

Music, art and life conspire to put the female indigenous Apache-warrior-legend **Lozen**¹ in the same written bar as **Kanye West** at his first (and every since) *Grammy Awards*.² They both encompass qualities which women and gender rights pioneers are accustomed: self-determination, bravery, and an awareness of systems that have created or maintained status quo aggressively for long periods of time. Politicians and proud citizens frequently champion “up from the bootstraps” stories of gradual, determined and hard-earned success that is indeed possible in a country as affluent and influential as the United States. However there are few greater perspectives on forced marginalization, contradictions of freedom and the cost of success than the “Manifest Destiny” concept pushed by colonialists after establishing independence. This combined with slavery, the Mexican War, and the rape and murder of indigenous Native Americans made way for the disproportioned, race-conscious, and not-always-just society we have today.³

It is simpler for some to create enjoyable life above this foundation while many others are challenged with real-time repercussions every day. Women of indigenous communities for example face systemic rape, violence and suicide on massively underserved reservations at alarming rates.⁴ Police brutality, abuse, current law, and simply lack of upward mobility continue to burden mothers, sisters and partners whose experiences are not always of mainstream importance.

Living in different New York City neighborhoods and learning more about her native African culture lead Emma Lee to see more connections between all indigenous peoples of the world. This includes culture, spirituality and the relationship to nature embedded in Caribbean-West Indian, Taino/Hispanic and African-American peoples who also share blood lines with Native Americans. What all these groups have in common is a history of slavery, immigration and enterprise that have largely shaped the success and contradiction of the United States ideal. These groups also share a common disenfranchisement, underrepresentation, and frequent abuse from the will of dominant powers.

The creativity, vision and spiritual insight of Emma Lee brings her through such struggles in further hopes others are encouraged and strengthened. In the practice of *Law of Attraction* pioneered most notably by **Esther and Jerry Hicks**,⁵ one learns awareness, clarity, and focus of the being, even if altruistically motivated, will always transcend conditions and allow “deliberate creation” to “manifest.” Emma Lee continues the will of people like Lozen and Kanye, who re-envisioned the power of spiritual-will that made American Dreams from blood and conquest.

¹ Aleshire, Peter. *Warrior Woman: The Story of Lozen, Apache Warrior and Shaman*. MacMillan. (April 2001): 1-2.

² TheOkanokazuya. *Kanye West accepted Grammy for Best Rap Album @47th*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJHWF3fe4>

³ Horseman, Reginald. *Race and Manifest Destiny*. Harvard University Press. (1981): 1-6.

⁴ Weaver, Hilary N. *The Colonial Context of Violence: Reflections on Violence in the Lives of Native American Women*. *J Interpers Violence*. Vol. 24 no. 9 (September 2009): 1552-1563.

⁵ Hicks, Jerry and Hicks, Esther. *The Amazing Power of Deliberate Intent*. Hay House Inc. (January 2007): 4-9.