

## ALPACA ORACLE

Alpaca Oracle is a transdisciplinary inter-species communication project aiming to ask for help and advice for humans from animals, namely alpacas. The project is a collaboration between artist Mari Keski-Korsu, professional animal communicator Maiccu Kostainen, and the Alpaca Fuente Farm.

Alpaca Oracle looks at the possibility of expanding human understanding on the present state and future prospects of life on Earth by practicing the skills of inter-species communication. The oracle sessions are arranged in terms of equality and harmony – the species-specific characters and the willingness to join the project of all participants are taken into account. The project also explores how a herd functions and tries to reflect the findings in human population. The alpaca herd is first asked if they want to be part of the Alpaca Oracle and help people with their challenges. People are then lead to the herd and a session of communication takes place.

The aim of Alpaca Oracle is to experiment with language, communication and try to find new connections. It is especially important in case of looking for solutions to challenges like climate change, loss of diverse ecosystems, extinction of species, pollution, overgrowth of world population, overconsumption etc. The communication starts with simply emptying one's mind from the clutter and taking time to really listen. Some might call it deep listening. People have always been communicating with animals or plants, all indigenous people have been doing so, and all people with pets know this, too. This is the muscle that everyone has and it can be built by practice.

### Alpacas

The alpaca is an ancient animal originating from South American camelid. It is considered to be one of the first domesticated animals. Unlike human population, an alpaca herd is in balance with its environment. All the members of the herd have their specific roles and the herd has a daily routine. If the herd is a bigger, alpacas are more relaxed because they know there are more eyes to spot the danger. There are always guardians whose role is to guard the herd and inform about danger. If a human approaches the herd, the guardians will carefully check their intentions. There is one babysitter in the herd that takes care of the calves when other adults have something more important to do. If there is a predator close by, all the calves are collected to the centre of the herd and the adults surround them in a circle to protect them. The lowest in the herd hierarchy are the old, weak or sick individuals. For that reason, usually the alpacas try to hide if they experience any physical issues. Alpacas have a daily routine that all the herd members practice. They gaze, pasture, sleep at the same time. In order to make sure that there is enough food for the future, they move a lot and leave parts of the fields to grow.

*"We, alpacas have a herd behavior but we are all individuals, every alpaca has their own personality. Our age is only defined by how far away we are from our original roots. The oldest one in the herd is the one who is the closest to our origins no matter how many generations have passed. (...) The consciousness is not defined by time or by the place you are born. Everyone has a possibility to gain deep levels of consciousness but it requires will, silence and studying. We do not study because we carry the consciousness with us as we have always done. People learn from people and over the years the knowledge changes. It only takes a couple of generations and the heritage is lost. For us alpacas it is very different, nothing changes. The knowledge never disappears or changes when it is passed on from generation to generation. We have seen how the world changes, we clearly see it constantly at an astonishing speed. This is because our consciousness is and has always been the same. We repeat this message to reach through to you. We do not change our eating habits or create pollution any more than we did a thousand years ago. (...) You can make many improvements but you would need to do this together as well as individuals, just like us. But you don't see others, only yourselves. This is probably a contradiction to you but for us this is fully clear. When one finds what they really want to do and is ready to live healthy and rich life, then is also ready to think about the others. When you find each other and keys to your own consciousness, you automatically start to think about the others and others about you. (...) If there was a time when no bad words were said about anyone or anything, the whole world would be already changed. (...) This may sound too simple but this is how it is. We don't have any formulas or complex solutions. When it is time to leave this Earth, we know where we are going and what we left behind, nothing more than what we came with. That is it. (...)" (communication by Maiccu Kostainen)*

source:

Mari Keski-Korsu <http://www.artsufartsu.net>

Frontiers in Retreat <http://www.frontiersinretreat.org>

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