Joseph Campbell and the Snake Dance of the Hopi

Peter Huggins

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Joseph Campbell
and the Snake Dance
of the Hopi

The Hopi make friends with snakes.
They take these snakes in their mouths,
Then send them back to the hills.
The snakes leave this message:

We live in the field of time,
All life does, and we are we,
You are you, in this world
Of differences, of opposites.

You may enclose us,
But you will set us loose
To flow like the waters,
To flash our tongues of truth like fire.

We will carry your words with us
When we return to the hills.
You and nature are on
You are not against nature

Nature is not against you.
You and nature are on
You journey into the unknown
To experience yourself.

In the experience of yourself
You'll experience eternity,
Here and now, an open door
Into the field of time.

Peter Huggins