

~26th September 2005~

We had to cancel a number of meetings, so it was wonderful to get back to our group once more. It was only a small gathering, but one who had been before came through Sarah:

I am visiting you once again. I hope you remember my last visit to you. This was some time ago, when there was a Danish lady here.

(expressions of nice surprise)

George: That was Jetté! (a good friend)

When I came that time I spoke in my native tongue. I have been asked to come to you and speak in a tongue that you will understand.

Paul: What was your native tongue?

We were from the Southern Americas.

Paul: Ah yes, I remember.

This group that was my family was brought to a kingdom that was foreign to us. We were taken as slaves to work for this powerful unit. We were ostracised, because we could not speak their language and it was during this time that the language I spoke became intermingled with the language of those who took us, and in time, our language became redundant. It was for this reason that you could not find a translation for our language.

George: Oh that's most helpful that you've told us that. We thought at the time that it was an Inca dialect—an ancient Inca dialect. Would that be anywhere near?

The Incas were the ones who took us. But the language was not Inca. It became intermingled with their language, but the pure language that I spoke at that time was from further south, and was a tribal language. It bore little resemblance to the Inca language and this is why it died out when I was taken. The tribe that I came from was so depleted that it was unable to exist for much longer, and the language ceased in that part of the Americas as well. So it would be very hard for you to find any translation of that language.

George: Yes. Thank you for telling us that.

But we were a proud tribe, and we wished dearly that the language would continue. It was for this reason that we wished to bring this to you, so that a recording could be taken and it is therefore not completely lost.

George: And it is not lost in spirit of course...

This language, of course, can be used, but I have to say that we do not use language any more. But, in returning, I had this strong desire to use a language dear to me and to the members of my tribe.

George: Yes, we understand that. I can say that, since that occasion, we have got some much better recording equipment, so if at some stage you would wish to use that language again, we now have a superior recording of it.

Our guest immediately launched into a 2-minute oration in their language—Audio link:

http://www.salumetandfriends.org/resources/2005_09_26+keeping+a+language+alive.mp3

George: Wonderful! So we have your introduction as well as the spoken language. Are you able to tell us something about the meaning of the words you have just spoken?

Much of what I was saying was to praise the tribe and the living that we had. When we were happy, we were partying, as you would say. And it is in this joyful atmosphere, that I was bringing you words of happiness and enjoyment, and discussion of various activities that had pleased both the tribe and the elders. (Wonderful!)

Words that were given were difficult to translate word-for-word, but the general feeling was happiness and gratitude for life, and the joyous moments that can be taken from activities of groups together. Venteh-oohah! Is 'greetings to you all'. And I know that the members of my tribe are most happy that you take such an interest in our language. We would hope that sometime, we will be able to impress upon you, not only the beings as we WERE, but of our clothing and headdresses that we wore.

George: That would be wonderful.

We will try on another occasion, to bring to you the atmosphere and the whole concept of our living to you, and we will try to dress each one of you in an attire of that time. But I will need some help from others in order to do this, so this will be for a later time.

George: Yes, and hopefully we shall have a larger group here; our numbers are small at the moment. We offer you our regret and sympathy that you were taken into slavery. That must have been a difficult time for you.

It was a very sad time. But, as you are aware, that is really of little importance today (affirmations) So, I will take my leave of you, and

look forward to dressing you all up on another occasion.

George: Thank you so much for your visit, and we are very happy to have this recording of your words in both languages.

Paul: And it would be lovely to hear more about where you lived—it's a beautiful area in South America. You've got so many different aspects—mountains and jungle—wonderful rivers—lovely to hear about where you used to live.

We will bring more information to you next time. And we will bring the chief with us, who will inform you of much of the area, as he was the narrator at that time.

George: We shall look forward very much to that visit. Thank you so much.

*Notes: On the Monday following the earlier visit (19/4/2004), questions were asked of Salumet about the language, and his words were: **I feel that you should look towards the Inca language.***

*He also said: **you may find that some of what was said is of the ancient language and may not be as easily available to you as you might hope.***

On reflection, the words as chosen are very apt! Through the Internet, we were in touch with Barry Werger, in California, who assured us that it was not Quechua—the lingua franca of the Inca, and that is about as far as we were able to get with our enquiries.