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The Seven Grandfather Teachings*

*From Staff development material, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Ottawa Ontario,
the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Mt. Pleasant Michigan and
Handout from the Ojibwe Culture Foundation, P.O. Box 278, M'Chigeeng First Nation, Ontario

"We have to take care of **Aki** (Mother Earth) or we will not have a home. We must all share in this responsibility. We need to make sure that Mother Earth and everything the Creator gave her will always be here for future generations. Each morning let us remember to greet our Grandmothers and Grandfathers whose spirits are in the many glories that surround us. They taught us, as they had been taught by their elders, how to take care of Mother Earth and each other. We are straying away from the Teachings given to us. Our young people do not pray and give thanksgiving. We need to know the Teachings of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers to give us direction and balance. Especially our leaders who are young; they need to listen and learn. We need their participation. To take care of Mother Earth and the community of life, we need to remember the Teachings of the First Elder. The First Elder gave us the gifts of knowledge that he received from the Seven Grandfathers when he was a little boy. Each Grandfather gave him a great gift." from Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Mt. Pleasant Michigan. Used by permission

NIBWAAKAAWIN	Wisdom: To learn from life experiences and teachers in our lives including elders and children
ZAAGIDWIN	Love: To be at peace with yourself and able to express love to your family, friends and community through your actions and words
MANAADJITOWAAWIN	Respect: To accept everyone as they are without judgement. Respect for The Creator's work and including yourself.
AAKODEWIN	Courage or Bravery: To do the things that are difficult but need to be done or said, even in the most difficult of times.
GWEKOWAADIZIWIN	Honesty: To say and act in an honest way, with no hidden agenda. To be honest in every action and provide good feelings in your heart
DIBAADENDIZOWIN	Humility: To be modest by not showing off or bragging of one's own importance. To know that you are equal to everyone else, no better or no less.
DEBWEWIN	Truth: To know and believe in the Seven Grandfather teachings and to live by them.

"The Grandfather said, "Be true in everything that you do. Be true to yourself and true to your people. Always speak the truth." The Grandfathers told him, "Each of these Teachings must be used with the rest. You can not have WISDOM without LOVE, RESPECT, BRAVERY, HONESTY, HUMILITY, and TRUTH. You can not be honest if you use only one or two of the Teachings, and to leave out one is to embrace the opposite of what the Teaching is." We should all try to live by the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Sometimes it may be hard to apply all of them daily, but we must try. If we don't practice honesty, we cheat. If we don't practice truth, we will lie. We must go back to the knowledge that the Seven Grandfathers taught the First Elder, who then passed the Teachings on to the next generation, and so on. The Seven Grandfather Teachings will remind us how to treat one another and our children. Each of us is responsible for taking care of the children and of Mother Earth. The children are the ones who must care for Mother Earth tomorrow, and for the generations to come." from Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Mt. Pleasant Michigan. Used by permission – Author Unknown