

My name is Quincy Parker and I'm a direct descendant of the Mono Lake Pauite, Yosemite Miwok and Kashya Pomo. I was born and raised in Lee Vining, California and live next to the great, beautiful Mono Lake. The lake has influenced me to continue in school and one day bring back the knowledge to be a part of helping this place. My motivation is that my people, The Mono Lake Pauite, Yosemite Miwok and Kashya Pomo, were really educated through their elders and knew basically how to live. They were biologists, mathematicians, agriculturalists, carpenters and were very spiritual people. They helped protect and maintain these mountains, water, land, animals and the lake. The native people would never take too much of anything, never kill all of the animals, or overuse their resources because they respected life and the world. Instead the, the Pauite loved these lands and everything that they had to offer. They knew how to adapt to the weather changes and move with the seasons. In winter they would move to Yosemite, with their allies, the Yosemite Miwok, and come back in the spring to take care of Mono Lake.

Every year I honor my ancestors that walked these mountains and see life through their eyes. I strive to continue my heritage and everything about it; I also strive in my schooling because my generation is the future. I also could be a person that would represent this land , or perhaps another place, and do what my ancestors did millions of years ago. My cultural life and modern life must and will continue, continue this heritage of both worlds for me. I will maintain the balance of giving and receiving.

For eighteen years I have lived by the lake and have enjoyed living there with my family. My great grandmother once told me that the Kuztika believed that the lake is a healing lake, and if you swim in it, the lake will heal you and cleanse your mind. In

receiving this power the Kuztika gave offerings to lake and cherished everything about the lake and around it.