

Daily Meditations 11-24-22

Thanksgiving 2022

Good morning. And a blessed and happy Thanksgiving to all.

In today's meditation, we try to share a reflection on Thanksgiving. And I draw especially from the Iroquois people of America and they, like so many Native American tribes, are profoundly rooted in thanksgiving and giving thanks to the Creator.

And I think this kind of flips the story a little bit, because we've often heard the story about how it was the Puritans who had the first Thanksgiving on this land. That is not true. Thanksgiving, thanks, is endemic to Native American wisdom.

And so I came across this list of Thanksgiving prayers that I received years ago, a Thanksgiving recitation of the traditional Iroquois people, delivered before and after all meetings and ceremonies. I shared a number of them with you in today's meditation and I'd like to add some more. Here is one to the Creator.

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator. We will choose our finest words, to give thanks and greetings to Him. He has prepared all these things on earth for our peace of mind. Then He thought, I will now prepare a place for myself where no one will know my face. But I will be listening and keeping watch on the people moving about on the earth. And indeed, we see that all things are faithful to their duties as He instructed them. We will therefore gather our minds into one and give thanks to the Creator. Now our minds are one. Agreed.

And here is a thanksgiving to the stars.

The stars are helpers of our Grandmother Moon. They have spread themselves all across the sky. Our people knew their names and their messages of future happenings, even to helping mold individual character of humankind. When we travel at night, we lift our faces to the stars and are guided to our homes. They bring dew to the gardens and all growing plants on Mother Earth. When we look in the sky to the vast beauty of the stars, we know they are following the way the Creator intended. For this we offer our greetings and thanksgiving. Now our minds are one. Agreed.

The words that come before all else, a spiritual way of communication.

Whenever our people get together, a speaker is chosen from among us to recite the thanksgiving greetings on behalf of all the people. He chooses his own words, but the general form is traditional. It follows the order in which we relate to all the Creator's works. Since we are all a part of the same creation, then we must acknowledge each other as brother and sister through this address the Creator has introduced into each ceremony, social dance, council. Then at the end of the meeting, the address again brings the minds of the people together before we leave for our homes.

Just that one sentence: "since we are all a part of the same creation, then we must all acknowledge each other as brother and sister." What a wonderfully inclusive way of seeing the world that is.

Russians and Ukrainians acknowledging each other as brother and sister. Jews and Muslims and Buddhists, Christians, Atheists, and Hindus acknowledging each other as brother and sister. Black people, people of color and Caucasians and others acknowledging each other as brother and sister: we are a part of the same creation. Gays and lesbians, heterosexual, bisexual and trans, all part of the same creation. So we must all acknowledge each other as brother and sister.

Great wisdom from our Iroquois brothers and sisters.

Thank you and blessed Thanksgiving to all. We'll see you tomorrow.