranch over San Juan River from reservation/near sites, and his name is in Eleanor's appointment book.

Brigham Houk: Son of Harrison-killed mom/siblings in a crime that called in Leaphorn - thought he drowned.

Slick Nakai: Christian Evangelical preacher Navajo. His name -Eleanor's appointment book-sells pots given him tation across from the motor pool yard, and saw the backhoe bandits and their oddly painted car.

Richard DuMont: Collector of pottery in New York City.