

The Return of Rasur:
The story that holds the answer to education in our time

In 1946, Costa Rican educator and diplomat, Roberto Brenes Mesén, wrote *Rasur or the Week of Splendor*. This breathtaking, prophetic poem tells of a master teacher, Rasur, who mysteriously appears one day and silently woos the children of the village, Quizur, deep into a mountain. There he awakens the wisdom of the children so that they realize the knowledge within their hearts and they experience the love that heals all wounds. They share this newfound awareness with their parents and, in this way, Quizur becomes a tiny culture of creativity and peace.

Years later, in 1999, Rita Marie Johnson, inspired by the poem's vision, began writing the book, *The Return of Rasur: The story that holds the answer to education in our time*, which proposes an education aimed toward the development of wisdom. She spoke with Maria Eugenia Dengo, former Costa Rican Minister of Education and author of the biography of Roberto Brenes Mesén, to learn more about this deep thinker. Upon finishing the conversation, Maria Eugenia said, "Rita Marie, I believe you have been guided. Recently Roberto Brenes came to me in a dream telling me something about a second book. I believe he must have been referring to your book, *The Return of Rasur*."

In 2000, the Rasur Foundation published *The Return of Rasur*, which summarizes the epic poem in story form and reveals the two principles of true education subtly woven through its verses. These two principles are:

- knowledge is found within
- love is the path to evoking that knowledge

As Johnson explains, "When an educator knows that a mind is already filled with creative intelligence – and through love, passionately ignites it – learning comes alive with unlimited possibilities."

Johnson's book details the understanding and application of these two principles based on her experience in founding the School of Rasur. She substantiates this approach with the latest scientific research on education. Originally published in English, *The Return of Rasur* is also available now in Spanish.

As documented in *The Return of Rasur*, Rita Marie used HeartMath in resolving behavior problems with the children. Then in 2002, she took a course in Nonviolent Communication with Dr. Marshall Rosenberg. Soon afterwards, she discovered the synergy between HeartMath for "feeling peace" and Nonviolent Communication for "speaking peace". Over time, she combined these two methods into a practice she named *BePeace*. Now Johnson's primary focus is implementation of the Academy for Peace of Costa Rica, a growing force of facilitators teaching the practice of *BePeace*, in the public school system.