

## Native American Thanksgiving Address



“These words of thanksgiving come to us from the Native people known as the Iroquois or Six Nations—Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora—of upstate New York and Canada. The Thanksgiving Address has ancient roots, dating back over 1,000 years to the formation of the Great Law of Peace by a man called the Peacemaker, and perhaps before that. Today these words are still spoken at the opening and closing of all ceremonial and governmental gatherings held by the Six Nations...

The Address is based on the belief that the world cannot be taken for granted, that a spiritual communication of thankfulness and acknowledgement of all living things must be given to align the minds and hearts of the people with Nature. This forms a guiding principle of culture...”

*[Note: This little booklet is inspiring in its genuine awareness and love of the “Natural World,” ...lest we forget. What follows are 3 (**The People, The Water, The Creator**) of the 16 aspects that are acknowledged in the prayer. Other aspects include: **The Earth Mother, The Fish, The Plants, The Food Plants, The Medicinal Herbs, The Animals, The Trees, The Birds, The Four Winds, The Thunderers, The Sun, Grandmother Moon, The Stars, and The Enlightened Teachers.**]*

## “The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People. **Now our minds are one...**

## “The Waters

We give thanks to all the Waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water. **Now our minds are one.**

## “The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator. **Now our minds are one.”**

*Source: Thanksgiving Address, Greetings to the Natural World, Six Nations Indian Museum Tracking Project, PO Box 266, Corrales, NM 87408 reprinted from Meredith McCarty's Healing Cuisine.*  
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