

P R E F A C E

Mitakuyapi, Wotakuye ikigniwin imaciyapiksto, naha iuhan cante waste cheyuza- piksto.

Relatives, my name is looking for Relatives woman and I shake your hands with good feelings in my heart.

My English name is Zola Bald Eagle Greene. I am the daughter of Chief Dave Bald Eagle, the great granddaughter of Chief White Bull. I am a full blood Mnicoujou, Lakota of the Titowan nation. I am honored to come from a line of not only noble chiefs but strong courageous warriors, and fearless confident women.

I was separated from my Lakota family when I was very young but was able to find my way home and to my dad. Growing up in the “white” world I never forgot where I came from or who my parents were. I held on to the connection I had with not only my family but the earth and universe. When I was able to find my dad, he guided me and taught me to be humble, not only with people but with all things, he reminded me patience is key in all things. He saw the strength I had within myself and love I had for others and encouraged me to never let that go. All of these things I continue to teach and encourage my children. I remind them they have the blood of their ancestors in the veins and we must live in a manor to honor them. Though we live in the white world we must hold on to the teachings and ways of our ancestors. It is very difficult but together we pray not for our well-being but for the understanding of others to have open hearts. We have to hold on to the ways of the past and incorporate them into the ways of today.

My father has passed but his spirit and teachings are still with me. He told me to listen to nature, the animals, birds, wind, water, plants, and all creatures great and small. If I needed an answer nature would help and guide me.

I have needed guidance from time to time from my father as well as my mother, who also has passed. They have visited me either individually as well as together on several occasions in the form of eagles. I have had the blessing of speaking with them, not with spoken words but, through feelings of the heart and spirit. I have had other relatives speak to me in other forms of nature as well. Reminding me I am doing good and to encourage me to be strong when times are difficult.

I pray that our future generations will see the strength within themselves and look to our ancestors for guidance and continue our ways. We are strong not only physically but mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The children are the hope of the Nation.

I am thankful for those who are willing to learn and understand who we are and where we come from. Our ways are sacred and have deep meaning. Respect and honor the ways of our people while holding true to yours.

Pilamayaye, Zola Bald Eagle Greene, daughter of Chief Dave Bald Eagle.