



RAMONA'S DREAM

I met Ramona who is of Navajo lineage while on a quest for Native American arts and crafts. She jointly runs a shop that is devoted primarily to pottery. There was a pottery workshop situated in the back of the shop with a line of glass windows behind which, were women painting pots. Ramona asked me if I was psychic so I thought it was a good opportunity to ask her for dreams. Native Americans are generally reticent about talking openly, particularly to Belagona or White persons and I can certainly understand their reluctance. European culture has not been very kind or even tried to understand the Native American thought process without romanticizing it, so I was delighted that she was so forthcoming,

She recounted a number of dreams, but the one that is most vivid is one that concerns both her home and the shop. There is a man who watches her through one of the glass windows where the women paint and this also happens when she is awake and working in the shop. She often dreams that he is standing at the foot of her bed. I asked her if this frightened her and she said that it did not. She felt he was a good spirit and was looking after her. The surprising thing is that he is white and she has no idea who he is or why he is there.

Navajos or the Dine which means “the people” as a group tend to be wary of spirits and in particular of the dead, who they worry will come back and haunt them if certain precautions are not taken or rituals performed . There are taboos for just about everything that must be strictly adhered to. Most notorious is the phenomenon of the “skin walker” who is someone who can shape shift from human to animal.