

## GRATITUDE

Gary Snyder (After a Mohawk Prayer)

Gratitude to Mother Earth, sailing through night and day  
and to her soil, rich, rare, and sweet  
in our minds so be it

Gratitude to Plants, the sun-facing light-changing leaf  
and fine root hairs, standing still through wind  
and rain, their dance is in the flowing spiral grain  
in our minds so be it

Gratitude to Air, bearing the soaring Swift and the silent  
Owl at dawn, breath of our song  
clear spirit breeze  
in our minds so be it

Gratitude to Wild Beings, our brothers and sisters  
teaching secrets, freedoms, and ways  
self-complete, brave, and aware  
in our minds so be it

Gratitude to Water, clouds, lake, rivers, glaciers  
holding or releasing , streaming through all  
our bodies salty seas  
in our minds so be it

Gratitude to the Sun, blinding pulsing light through  
trunks of trees, through mists, warming caves where  
bears and snakes sleep—he who wakes us—  
In our minds so be it

Gratitude to the Great Sky  
who holds billions of stars—and goes yet beyond that—  
beyond all powers and thoughts and yet is within us—  
Grandfather space  
The Mind is his Wife  
so be it