

## Grandfather's Prayer

Creation within the Universe has its significance and its purpose for life on Mother Earth, for they were all made to control the cycle of life revered to ecology in its natural order and spiritual ways. Deities whom were created revered to the process in such set life standards, and as long as people abide and kept within the laws of nature, cosmic order and spirituality, they will continue to live in balance and harmony. In the process, a teaching and a practical grandpa sets forth an example for another day in such a way:

As the dawning of a new day is forthcoming, a grandfather is awakened by his natural sense of time; the peaceful calm of the early morning dawn. As he barely exits his Hogan, while stutter stepping towards the east with the help of his cane, he looks to the heavens and recognizes 'Yikáisdáhi' and the reddish-blue twinkling color of "Ma'ii Bizó' / Coyote Star in the morning twilight. He would stand there for a while to catch his breath and analyze his thoughts, and finally begins his prayer. "Kodéé' Hózhóq Dooleełgo át'é, as he sprinkles white corn meal from his little pouch and acknowledges the sacredness to the east. He would identify himself by his warrior name, while acknowledging Mother Earth and Father Sky and the Morning Deities in Yikáih and Haashch'ééh Dine'é. Through serene calm he utters in a distinct voice, "Hózhóq Dooleeł, Shimá Nahasdzáán, Shitaa' Yádiłhił, Hayoolkáál Haashch'ééyááłti'i Shicheii, Yák'aashbaah bee hodéezyéel biyiji' kodóo hózhóqo nihich'i' dóo nihiyiji' hanáadeesdzh Diyin Dine'é danohiinii." He relates to the environment and acknowledges nature and the most beautiful things on and within, one that has sacred significance in human nature, birds, animals and plant growth. However long he wants to pray, will depend on his thoughts and analogical thought that morning. Most times, important aspects of his prayer are usually concentrated on good health and well-being. He prays for good blessings for his children, grandchildren, love ones in his immediate family and relatives far and near. He usually does not acknowledge himself until conclusion of his prayer, just as generations of forefathers did before him. Fortunately, we as Nihookáá' Dine'é still have the opportunity to learn and cling to our language and cultural heritage through spirituality in this life, just as grandpa did and for our grandchildren to do in the future.