

*"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.*

**"One does not sell the land people walk on. " ...**  
**Crazy Horse, Sept. 23, 1875**

*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 Oglala Sioux Holy Man**

**1863-1950**

*You have noticed that everything as Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round.... 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 nest in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours....*  
**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.**

### **Crowfoot, Blackfoot warrior and orator**

*"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 lapses itself in the sunset."*

### **Mourning Dove Salish**

**1888-1936**

*..... everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease or herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence.*

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*Children were encouraged to develop strict discipline and a high regard for sharing.*

*When a girl picked her first berries and dug her first roots, they were given away to an elder so she would share her future success. When a child carried water for the home, an elder would give compliments, pretending to taste meat in water carried by a boy or berries in that of a girl. The child was encouraged not to be lazy and to grow straight like a sapling.*

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### **Flat-Iron (Maza Blaska Oglala Sioux Chief**

*From Wakan-Tanka, the Great Mystery, comes all power. It is from Wakan-Tanka that the holy men has wisdom and the power to heal and make holy charms. Nean knows that all healing plants are given by Wakan-Tanka, therefore they are holy. So too is the buffalo holy, because it is the gift of Wakan-Tanka.*

### **From the 1927 Grand Council of American Indians**

*"The white people, who are trying to make us over into their image, they want us to be what they call "assimilated," bringing the Indians into the mainstream and destroying our own way of life and our own cultural patterns. They believe we should be contented like those whose concept of happiness is materialistic and greedy, which is very different from our way.*  
**The white man says, there is freedom and justice for all. We have had "freedom and justice," and that is why we have been almost exterminated. We shall not forget this."**

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### **From Black Hawk, Sauk**

*"How smooth must be the language of the whites, when they can make right look like wrong, and wrong like right."*

### **Chief Aupunuf, Mohican. 1725**

*"When it comes time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so 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."*

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### **Owasinas (Hereditary Chief Edward Moody), Nuxalk Nation**

*"We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees."*