

# Native American Prayers To The Great Spirit and Mother Earth



This page started out as a general listing of prayers associated with the garden and nature, but it evolved into a page of Native American spirituality, blessings, prayers and wisdom. The Native American culture is steeped in respect, prayerfulness and reverence for the earth, and sadness for it's inevitable destruction. I have found the prayers awakening my mindfulness, as i worked and rested in my gardens.

Traditional worship practices are a part of Native American tribal gatherings with dance, rhythm, songs and trance. Sacred narratives and beliefs are deeply based in Nature and are rich with the symbolism of seasons, weather, plants, animals, earth, water, sky and fire. The principle of an all embracing, universal and omniscient Great Spirit, a connection to the Earth. The Great Spirit is the concept of a life force, a Supreme Being or god known more specifically as Wakan Tanka in Lakota.

Numerous individuals are held to have been "speakers" for the Great Spirit; persons believed to serve as an earthly mediator responsible for facilitating communication between humans and the supernatural. Such a speaker is generally considered to have an obligation to preserve the spiritual traditions of their respective lineage. The Great Spirit is looked to by spiritual leaders for guidance by individuals as well as communities.

If you'd like to learn about the ancient Native American Three Sisters method of gardening, [visit this page](#)

To learn how to design a Native American Medicine Wheel, [visit this page](#)

You can learn Ancient Pueblo waffle gardening techniques for rain conservation [on this page](#).

The first wisdom quote has always been my favorite.

## *Cree Prophecy*

When all the trees have been cut down,  
when all the animals have been hunted,  
when all the waters are polluted,  
when all the air is unsafe to breathe,  
only then will you discover you cannot eat money.



**Traditional Navajo Prayer**

As I walk, as I walk  
 The universe is walking with me  
 In beauty it walks before me  
 In beauty it walks behind me  
 In beauty it walks below me  
 In beauty it walks above me  
 Beauty is on every side  
 As I walk, I walk with Beauty.



We are all flowers in the Great Spirit's garden. We share a common root, and the root is Mother Earth.

*- Hopi Prophecy*



Follow your dreams, to the fields unknown, to where wild flowers sink into the sun.  
 I will meet you there, and we shall dance until the sun rises once again.

*- Red Deer*

**Mother Earth Prayer**

Mother Earth hear your child, As I sit here on your lap of grass,

I listen to the echoes of your voice In my brother, the Wind, As he blows from all corners and directions.  
 The soft and gentle raindrops are the Tears you cry for your children.

Teach me the Lessons you offer: To nurture my children, as you nurture yours, To learn the Lessons of the Four Kingdoms, that make up this World of Physical Things, and To Learn to Walk the Path chosen so long ago.

Mother Earth, hear your child, Be a bond between the Worlds of Earth and Spirit. Let the Winds echo the Knowledge of the Grandfathers.

Who await, unseen, yet visible if I only turn my eyes to their World.

Let me hear their Voices, in the Winds that Blow to the East.

From the East: I seek the Lessons of Childhood: To see with the trusting innocence of a small one, The Lessons of Spirit, Given in Love by our Creator.

From the South: to Learn the Ways of Questioning: The Fire and Independence of adolescence, The Truths, and how they help us Grow along this Path.

From the West: where the Grandfathers teach us Acceptance of Responsibility That come during the years of Marriage and Family.

That my own children grow Strong, and True.

From the North: where the Elders, who by their long lives Have learned and stored Wisdom and Knowledge. And Learned to Walk in Balance and Harmony with our Mother, the Earth.

Mother Earth, hear your child. Hold my hand as I Walk my Path in this World. Guide me to the Lessons I seek, bring me closer to Our Creator, Until I return to the Western Direction, to once again Enter the World of Spirit, Where the Sacred Fire Awaits, and I rejoin the Council of the Elders, In the Presence of the One-Who-Created-All.

*KiiskeeN'tum- She Who Remembers*



### **Mohawk Prayer**

Oh Great Spirit, Creator of all things;  
 Human Beings, trees, grass, berries.  
 Help us, be kind to us.  
 Let us be happy on earth.  
 Let us lead our children  
 To a good life and old age.  
 These our people; give them good minds  
 To love one another.  
 Oh Great Spirit,  
 Be kind to us  
 Give these people the favor  
 To see green trees,  
 Green grass, flowers, and berries  
 This next spring;  
 So we all meet again  
 Oh Great Spirit,  
 We ask of you.



### **The Garden is Rich**

The garden is rich with diversity  
 With plants of a hundred families  
 In the space between the trees  
 With all the colours and fragrances.  
 Basil, mint and lavender,  
 Great Mystery keep my remembrance pure,  
 Raspberry, Apple, Rose,  
 Great Mystery fill my heart with love,  
 Dill, anise, tansy,  
 Holy winds blow in me.  
 Rhododendron, zinnia,  
 May my prayer be beautiful  
 May my remembrance O Great Mystery  
 be as incense to thee  
 In the sacred grove of eternity  
 As I smell and remember  
 The ancient forests of earth.

- *Chinook*



### **Earth Prayer - Ute**

Earth teach me freedom  
 as the eagle which soars in the sky.  
 Earth teach me regeneration  
 as the seed which rises in the spring.  
 Earth teach me to forget myself  
 as melted snow forgets its life.  
 Earth teach me to remember kindness  
 as dry fields weep with rain.



O Great Creator, I come before you in a humble manner and offer you this sacred pipe. With tears in my eyes and an ancient song from my heart I pray. To the four powers of Creation, To the Grandfather Sun, To the Grandmother Moon, To the Mother Earth, And to my ancestors. I pray for my relations in Nature, All those who walk, crawl, fly, and swim, Seen and unseen, To the good spirits that exist in every part of Creation. I ask that you bless our elders and children, families, and friends, and the brothers and sisters who are in prison. I pray for the ones who are sick on drugs and alcohol and for those who are now homeless and forlorn. I also pray for peace among the four races of humankind.

May there be good health and healing for this Earth,  
 May there be Beauty above me, May there be Beauty below me,  
 May there be Beauty in me, May there be Beauty all around me.  
 I ask that this world be filled with Peace, Love, and Beauty.

***Medicine Grizzly Bear Spokane, Washington***



"The Great Spirit is in all things, is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us; that which we put into the ground, She returns to us...."

Give us hearts to understand;

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;  
 never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;

Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty;  
 never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion;  
 that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;

That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench;  
 that as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst,

Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution,  
 help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse,  
 help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed,  
 help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption,  
 help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind,  
 whose breath gives life to the world, hear me;  
 I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in Beauty.

***Big Thunder, late 19th century Algonquin***



You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers.  
 So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin.  
 Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother.  
 Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground they spit upon themselves.  
 This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth.  
 This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.  
 - *Chief Seattle*



#### **Earth Prayer**

Learn to hear my feeble voice.  
 At the center of the sacred hoop  
 You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.

With tears running, O Great Spirit, my Grandfather,  
 With running eyes I must say  
 The tree has never bloomed.

Here I stand, and the tree is withered.  
 Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.

It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives.  
 Nourish it then  
 That it may leaf  
 And bloom  
 And fill with singing birds!

Hear me, that the people may once again  
 Find the good road  
 And the shielding tree.

- *Black Elk*



Honor the sacred.  
 Honor the Earth, our Mother.  
 Honor the Elders.  
 Honor all with whom we  
 share the Earth:-  
 Four-leggeds, two-leggeds,  
 winged ones,  
 Swimmers, crawlers,  
 plant and rock people.  
 Walk in balance and beauty.

*Native American Elder*



**Thanksgiving**

We return thanks to our mother, the earth,  
 which sustains us.  
 We return thanks to the rivers and streams,  
 which supply us with water.  
 We return thanks to all herbs,  
 which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.  
 We return thanks to the moon and stars,  
 which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.  
 We return thanks to the sun,  
 that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.  
 Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit,  
 in Whom is embodied all goodness,  
 and Who directs all things for the good of Her children.

**- Iroquois Prayer****Treat the earth well**

Treat the earth well.  
 It was not given to you by your parents,  
 it was loaned to you by your children.  
 We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors,  
 we borrow it from our Children.

**Ancient Native American Proverb****Sacred Hoop**

You have noticed that everything an Indian does in a circle,  
 and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles,  
 and everything and everything tries to be round.

In the old days all our power came to us from the sacred hoop  
 of the nation and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people  
 flourished. The flowering tree was the living center of the hoop,  
 and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The east gave peace  
 and light, the south gave warmth, the west gave rain and the north  
 with its cold and mighty wind gave strength and endurance. This  
 knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion.

Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle.  
 The sky is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball  
 and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls.  
 Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours.  
 The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon  
 does the same and both are round. Even the seasons form a great  
 circle in their changing and always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is  
 in everything where power moves. Our teepees were round like the  
 nests of birds, and these were always set in a circle, the nation's hoop,  
 a nest of many nests, where the Great Spirit meant for us to hatch our children.

**Black Elk, Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux 1863-1950**

There is a road in the hearts of all of us, hidden and seldom traveled,  
 which leads to an unknown, secret place.  
 The old people came literally to love the soil,  
 and they sat or reclined on the ground with a feeling of  
 being close to a mothering power.  
 Their teepees were built upon the earth  
 and their altars were made of earth.  
 The soul was soothing, strengthening, cleansing and healing.  
 That is why the old Indian still sits upon the earth instead of  
 propping himself up and away from its life giving forces.  
 For him, to sit or lie upon the ground is to be able to think more deeply  
 and to feel more keenly. He can see more clearly into the mysteries of  
 life and come closer in kinship to other lives about him.

***Chief Luther Standing Bear***



Humankind has not woven the web of life.  
 We are but one thread within it.  
 Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.  
 All things are bound together.  
 All things connect.

***Chief Seattle, 1854***



**The Journey**

When the earth is sick and dying,  
 There will come a tribe of people  
 From all races...  
 Who will put their faith in deeds,  
 Not words, and make the planet  
 Green again...  
 - Cree Prophecy



**Great Spirit Prayer**

Oh, Great Spirit,  
 Whose voice I hear in the winds  
 and whose breath gives life to all the world.  
 Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.  
 Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes  
 ever hold the red and purple sunset.  
 Make my hands respect the things you have made  
 and my ears sharp to hear your voice.  
 Make me wise so that I may understand  
 the things you have taught my people.  
 Let me learn the lessons you have hidden  
 in every leaf and rock.

Help me remain calm and strong in the  
 face of all that comes towards me.  
 Help me find compassion without  
 empathy overwhelming me.  
 I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,

but to fight my greatest enemy: myself.  
 Make me always ready to come to you  
 with clean hands and straight eyes.  
 So when life fades, as the fading sunset,  
 my spirit may come to you without shame.

- (translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887)



May the stars carry your sadness away,  
 May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,  
 May hope forever wipe away your tears,  
 And, above all, may silence make you strong.

#### **Chief Dan George**



#### **Navajo Chant**

The mountains, I become a part of it...  
 The herbs, the fir tree, I become a part of it.  
 The morning mists, the clouds, the gathering waters,  
 I become a part of it.  
 The wilderness, the dew drops, the pollen...  
 I become a part of it.



#### **Zuni Prayer for Rain**

Cover my earth mother four times with many flowers.  
 Let the heavens be covered with the banked-up clouds.  
 Let the earth be covered with fog; cover the earth with rains.  
 Great waters, rains, cover the earth. Lightning cover the earth.  
 Let thunder be heard over the earth; let thunder be heard;  
 Let thunder be heard over the six regions of the earth.



#### **Apache Blessing**

May the sun bring you new energy by day,  
 may the moon softly restore you by night,  
 may the rain wash away your worries,  
 may the breeze blow new strength into your being,  
 may you walk gently through the world and  
 know it's beauty all the days of your life.





**The Great Spirit and Mother Earth**

The Great Spirit is in all things, He is in the air we breathe.  
 The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother.  
 She nourishes us, that which we put into the ground, She returns to us...

*- Big Thunder (Bedagi) - Wabanaki Algonquin*

**Prayer To The Great Spirit**

Great Spirit,  
 Give us hearts to understand  
 Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give,  
 Never to destroy want only for the furtherance of greed,  
 Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty,  
 Never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand  
 That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion,  
 That to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty,  
 That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench,  
 That as we care for her she will care for us.

Give us hearts to understand  
 We have forgotten who we are.  
 We have sought only our own security.  
 We have exploited simply for our own ends.  
 We have distorted our knowledge.  
 We have abused our power.

Great Spirit,  
 Whose dry lands thirst,  
 Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit,  
 Whose waters are choked with debris and pollution,  
 Help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit,  
 Whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse,  
 Help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit,  
 Whose creatures are being destroyed,  
 Help us to find a way to replenish them

Great Spirit,  
 whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption,  
 Help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

*-Author Unknown*



What is life?  
 It is the flash of a firefly in the night.  
 It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime.  
 It is the little shadow which runs across  
 the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

*Crowfoot, Blackfoot warrior and orator 1830 - 1890*



### **Earth, Teach Me**

*Earth teach me quiet ~ as the grasses are still with new light.*  
*Earth teach me suffering ~ as old stones suffer with memory.*  
*Earth teach me humility ~ as blossoms are humble with beginning.*  
*Earth teach me caring ~ as mothers nurture their young.*  
*Earth teach me courage ~ as the tree that stands alone.*  
*Earth teach me limitation ~ as the ant that crawls on the ground.*  
*Earth teach me freedom ~ as the eagle that soars in the sky.*  
*Earth teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.*  
*Earth teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.*  
*Earth teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.*  
*Earth teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.*

### **- Ute Prayer**



May all I say and all I think  
 be in harmony with thee,  
 God within me,  
 God beyond me,  
 maker of the trees.

### **- Chinook prayer**



### **Earth Healing Ceremony Prayer**

O Great Creator,  
 I come before you in a humble manner  
 and offer you this sacred pipe.  
 With tears in my eyes and an ancient song from my heart  
 I pray.

To the four powers of Creation,  
 To the Grandfather Sun,  
 To the Grandmother Moon,  
 To the Mother Earth,  
 And to my ancestors.

I pray for my relations in Nature,  
 All those who walk, crawl, fly, and swim,  
 Seen and unseen,  
 To the good spirits that exist in every part of Creation.

I ask that you bless our elders and children and families and friends,  
 And the brothers and sisters in prison.  
 I pray for the ones who are sick on drugs and alcohol  
 And for those homeless and forlorn.  
 I also pray for peace among the four races of humankind.

May there be good health and healing for this Earth,  
 May there be Beauty above me,  
 May there be Beauty below me,  
 May there be Beauty in me,  
 May there be Beauty around me.  
 I ask that this world be filled with Peace, Love and Beauty.

**- Ceremony in Spokane, Washington, 1990****Resources****Vintage Artwork:**

*Literary Digest 1927 "The Sun Dance Bustle" - Kathryn Leighton*  
*"By the Waters of Minnetonka" Conrad Dickel, Etude Music Magazine*  
*Vladan Stiha*

**Native American Prayers:**

*Jesuit Resource - Xavier University*  
*"Native American Prayers" - Episcopal Church*  
*Pearls Of Wisdom - Inspirations For Personal Growth*  
*First People*  
*Native American World Healing Prayers*  
*Wikipedia - Mythologies of the indigenous peoples of the Americas*

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