



An Athabascan Litany of Thanksgiving

Note that the response, "Anaa Basee, Dennahhto" means "Great thanks to God." Feel free to use your native language here instead.

We offer these words of praise to Dennahuto:

You have given us land and knowledge for our self-sufficiency and to provide for our families. You have given us the bodies and strength to work hard. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You have given us a great sense of humor that helps us get through hard times. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You teach us about honesty and being fair. This is the good way to live. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You tell us to have respect for ourselves and to respect others. This is the way to live in harmony with self and others. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

This resource was prepared for a Day of Prayer for Indigenous Justice, Jan. 11, 2013, when Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders gathered in Ottawa to discuss important legislation affecting Indigenous Peoples.

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You teach us about our responsibilities to our village and the value of working together. You show us how to make life better for our people. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You teach us the importance of family and being good to each other. This builds family unity and unity with you. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You have given us children to love and through this love we live long after we are gone. Our children are our present, not just our future. When we love them, they love others. This is the way it is supposed to be. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You help us to grow old and in our journey you provide us with knowledge and wisdom for living in our land. Our elders are our way to the past to learn those things we must carry on. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You put us upon this great land and put things here that we need to survive. You show us how to care for the land and treat land, animals, trees, waters, plants and weather with respect. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You gave us songs and dances and told us how to use them. They help us remember our ancestors and the life that was before. When we sing and dance we are proud. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You made us a part of a larger family and we must remember where we come from and how we came to be where we are. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You gave us words to speak to communicate with each other. These words are different in our many villages and nations but they are for us, from you. We must remember our words. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

You gave us purpose for being here and we must all find that purpose. Whatever you have set before us, that is what we must live into. It is our reason for being a part of you. We will pass this on to our children.

Response: Anaa Basee, Dennahuto

G. Doctor, 2007

Adapted from "Athabaskan
Traditional Values"
with apologies for spelling.