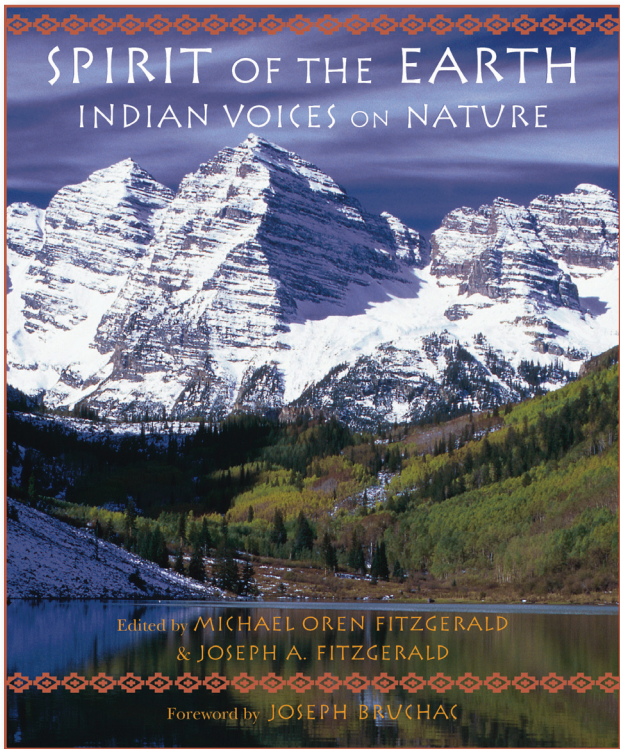


SPIRIT OF THE EARTH

INDIAN VOICES ON NATURE

EDITED BY MICHAEL OREN FITZGERALD
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FOREWORD BY JOSEPH BRUCHAC



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Often spoken at the end of a prayer, a well-known Sioux phrase affirms that “we are all related.” Similarly, the Sioux medicine man, Brave Buffalo, came to realize when he was still a boy that “the maker of all was Wakan Tanka (the Great Spirit), and . . . in order to honor him I must honor his works in nature.” The interconnectedness of all things, and the respect all things are due, are among the most prominent—and most welcome—themes in this collection of Indian voices on nature.



THIS BOOK INCLUDES

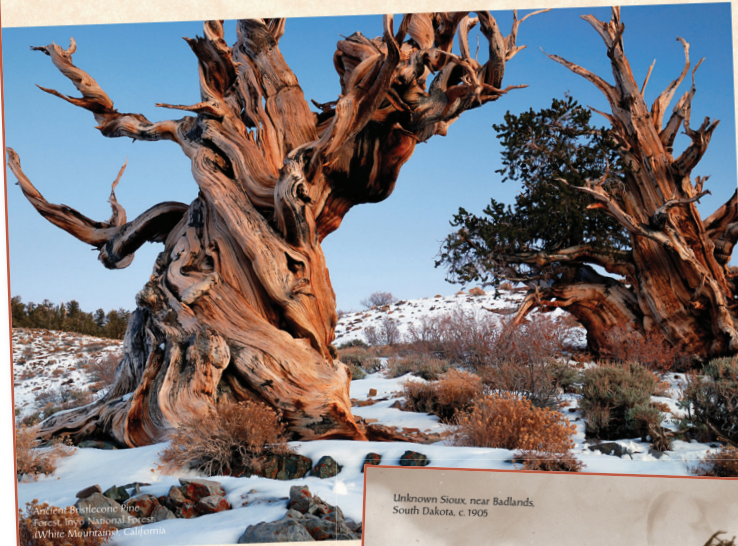
- ❖ Over 120 quotations on the beauty and meaning of nature from men and women of nearly 50 North American tribes
- ❖ Renowned speakers such as Black Elk, Brave Buffalo, Chief Joseph, Charles Eastman, Geronimo, Mourning Dove, Plenty Coups, Polingaysi Qoyawayma, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, and Zitkala-sa
- ❖ Over 65 color and sepia illustrations, with historical photographs of American Indians and a wide selection of contemporary photographs showing the diversity of North American landscapes

World Wisdom



SELECTIONS FROM THE BOOK

INDIAN VOICES



Lower Red Butte, Cone Pine,
Forest, Inyo National Forest,
White Mountain, California

16

INDIAN VOICES

I SHALL VANISH AND BE NO MORE,
But the land over which I now roam
Shall remain and change not.

Song of the Hethushka Warrior Society,
Omaha



THERE WERE NO TEMPLES OR SHRINES
among us save those of nature. Being
a natural man, the Indian was intensely
poetical. He would deem it sacrilege to
build a house for Him who may be met
face to face in the mysterious, shadowy
aisles of the primeval forest, or on the
sunlit bosom of virgin prairies, upon
dizzy spires and pinnacles of naked rock,
and yonder in the jeweled vault of the
night sky! He who enrobes Himself in
filmy veils of cloud, there on the rim
of the visible world where our Great-
Grandfather Sun kindles his evening
campfire, He who rides upon the
rigorous wind of the north, or breathes
forth His spirit upon aromatic southern
airs, whose war-canoe is launched upon
majestic rivers and inland seas—He
needs no lesser cathedral!

Unknown Sioux, near Badlands,
South Dakota, c. 1905



INDIAN VOICES

FRIEND
My horse
Flies like a bird
As it runs

Song of the Horse Society, Sioux



SEE THEM
Prancing, they come
Neighing, they come
A Horse nation
See them
Prancing, they come
Neighing, they come.

Song of the Horse Society, Sioux



OF ALL THE ANIMALS THE HORSE is the best friend
of the Indian, for without it he could not go
on long journeys. A horse is the Indian's most
valuable piece of property. If an Indian wishes to
gain something, he promises his horse that if the
horse will help him he will paint it with native
dye, that all may see that help has come to him
through the aid of his horse.

Brave Buffalo (Tatanka-ohitika), Sioux

45

INDIAN VOICES

WHEN THE SEASON RETURNS, the birds and insects return
with the same colorings as the previous year. They are not all
on the earth, but are above it. My mind must be the same.

Siyaka, Sioux



[THE EAGLE] SPREADS HIS WINGS and soars aloft and breathes
deep with the joy of well-being. The eagle is myself. God has
given me that bird. I have taken the eagle for my bird because
he is the greatest of all birds. He is the father, and all little birds
are his children. He is strong, for he flies where no man can
reach him. He is clean, for he spreads his wings when he eats
that no dirt may fall upon his food, and he washes his claws
in the mud of streams. In his feathers, white and black, we see
day and night. That is why I carry the fan of eagle feathers.

Magpie (Mowihai), Cheyenne



BIRDS, I LOVE TO SEE THE BIRDS, because they are pretty. They
do not say anything evil. They eat these things Mundu gives,
then they sing, because they do not want for anything. All
things Mundu gives them, that is so. All things!

Flying Bird (Fidelia Fielding), Mohegan



THE LARK IS CHEERFUL AND BRINGS the warm weather. It does
not scold its people. It is always happy.

Unidentified Sioux

57



Bald eagle

ABOUT THE (CO-EDITORS)

Michael Oren Fitzgerald is the author and editor of more than fifteen books that have received some two dozen awards, including the ForeWord Book of the Year Award, the Ben Franklin Award, and the USA Best Books Award. His prize-winning publications include *Indian Spirit*, *The Spirit of Indian Women*, and *Living in Two Worlds: The American Indian Experience*. Michael lives with his wife in Bloomington, Indiana.

Joseph A. Fitzgerald studied Comparative Religion at Indiana University, where he also earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. A recipient of the Ben Franklin Award and numerous other awards, Joseph has edited ten books on world religion, culture, and philosophy. His works include *The Cheyenne Indians: Their History and Lifeways, Illustrated* and *World of the Teton Sioux Indians: Their Music, Life & Culture*. He lives with his wife and daughters in Bloomington, Indiana.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE FOREWORD

Joseph Bruchac is a world-renowned and multiple award-winning Native author and storyteller who has written more than 120 books for both children and adults. His poems, articles, and stories have appeared in over 500 publications, including *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian Magazine*. He lives in Greenfield Center, New York.



WE ARE ALL RELATED



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—**Library Journal**

“Michael Fitzgerald has heard the poignant narratives of the American Indian people, and has lived among the Crow people for extended periods of time since 1970. He has studied American Indian religious traditions on the earth, among the people, in ceremonies and family gatherings. We thank Fitzgerald for his deep-seated appreciation, honor, and respect for American Indian culture, its religion, language, and lifeways.”

—**Janine Pease**, founding president of the Little Big Horn College, and National Indian Educator of the Year

“My son, Michael Fitzgerald, has been a member of my family and the Crow tribe for over twenty years. Michael has helped to preserve the spiritual traditions of the Crow Sun Dance and he has helped to show us the wisdom of the old-timers.”

—**Thomas Yellowtail**, Crow Medicine Man and Sun Dance Chief

“I greatly appreciate the recovery work that Fitzgerald is doing, work that makes available for the classroom and popular use texts that have been all but buried in libraries. Work such as Fitzgerald’s is exactly the kind of work that needs to be promoted for a more complete understanding of early American Indian writings and oratory.”

—**Stephen Brandon**, University of New Mexico