

Paula Gunn Allen

Quotes

Memories, Mean, Understanding, Thinking, Medicine, Land, Believe, God, Dream, Groups, Loss, Heart, Way, Native American, Mind, Long, Unseen, Healing, Ongoing, Used

Snowflakes, leaves, humans, plants, raindrops, stars, molecules, microscopic entities all come in communities. The singular cannot in reality exist.

~Paula Gunn Allen

For the American Indian, the ability of all creatures to share in the process of ongoing creation makes all things sacred.

~Paula Gunn Allen

The root of oppression is the loss of memory.

~Paula Gunn Allen

I am not especially defined by my sex life, nor complete without it.

~Paula Gunn Allen

Medicine people are truly citizens of two worlds, and those who continue to walk the path of medicine power learn to keep their balance in both the ordinary and the non-ordinary worlds.

~Paula Gunn Allen

Human beings need to belong to a tradition and equally need to know about the world in which they find themselves.

~Paula Gunn Allen

Indians think it is important to remember, while Americans believe it is important to forget.

~Paula Gunn Allen

We are the land. To the best of my understanding, that is the fundamental idea that permeates American Indian life.

~Paula Gunn Allen

America does not seem to remember that it derived its wealth, its values, its food, much of its medicine, and a large part of its "dream"

from Native Americans.

~Paula Gunn Allen

... America has amnesia. ... Certainly, there is a passion for memory loss in American thought. ... Americans may be the world champion forgetters.

~Paula Gunn Allen

Hoop Dancer is a rendering of my understanding of the process by which one enters into timelessness -- that place where one is whole.

~Paula Gunn Allen

The shadows cannot speak.

~Paula Gunn Allen

An odd thing occurs in the minds of Americans when Indian civilization is mentioned: little or nothing.

~Paula Gunn Allen

Idealization of a group is a natural consequence of separation from the group; in other words, it is a by-product of alienation.

~Paula Gunn Allen

It's a little-known linguistic curiosity that the name Jehovah or Jaweh is the same name as Eve; Havva, the counterpart name in Farsi, the language spoken by the Persians, means either Jaweh or Eve.

~Paula Gunn Allen

As long as we avoid the creative, we are condemned to reaction.

~Paula Gunn Allen

In America, law substitutes for custom.

~Paula Gunn Allen

In the native world, major gods come in trios, duos, and groups. It is the habit of non-natives to discover the supreme being, the one and only head god, a habit lent to them by monotheism.

~Paula Gunn Allen

True shamans live in a world that is alive with what is to rationalist sight unseen, a world pulsing with intelligence.

~Paula Gunn Allen

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