

Native American Indian Wisdoms

I am an Indian, American Indian. I prefer 'American Indian' because anyone born in the western hemisphere is a Native American.

Russell Mean, 1939-2012 Lakota

The Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world; a world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations; a world longing for light again. I see a time of Seven Generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again. I salute the light within your eyes where the whole Universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be one.

Crazy Horse – Lakota

Wisdom comes only when you stop looking for it and start living the life the Creator intended for you.

Hopi Proverb



*Hold on to what is good
Even if it's a handful of earth
Hold on to what you believe
Even if it's a tree that stands by itself
Hold on to what you must do
Even if it's a long way from here
Hold on to your life
Even if it's easier to let go
Hold on to my hand
Even if someday, I'll be gone away from you.*



Pueblo Prayer

To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak.

Native American Indian Proverb

You have to look deeper, way below the anger, the hurt, the hate, the jealousy, the self-pity, way down deeper where the dreams lie, son.

Find your dream. It's the pursuit of the dream that heals you.

Billy Mills – Lakota 1938-

I am poor and naked, but I am the chief of the nation. We do not want riches, but we do want to train our children right. Riches would do us no good. We could not take them with us to the other world. We do not want riches. We want peace and love.

Red Cloud Lakota 1822-1909

In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

Iroquois Maxim 1700-1800

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.

Cree Prophecy

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, Duwamish 1780-1866

We do not walk alone. Great Being walks beside us. Know this and be grateful.

Hopi Proverb

When you know who you are; when your mission is clear and you burn with the inner fire of unbreakable will; no cold can touch your heart; no deluge can dampen your purpose. You know that you are alive.

Chief Seattle, Duwamish 1780-1866

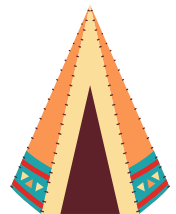
The ground on which we stand is sacred ground. It is the dust and blood of our ancestors.

Chief Plenty Coups, Gros Ventre 1848-1932



*Walk tall as the trees
Live strong as the mountains
Be gentle as the spring winds
Keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart
And then
Great Spirit will always be with you.*

Native American Indian Proverb



The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Native American Indian Author

Do not be afraid to cry. It will free your mind of sorrowful thoughts.

Hopi Proverb

Sometimes I go about pitying myself, and all the while, I am being carried across the sky by beautiful clouds.

Ojibway proverb



A frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.

Native American Indian Proverb



Out of the Indian approach to life there came a great freedom, an intense and absorbing respect for life, enriching faith in a Supreme Power, and principles of truth, honesty, generosity, equity and brotherhood as a guide to mundane relations.

Black Elk, Lakota 1863-1950

No one likes to be criticized, but criticism can be something like the desert wind, that, in whipping tender stalks, forces their roots down deeper for security.

Hopi Proverb

Between individuals, as between nations, peace means respect for the rights of others.

Benito Juarez, Zapoteca 1806-1872

Only to the white man was nature a wilderness and only to him was the land infested with wild animals and savage people. To us, it was tame, Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery.

Black Elk, Lakota 1863-1950

I am going to venture that the man who sat on the ground in his tipi, meditating on life and its meaning, accepting the kinship of all creatures, and acknowledging unity with the Universe of things, was infusing into his being the true essence of civilization.

Standing Bear, Lakota 1868-1939

It does not require many words to speak the truth.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce 1840-1904

*Be strong when you are weak
Be brave when you are scared
Be humble when you are victorious*
Hopi Proverb

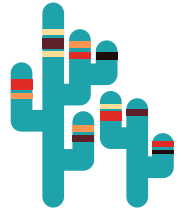
He who would do great things should not attempt them all alone.
Seneca Proverb

*A very great vision is needed, and the man who has it, must follow it as the eagle seeks
the deepest blue of the sky.*
Crazy Horse, Lakota 1840-1877

*When a white army battles Indian and wins, it is called a great victory, but if they lose,
it is called a massacre.*
Cheeseekau, Shawnee 1760-1792



Show respect to all people, but grovel to none.
Tecumseh, Shawnee 1768-1813



A people without faith in themselves cannot survive.
Hopi Proverb

*When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death,
so that when their time comes, they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives
over again in a different way.*

Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home.
Tecumseh, Shawnee 1768-1813

The tragedy of life is not death but what we let die inside of us while we live.
Native American Indian Proverb

*Regard Heaven as your Father, Earth as your Mother, and all that lives as your brothers
and sisters.*
Native American Indian Proverb

Certain things catch your eye, but pursue only those that capture your heart.
Native American Indian Proverb

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

Native America Indian Proverb

Grown men can learn from very little children, for their hearts are pure. Therefore, Great Spirit may show to them things which older people miss.

Black Elk

There is the world of the flesh and there is the spirit world. When the flesh is gone, the Spirit forever remains. Their voices speak to those who know how to listen, and these wisdoms are born in their hearts.

Wolf Clan

Lose your temper and you lose a friend

Lie and you lose yourself

Hopi Proverb

Remember that your children are not your own, but are lent to you by the Creator.

Mohawk Proverb

*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 Tsleil-Waututh 1899-1981

Each religion is a thread to be woven into one tapestry, whereby we will all live in peace, as one.

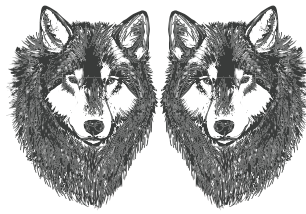
Hopi Belief



*Looking behind, I am filled with gratitude
Looking forward, I am filled with vision
Looking upwards, I am filled with strength
Looking within, I discover peace.*

Apache Prayer





Two Wolves

One day a Grandfather told his grandchild about a struggle that goes on within us. He said, "My dear child, the battle is between two wolves that live inside each one of us."

One is called Evil. It is violence, envy, jealousy, lies, selfishness, boasting, self-pity, resentment and cheating.

One is called Good. It is joy, peace, love, kindness, generosity, hope, humbleness, compassion, truth and honesty.

*The child thought about it for a minute and then asked,
"Which wolf wins?"*

The wise Grandfather simply answered, "The one you feed."

Cherokee or Lenape Legend



*I asked for wealth that I might have power
I was given poverty that I might find inner strength.*

*I asked for fame so others would know me
I was given obscurity that I might know myself.*

*I asked for a person to love that I might never be alone
I was given the life of a hermit that I might learn to love myself.*

*I asked for power that I might achieve
I was given weakness that I might learn to obey.*

*I asked for health that I might lead a long life
I was given infirmity that I might appreciate each minute.*

*I asked Mother Earth for strength that I might have my way
I was given feebleness that I might feel the need for Her.*

*I asked to live happily that I might enjoy life
I was given life that I might live happily.*

Crazy Horse Lakota 1840-1877

