Within academic archaeology today collaboration with Indigenous peoples has become a common practice, and Indigenous and tribal archaeologists have highlighted the issue of proper ethical treatment of descendant communities in relation to their ancestral heritage. There is, however, less guidance for non-Native archaeologists about how exactly they can orient themselves toward the handling of ancestral material culture, and ancestral remains. In my continuing research on soil sample burials and features at the Yukisma Cemetery Site (CA-SCL-38) I’ve learned from members of the Muwekma Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area that the only way to approach interacting with these types of materials is with a solemnity and mindfulness; states of being that may be foreign to many secular-minded and University trained Western Archaeologists. I am proposing that this understanding of proper ways of interacting with ancestral material culture is key to an ethical and culturally sensitive practice of archaeology.