

# Spirit by Zane Saunders

## The Psychology

**Spirit** ..... represents a continued lifetime of discovery, a personal journey and enquiry by both artist and person into our inherent spirituality.

- An extraordinary experiential vision.
- Created and implemented by archetypal design.
- Orchestrated by Ancestral prayers, faith and actions.

## Spirit

**Is an unveiling of consciousness... that has impacted on the life and beliefs of the person and artist Zane Saunders.**

Spirit itself can serve as a beacon of hope, provoking a call to action, creating positive change.

To ignite an interest for Aboriginal people who've lost their connection to culture and their ancestral spiritual practices.

To reenact, re- introduce and re- incorporate cultural forms of traditional practices and spirituality.

Encouraging people to draw to a positive mindset, that Aboriginal traditional forms of worship, ceremony, beliefs and being is God-approved and inspired.

**\* This journey of enquiry will then be documented into literature form (Bible), and (spiritual manual), creative forms (artistic) and spiritual forms (spiritual practices).**

**- Bible - a cultural resource book that can be used, re- implementing culture and spirituality.**

**- Spiritual manual- a handbook to give directions in performing spiritual practices.**

**- Artistic - create various visual and performative expressions.**

**- Spiritual - implementation of spiritual practices on Country.**

\*(The Macquarie Dictionary- **Bible** 3. the sacred writings of any religion. 4. any book as authoritative.)

**‘Spirit’ encourages directors, artists and audiences to take breath, and be consumed by the beliefs, knowledge and experiential tapestries of life and the cultured.**

**To know that what has been unveiled is layered and incomplete...**



### **‘Dig’**

I’ve come to the conclusion that there is evidence of **imperfection** within religious literature and the implementation of such .....  
Allowing for misinterpretation, immoral codes of behaviour, mindset and culture.

That undermines and overwrites progressive thinking, not allowing to conciliate to the truth.

**I feel the heart of the problem exists, with the misunderstanding of who and what ‘Spirit’ is .....**

**“Wrong theology”- systematically opposing the Natural Created Order” .....**

## **'Water and Spirit'**

**"My spirit.....** mourns for the **Natural Created Order....**

**My Ancestors.....** held strong to their inherent spiritual beliefs and practices.

**The Eternal Spirit.....** was always made known to our people, we were made into its existence, the Dreaming, the **Natural Created Order.....**

**The Holy Spirit.....** was the Eternal Spirit

**The Truth....** we need to acknowledge, learn, accept and follow....

**The Wind blows....** wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it is going.... of Water and Spirit".

**(theme- The wind blows, reference Christian Bible, John 3: 5, 8)**



**"The Dreaming" the governing and authoritative realm, was ripped from the hearts and mind of our First people.**

**"The Dreaming" helped position Aboriginal people in life".**



## Deep Void....

Apart from those fortunate who practice their own spirituality, my concern is that there's lack or no representation of organised Aboriginal **spirituality** being practiced.

Currently for many Aboriginal peoples, I'm assuming as it stands, there is a deep void/ crevice, disconnecting people spiritually from their culture.

My hope is to create interest, a movement to encourage Aboriginal people to implement or re- install **cultural spiritual practices**.

To describe my own circumstances, my connection to culture and spirituality, I can compare it to a thread.

This connection I feel fragmented, and this then reflects within my own thinking, my self belief, how I see the world, how I hold myself, my connection to life can become an overwhelming struggle.

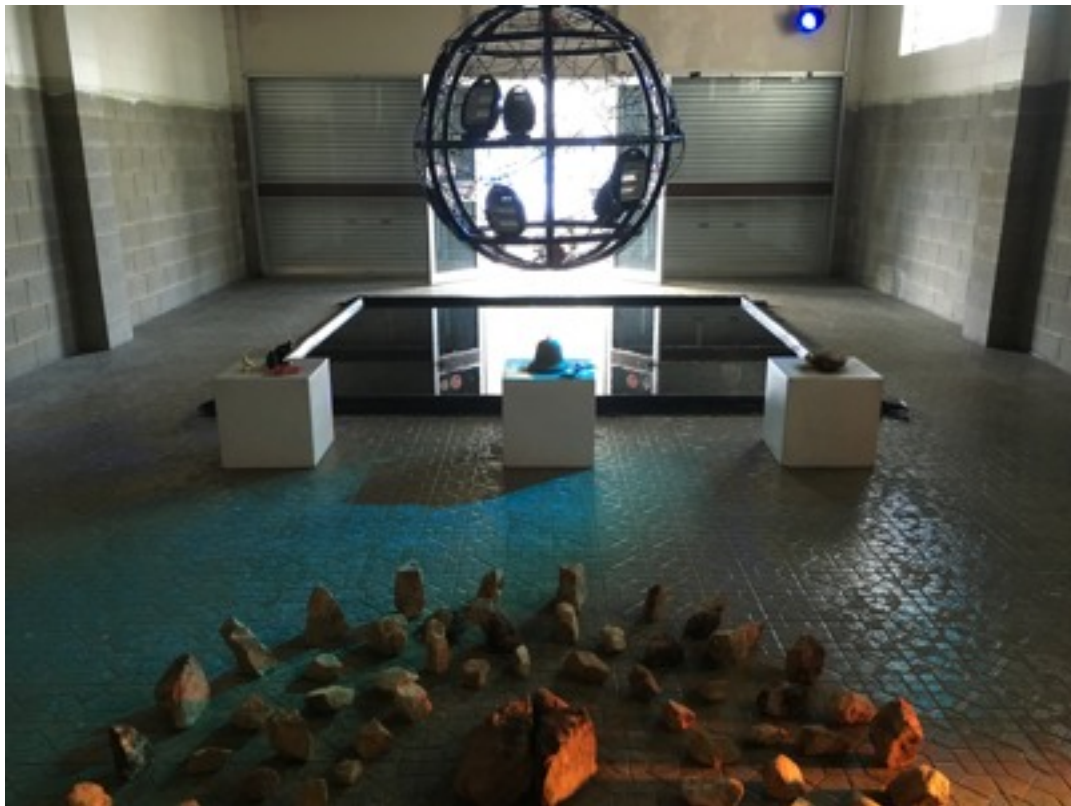
Not strong, vibrant and self assured!

Plus I feel it is healthy that we're able to know who we are, and able to share that, giving us confidence and assurance.

By re- implementing **spirituality- cultural spiritual practices**, we then become a valued resource to ourselves, family and community.

## The Positives of Spirit

- I believe it will generate hope, providing Aboriginal people with choices to dream, hold to vision and purpose.
- to continue or reintroduce their own Ancestral spiritual practices that were driven out of their own consciousness and existence.
- enrich Australian and World cultural spiritual landscape.
- create and promote culturally diverse spiritual practices.
- encourage a healthy mindset for indigenous peoples.
- immerse Aboriginal peoples back within their inherent cultural landscape.
- create a platform to guide and govern the voice of our ancestral beliefs
- create opportunities for unique new styles of tradition and leadership.



## **Blueprint**

The concept and aim of “Spirit”, at first, is to produce a written document - ‘Script’. This ‘script’ can then lend itself (Metamorphosis) into different art forms and future scenarios.

Inviting people from all sectors of the community to engage in both artistic expression and participatory audience engagements.



**Spirit hopes to ignite, to seek interest encouraging Aboriginal people to re- enact traditional forms of worship, ceremony and tradition.**

**Depicting and identifying their continued link and connection to land, sea and spiritual places of sacred importance within the natural created environments.**



## Heresy

I would like to take this opportunity to sum up this proposed spiritual reformation process, contextualising culture identities in contemporary modern existence.

Proposing a **theory**, taken from Christian literature, the (Holy Bible), that there is a **blueprint**- a '**Natural Created Order**'- that God in his infinite wisdom, mentioned when his creation was completed, as being **perfect...** (Genesis 1: 31- (perfect)- completed, pleased, very good, very pleasing)

This is oppose to the introduced practice of serving God, King (Queen) and Kingdom (Country) Empire building (**Wrong theology**). (1 Samuel 8) That's detrimental to the well being and continual survival of all life forms, cultures and spiritual practices.

Rather I suggest rightfully **serving God** (practicing spirituality), **Nature** (all living forms, Earth Mother) and **Country** (Aboriginal cultures of the world) .....

Celebrating and respecting all cultural identities, spiritual practices. Upholding nature as the important overarching authority, deciding and determining the direction and course of the human footprint in Creation.

God did **not** give us **dominion** over the Earth, the **Natural Created Order...**  
(Genesis 1:26, 28)

We were given **responsibility** to "care and nurture" for the well being and survival of all living creatures, and maintenance of the Earth . (Genesis 2: 15)

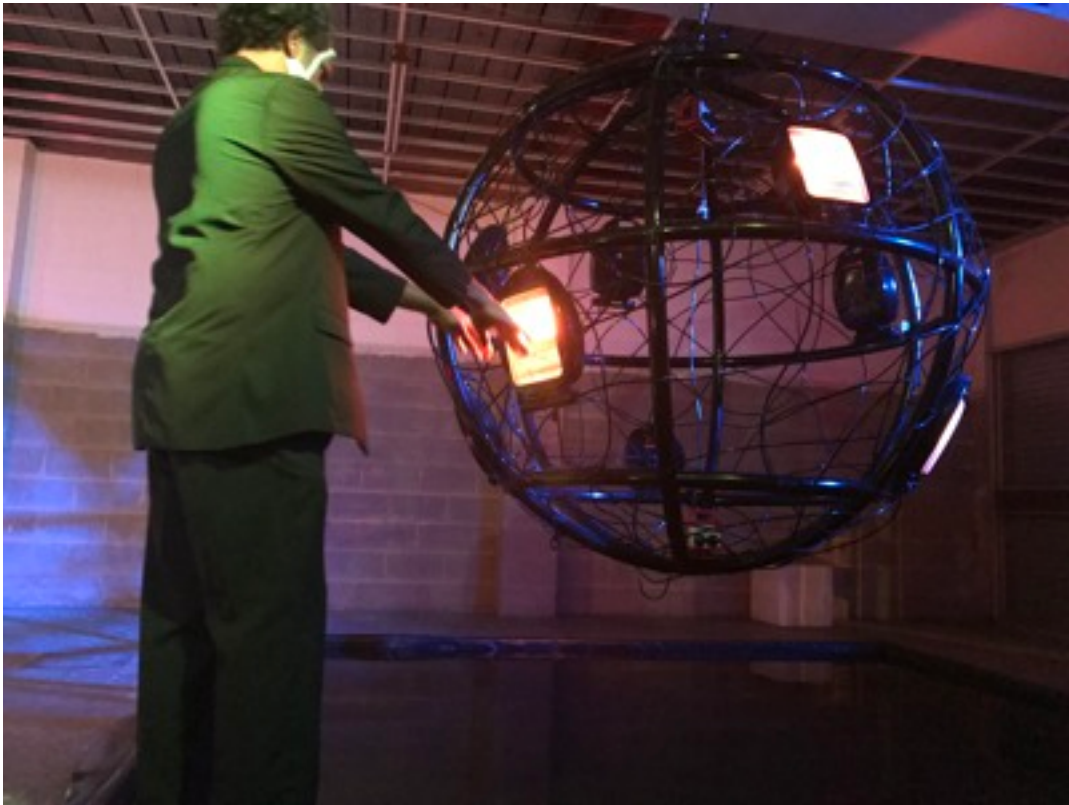
To co- exist in the **Natural Created Order**, making sure all living creatures and life forms, have the ability to fulfill God's intended purpose, which still exists.

**"The Dreaming" the governing and authoritative realm, was ripped from the hearts and mind of our First people's. It helped positioned Aboriginal people in life".**

## Prayer

### The artist's hopes and aspiration from this project-

- Apart from producing amazingly creative and exciting new works.
- I hope to create interest and form an alliance with like minded individuals and groups.
- To hopefully commit to what I personally feel, believe and what has been inspired in me by **Spirit**.
- A calling to re- implement cultural spiritual practices.
- Igniting interest within the hearts and minds of Aboriginal peoples, looking to gain ownership and pride over their own spirituality.
- Aligning spiritual practices to suit their own personal cause and survival.
- Making sure 'Nature', the **Natural Created Order** ... is restored and maintained.
- Consolidating connection to the sacred, iconic and significant landmarks in their inherent cultural landscapes.





## Projected Creative Outcomes

- \* Firstly Produce **ONE** of a continued series of “**Perfect Artworks**”.  
(large sculptural, 3 dimensional, installation pieces)
- \* Each ‘Perfect Artwork’ will have it’s own personalised performance piece performed.
- \* Each artwork, exhibit (process)- will take a year to complete from the creative development process, employment and training, production, critical assessment and documentation, media.
- \* Elements of theatre, dance, drama, film, visuals and sound scapes.



## **The Journey**

### **Phase 1- Creative Workshop, April 2016**

The concept of **'Spirit'** was first introduced by artist Zane Saunders attending a 'Pilot Signature Works Innovation Lab', organized by ATSI Arts Advisory panel of Australia Council for the Arts, 2016.

The workshop was introduced as a potential platform for established and emerging artist to further profile their works into major productions and opportunities.

### **Phase 2- Concept Development, (January- December 2017)**

**"Many Parts, One Spirit" .....**

- 1) **Consolidate artist vision and concept of Spirit.** (doing)
- 2) **Invitation and introduction to "Spirit".** (to do)
- 3) **Approach Elders, traditional people, in introducing and seeking approval and support to producing an Aboriginal bible.** (to do)
- 4) **Introduce and seek approval for developing community spiritual**



**practices (spirituality).** (to do)

- 5) **Design and develop 'Spirit' creative concepts, for artistic creative showings.** (Ciaf)
  - 6) **Seek opportunities to build and show case artist work.** (Ciaf)
  - 7) **Artist and artwork intense assessment and evaluation.** (doing)
  - 8) **Personal cultural maintenance and development.** (ongoing)
  - 9) **Produce Show, at Cairns Indigenous Art Faire (Ciaf), 2017.** (done)  
(Object- produce concept 'Spirit')
- \*Funding-** Australia Council for the Arts.  
**\*Budget-** \$10,000

### **Phase 3- Critical Research**

- 1) **Introduce Concept, to**
  - 2) **Community and resource personnel, to consolidate concept, build support and source further funding, to**
  - 3) **Consult, establish, train and employ creative and managerial personnel (support/ teams)**
  - 4) **Source and engage community personnel to source stories, information to develop Bible.**
  - 5) **Introduce and build concept of Aboriginal (spirituality).**
  - 6) **Source and secure 'Studio' venue- e.g.. old Bunnings Warehouse, Cairns.**
  - 7) **Document work and progression of project.**  
(Object- accumulate personnel, to develop and document resourced cultural information, and establish studio base.)
- \*Funding**  
**\*Budget**

### **Phase 4- Professional Development**

- 1) **Produce Bible, or a series of books.**
  - 2) **Develop "Perfect Work", show ready.**
  - 3) **Establish and introduce Aboriginal (spirituality), concept.**
  - 4) **Create and develop visuals and performances**
  - 5) **Document work and progression of project.**
  - 6) **Artist development- performance, profile- web, etc.**  
(Object- produce Bible, spiritual manual, perfect artworks, artist profile.)
- \*Funding**

**\*Budget**

## **Phase 5- Community Presentation**

1) **Launch Bible**

2) **Launch Aboriginal spirituality**

3) **Launch community showing of the 'Perfect Work'**

(Object- launch Bible, Aboriginal spirituality, community show)

**\*Funding**

**\*Budget**

## **Phase 6- Premier (public and private)**

1) **Produce public show**

2) **Invite presenters private viewing**

(Object- launch 'Perfect' showing, secure tour)

**\*Funding**

**\*Budget**

## **Phase 7- Tour**

1) **Venues**

2) **Touring personnel**

(Object- tour 'Perfect' show, secure media)

**\*Funding**

**\*Budget**

## **Phase 8- Media and Documentary Launch**

1) **Launch Nitv production, Aboriginal radio stations 98.7 fm, etc.**

2) **Website launch**

3) **Propose and implement 'Cultural Development and Maintenance' Scheme.**

(Object- promote 'Spirit' objectives)

**\*Funding**

**\*Budget**

## Creative Personnel

**Spirit** was birthed by artist performer **Zane Saunders**.

Director/ Performer Zane Saunders  
Stage & Visual Design

Lighting	to be advised.....
Sound/ Composer/ Musician	“
Performers	“
Film	“
Photographer	“
Fabricators	“
Documentation/ archive	“
Technical assistants	“
Administrator	“

\*(depending on scale of production, will determine what roles and personnel will be employed)

**Spirit** will draw on the creative flair and prophetic vision of artist performer Zane Saunders.

Seeking professional assistance and technical support, Saunders hopes to realise the true potential of his artistic ideas, creating ‘The Perfect Artworks’.

Hoping to lure receptive imaginations, and audience performative participation.

Over a series of carefully constructed performances, sound scapes and sensational visual dialogue.

### Artist Contact Details:

Zane Saunders,  
address- 1 Meeroo Street, Kuranda 4881  
mobile- 0448843249  
email- [zane@zanesaunders.com](mailto:zane@zanesaunders.com)

## Partners

### \* Presenters- (venues/ studio/ personnel)

- Studio/ venue- old Bunnings warehouse, Cairns- Production and Launch.
- Community show- Kuranda Sports oval, Kuranda

### \* Finance- (budget/ grants/ private)

- Australia Council for the arts
- Arts Queensland
- Radf
- Other

### \* Support material- ..... footage, comments of Ciaf showing, drawings, photographs, etc.

### \* Touring opportunities- .... other major metropolitans, or other participatory cultural communities. (To be advised)

### \* Timeline- (timeframe example, negotiable)

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| - Creative Workshop        | 4 days, April 2016      |
| - Concept Development      | January- December 2017  |
| - Critical Research        | January- December 2018  |
| - Professional Development | January 2019- June 2019 |
| - Community Presentations  | July- December 2019     |
| - Premier                  | January- June 2020      |
| - Tour                     | July 2020- 2022         |
| - Media and Documentary    | July- December 2019     |

### \* Critical assessment-

- |                      |                         |  |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| - Artist and Project | (assessor/s- advisor/s) | Kyle Page, .....   |
| - Spiritual          | “                       | Wontulp Bi- Buya<br>College, John Sullivan,<br>David Thompson, ..... |
| - Culture            | “                       | Community elders, .....  |



## **Artist Thoughts.....**

Having the opportunity to create the work-

I believe would give me the luxury to create a standard and quality that I feel my work deserves.

Establish my professional career and profile.

Position both artist and work within the Australian arts industry landscape.

Secure continual financial and other industry support/ circuit.

Expand and establish professional networks.

### **Some concerns**

- Firstly the response from community to the project.
- How relevant is the concerns I have, meet with community concerns and expectations.
- Sourcing stories, information and support.
- Sourcing creative and managerial personnel, and how can that process be funded.
- Realistic time frame, I guess will be determined by funding and support.
- I'm limited in my capacity in performing certain task and how can it can be compensated.

### **Areas I need assistance, further training, time and development e.g. -**

finance- grants- writing, culture, computer technical skills, Aboriginal spirituality, technical assistance, fabrication, production, marketing.

\* I want to build a team of experts around me to build my art and artist profile. It will enable me to acquire the necessary skills, artworks standards to what I envisage.

Either employing community people to train, or established professionals.

\* I'm using this opportunity to hopefully produce a standard of work that I'll be happy with, claim more independence and control over my work and career.

\* On this project, I feel I'd like to be paid a wage- e.g.. \$26,000 a year + tax. Plus artist fees e.g.. \$10,000 to produce artworks (each), \$10,000 for each performance. Money for materials e.g., \$ 30,000. Training and employment of personnel e.g.. \$40,000- or more. Other associated cost?..... (example)

# **Proposition**

## **Artwork**

- create new work- performances and visuals
- develop and document work and project
- community showing
- launch and tour show
- professional development and critique assessment of work

## **Artist**

- update and build artist profile, website
- career management and marketing
- cultural competency- spirituality
- develop creative and managerial personnel networks
- professional development and critique assessment of artist

## **Bi- products**

- engage with community, research culture and spirituality
- produce Bible, or a series of books
- propose or establish, community lead spiritualities, manual
- introduce concept to community/ government- 'Cultural Maintenance and Development', as priority education and training.
- community training and employment
- obtain working studio/ exhibit space
- promote and secure venue, further industry support- presenters
- develop artist home studio, resource store room, base
- create proposals (dvd) for community and financial support.
- media and documentary

## **Artist Personal Assessment**

**Realistically I depend on other creative and managerial personnel to achieve the work I do, and high ambitions I have for my work and career. I need professional support, time and opportunity to fulfill the projected creative outcomes.**

# **Bible**

\*(The Macquarie Dictionary- **Bible** 3. the sacred writings of any religion. 4. any book as authoritative.)

## **\*Create a cultural resource book**

With the support of community engagement and consultation.

I'm hoping to convey my intentions of creating a form of written literature. That will depict a series of Aboriginal stories, history, teachings, wisdom, pictures, etc.

That will hopefully encourage and help celebrate what Aboriginal people once practiced across this land Australia and continue to do so.

As in the way of their own spiritual practices and identities.

By introducing these beliefs and practices, I believe it will have an positive effect, giving people hope and choices to once again practice their own spiritual beliefs.

Once again upholding the many life values that kept our people strong, continually celebrating the sacred paths our Ancestors once followed.

## **e.g. Aboriginal Wisdom**

“Without device, no empire can withstand the onslaught of envious minds.”

“No measure of wealth, time or punishment can compensate for crimes against unlawful possession.”

# Spirituality

**“The Dreaming” the governing and authoritative realm, was ripped from the hearts and mind of our First people’s. It helped positioned Aboriginal people in life”.**

With the aid of the Aboriginal Bible, and ‘spiritual manual’ I hope to start by way of community backing.

Introducing contemporary based spiritual practices, to re-engage in age old Aboriginal traditional spiritual practices, or contemporary practices that reference and acknowledge aboriginal spiritualities.

Inviting community groups, families, interested persons, to help rediscover their own aboriginal cultural spirituality.

Rebuilding or consolidating traditional connection to country, safe and healthy mindsets and living.

\*(The Macquarie Dictionary- **Spirituality** 1. the quality or fact of being spiritual. 2. incorporeal or immaterial nature. 3. predominantly spiritual character, as shown in thought, life, etc.; spiritual tendency or tone.)

Why Spirituality? apart from being prompted by Spirit, it’s about reclaiming who I am, my Aboriginality my spiritual identity, linking me both to God, human and ‘the natural order’.

Also intentions of helping others, creating a legacy for our youth to follow. Follow a spirituality that was designed and gifted by God to our ancestors at the beginning of time, in ‘Creation”.

I feel conventional religions minimise our Aboriginality, perpetuating us void, limiting our true potential in contributing to the higher truths and purposes to life.

**“We’ve been shackled too long and suppressed, leading to the degeneration of our identity, undermining our true value”.**

Spirituality I feel can help unite Aboriginal people with a sense of purpose and gain. Once again allowing our spiritualities to be deeply embedded within the hearts and minds of Aboriginal people. Something so natural, free and inclusive to Aboriginal dreams and aspirations, an eternal legacy that holds to the core concerns and beliefs of Aboriginal peoples.

Exemplifying only love, respect, care and well being for community, and the **Natural Created Order**. Formed by an eternal agreement between God and aboriginal peoples of the Earth.

## **Language (Terminology)**

**Natural Created Order** ..... Artist's own way of describing and possibly creating a theology, or introducing a theory, that holds to Biblical truths, artist inclusive vision and concerns for Nature- all things natural, all life forms, and aboriginal cultures and spiritual practices of Australia and the World.

**Aboriginal Peoples** ..... Including Torres Strait Islander peoples, also people who are willing to connect not only to their own culture and spiritual practices, but also are willing to connect and associate with the local Aboriginal peoples culture and spiritual practices. (contextualised spirituality/ theology/ living)

**The Perfect Artworks** ..... Artist, Artworks and Performances undergo high intense critical assessment and creative **professional** development.

## **Clauses (examples, need to extend, refine)**

**Today there would be various states in how Aboriginal people are engage in their own traditional spiritual practices. Which maybe offending to suggest we're all in the same boat, this project suggest we're not.**

**It maybe offensive to some people who feel this move maybe irrelevant today, in re- establishing Aboriginal spirituality. Because of factors such as, being told from early Christian missionaries and other institutionalised, religious, capitalist agendas. That aboriginal life and spiritual practices were considered barbaric, heathen, devil worshipers and the likes, the list goes on. Today this mentality can be deeply rooted within the hearts and minds of individuals, religious and corporate institutions. Which continues to be detrimental to the well being and survival of many if not all world indigenous cultures, including here in Australia.**

**Intentions set out by this project may express in helping people to rediscover their own spiritual identities. People need to be patient, open and realistic with their expectations. Cause a lot has changed for many Aboriginal people, that will allow practices to change and adjust to suit contemporary standings of culture and people.**

**Peoples patience and respect will be much appreciated when engaged in the process of research. Hoping to achieve something beneficial to Aboriginal people and wider public.**

**There maybe particular thoughts as to the direction of the Bible, and spiritualities, but it'll depend on peoples responses.**

**Knowing very little about Traditional Aboriginal Society- it's lore systems, spiritual practices, ceremonies, what is sacred, what protocols need to be observed. The approach of this project is open to objective guidance, direction and correction.**

**To produce a Bible and re- introduce spiritualities, maybe an impossible outcome. But introducing the concepts, asking questions and starting the conversation, will be an achievement within itself.**



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