

The Reiki Kanji Explored

The image attached to this post is the Japanese Kanji character for the spoken word 'Reiki'. Reiki is the word used by Mikao Usui to describe what he felt during what is said to be an enlightenment experience on a mountain top. He said he felt 'a great Reiki over his head'.

The image shows various strokes of the kanji character labelled with a meaning. The overall meaning of the character however, is only pointed to by the meaning of the strokes, and there are different meanings for the character depending on the kanji characters before and after it

The most common understanding of the meaning of the Reiki kanji is 'universal energy'. However, the kanji script is a picture script which 'paints' an image that requires interpretation.

The creative interpretation that follows is of the kind that inspired and enlivened the path of Reiki tsm.

The first level picture that it presents to me

can be worded as the gift of heaven, the rain falling on the earth bringing life, invoked by the dancing shamans.

Entering into that image and allowing the feeling tone behind the image to emerge, leads to a next level understanding.



The next level is that the shamans are us, the people, not only invoking the gift but celebrating and dancing in joy and gratitude at its receipt, graced in relationship with the source of the gift, which in my experience is a very real Presence (a great reiki overhead).

The word 'Reiki' thus describes the very nature of our human experience, graced by, and with life breathed into it by a Presence beyond our human

comprehension. No words or language are adequate, so 'Reiki' is as good as any for this universal Presence, present everywhere, and at all times.