

## Seven Fires Prophecy and The Renewable Wisdom Trails

Keepers of ancient knowledge are often directed to release their records as a marking of time. Currently the title of the records is called Traditional Environmental Knowledge or TEK. The decisions that follow the directives can be conflictive when deciding what and how to release the records. Historical prejudices are strong deterrents and must be considered. The writings regarding the discoveries of Nature's Principles are from the library of Renewable Wisdom Trails. This will be our release of records.

The seventh fire of The Seven Fires Prophecy was recorded in a beaded language on a Wampum Belt and speaks of the challenges of releasing ancient knowledge. The following copy of the seventh Fire is from Edward Benton-Banai published in 1988 by the Minnesota Free Press. The publication is called "The Mishomi Book". There are seven prophets that came to the people with each one speaking about one of the seven fires.

The seventh fire prophet that came to the people long ago was said to be different from the other prophets. He was young and had a strange light in his eyes. He said, "In the time of the Seventh Fire an Osh-ki-bi-ma-di-zeeg' (New People) will emerge. They will retrace their steps to find what was left by the trail. Their steps will take them to the elders who they will ask to guide them on their journey. But many of the elders will have fallen asleep. They will awaken to this new time with nothing to offer. Some of the elders will be silent out of fear. Some of the elders will be silent because no one will ask anything of them. The New People will have to be careful in how they approach the elders. The task of the New People will not be easy".

"If the New People will remain strong in their quest, the water drum of the Midewiwin Lodge will again sound its voice. There will be a rebirth of the

Anishinaabe nation and a rekindling of old flames. The Sacred Fire will again be lit.”

“ It is at this time that the Light- skinned Race will be given a choice between two roads. If they choose the right road, then the Seventh Fire will light the Eighth and Final Fire-an eternal Fire of peace, love, brotherhood and sisterhood. If the Light- skinned race makes the wrong choice of roads, then the destruction which they brought with them in coming to this country will come back to them and cause much suffering and death to all the Earth’s people.”

Traditional Mide people of the Ojibway and people from other nations have interpreted the “two roads” that face the Light-skinned Race as the road to technology and the road to spiritualism. They feel that the road to technology represents a continuation of the head-long rush to technological development. This is the road that has led modern society to a damaged and seared Earth. Could it be the road to technology represents a rush to destruction? The road to spirituality represents the slower path that traditional Native people have traveled and are now seeking again. The Earth is not scorched on this trail. The grass is still growing there.

The prophet of the fourth Fire spoke of a time when “two nations will join to make a mighty nation.” He was speaking of the coming of the Light-skinned Race and the face of brotherhood that the Light-skinned brother could be wearing. It is obvious from the history of this country that this was not the face worn by the Light-skinned Race as a whole. That mighty nation spoken of in the Fourth Fire has never been formed.

If we natural people of the Earth could just wear the face of brotherhood, we might be able to deliver our society from the road to destruction. Could we make the two roads that today represent two clashing world views come together to form that mighty nation? Could a nation be

formed that is guided by respect for all living things? Are we the people of the Seventh Fire?

As Keepers of the Renewable Wisdom Trails library, our time has come to release records. Our research speaks to a set of Principles that can guide us back to a road of an unscorched Earth. Similar to our ancestors that released the Wampum Belts knowledge during their tenure, we too must complete our Visions and tasks as directed.