

# Templates for Change

## Our Human Heritage

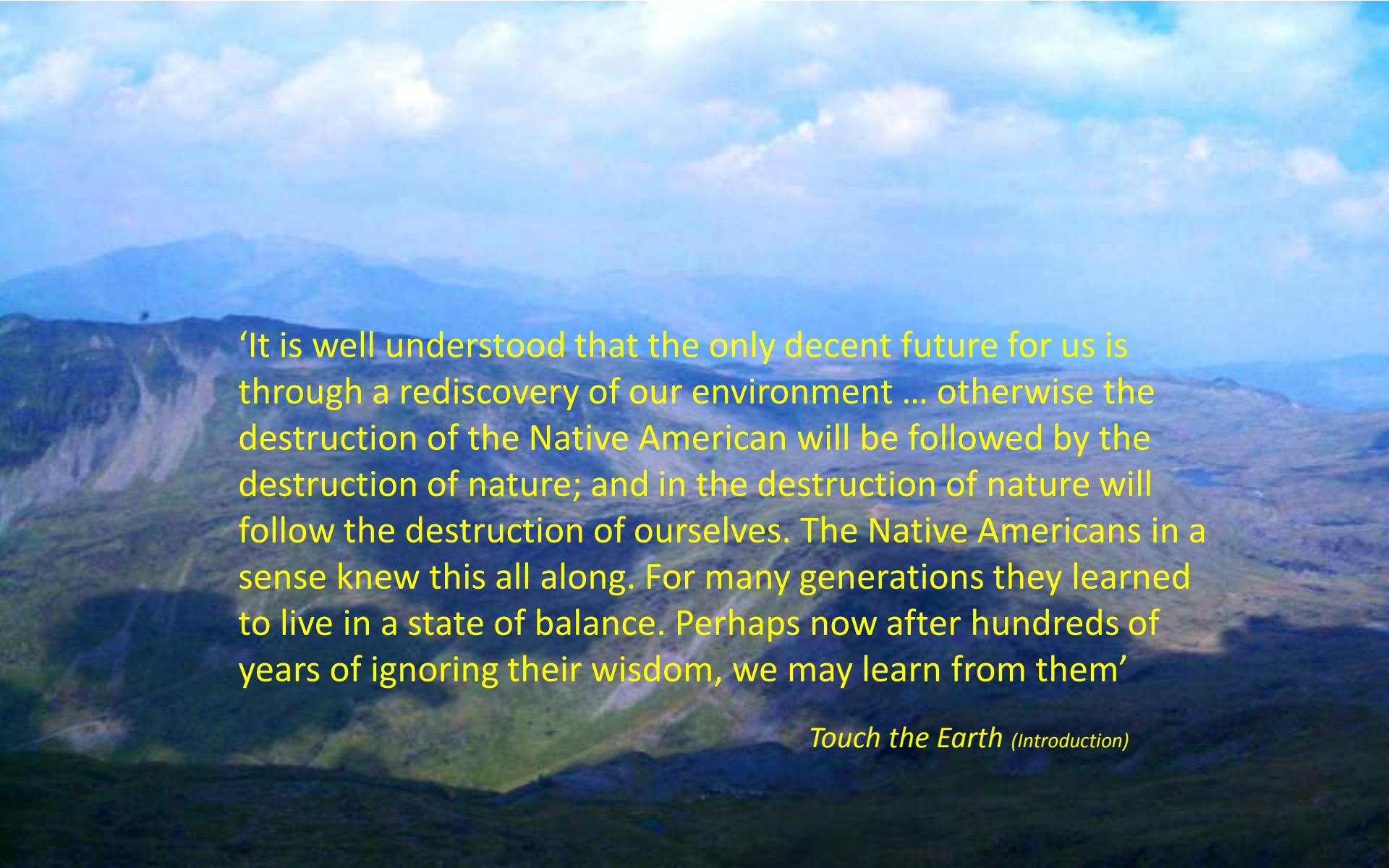


## Native American Wisdom Connection to Nature



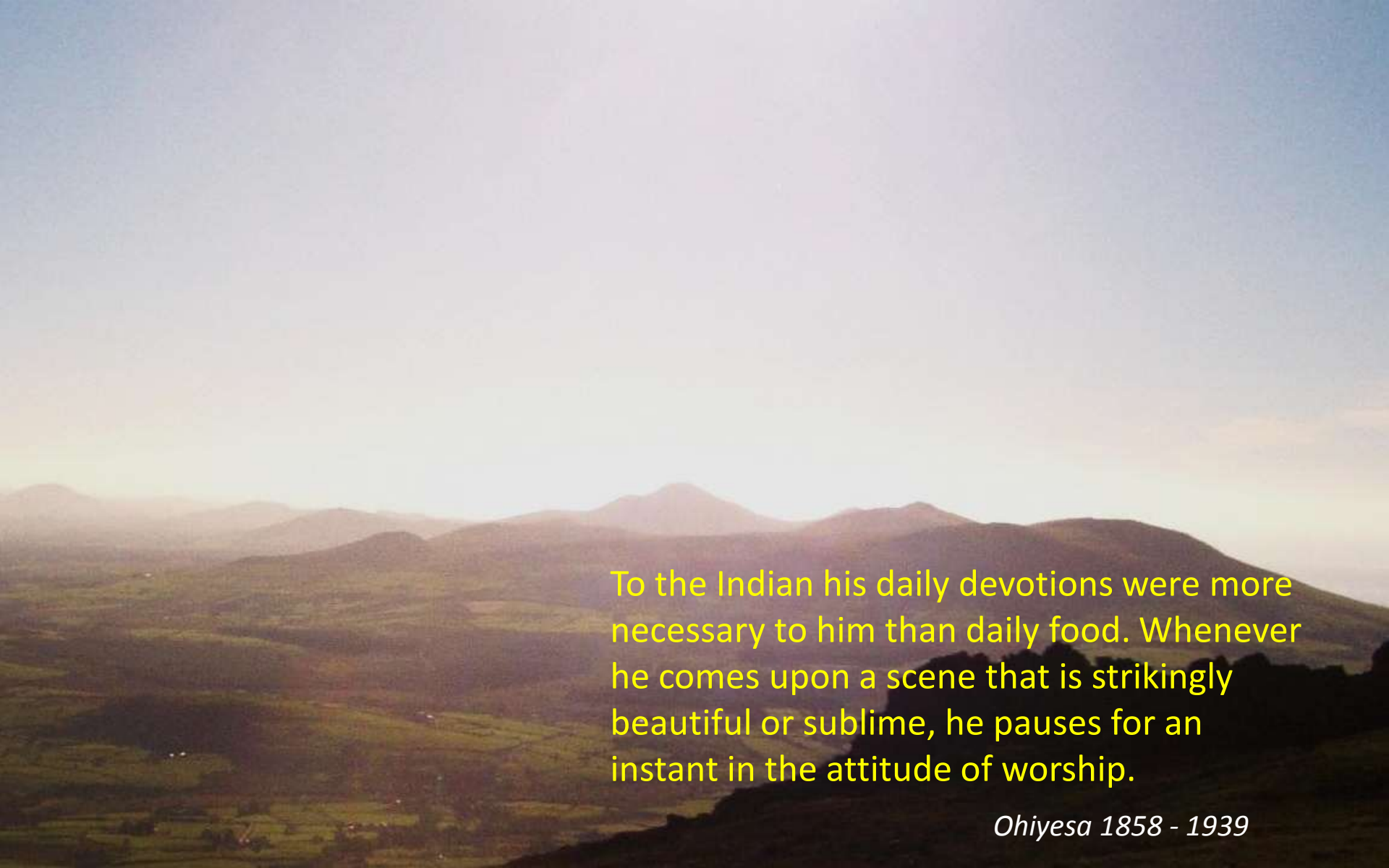
John Edge  
Presenter



An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground shows a valley with green fields and a winding road. The middle ground features rolling hills and a prominent mountain peak. The background consists of more distant, hazy mountain ranges under a bright blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a wide, open landscape.

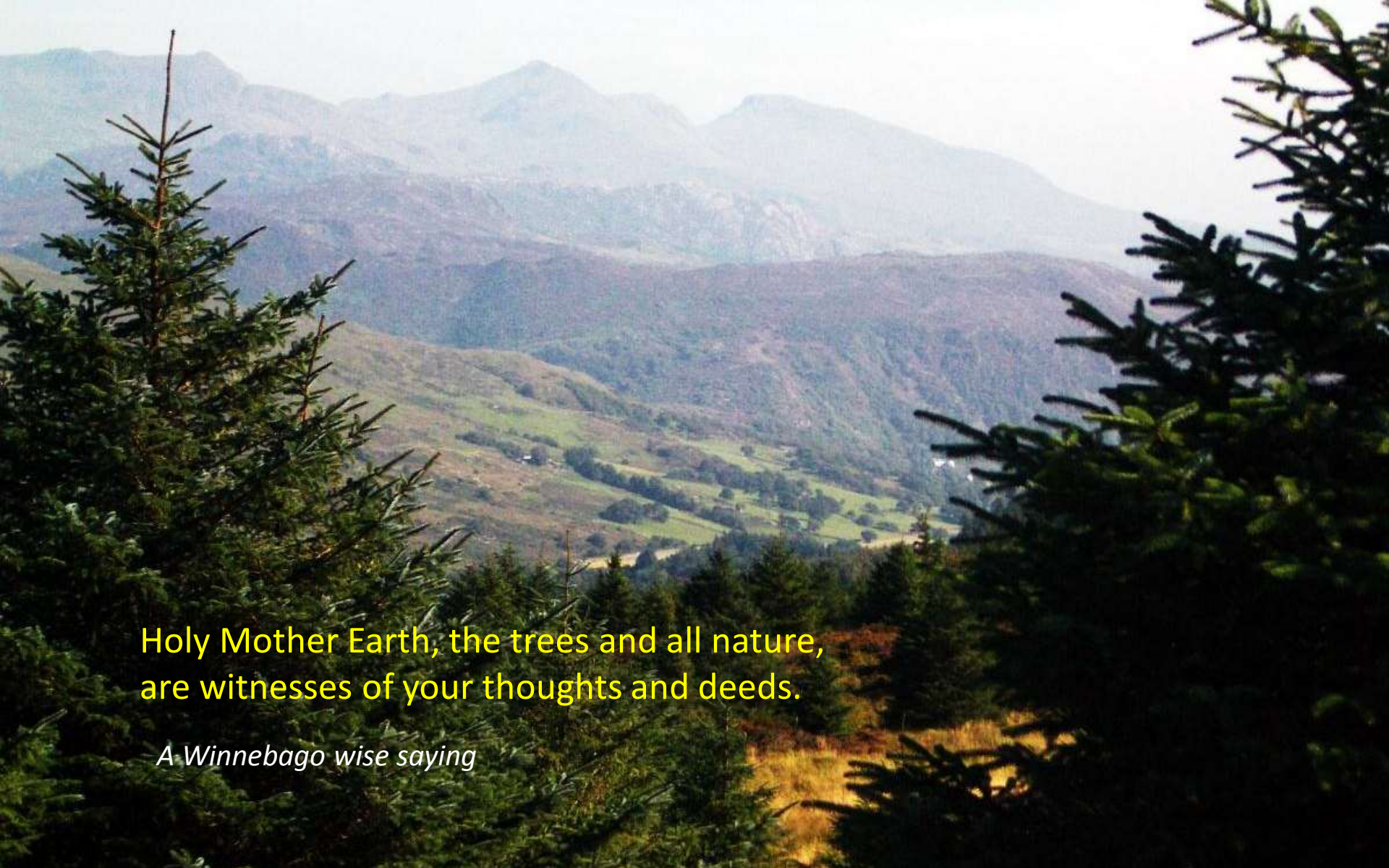
'It is well understood that the only decent future for us is through a rediscovery of our environment ... otherwise the destruction of the Native American will be followed by the destruction of nature; and in the destruction of nature will follow the destruction of ourselves. The Native Americans in a sense knew this all along. For many generations they learned to live in a state of balance. Perhaps now after hundreds of years of ignoring their wisdom, we may learn from them'

*Touch the Earth (Introduction)*

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The foreground is a green valley, and the background features a range of mountains. The sky is a pale blue, suggesting a clear day. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

To the Indian his daily devotions were more necessary to him than daily food. Whenever he comes upon a scene that is strikingly beautiful or sublime, he pauses for an instant in the attitude of worship.

*Ohiyesa 1858 - 1939*

A scenic landscape photograph showing a mountain valley. In the foreground, there are dark green evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, framing the view. The middle ground features rolling hills and a valley with patches of green grass and some small buildings or structures. The background consists of several layers of mountain ranges, with the furthest peaks appearing hazy and blue. The sky is a pale, overcast grey.

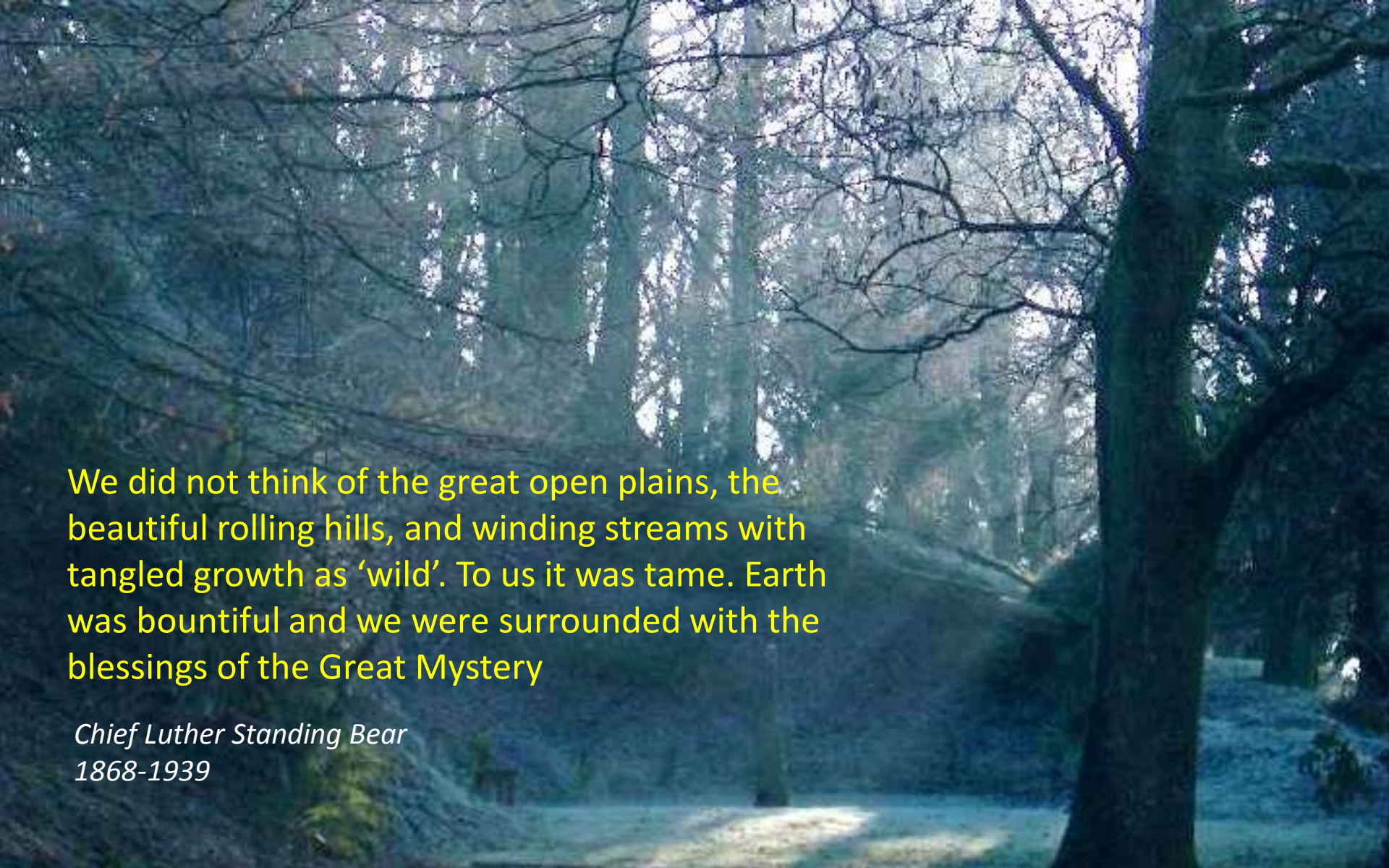
Holy Mother Earth, the trees and all nature,  
are witnesses of your thoughts and deeds.

*A Winnebago wise saying*

Every part of the Earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.

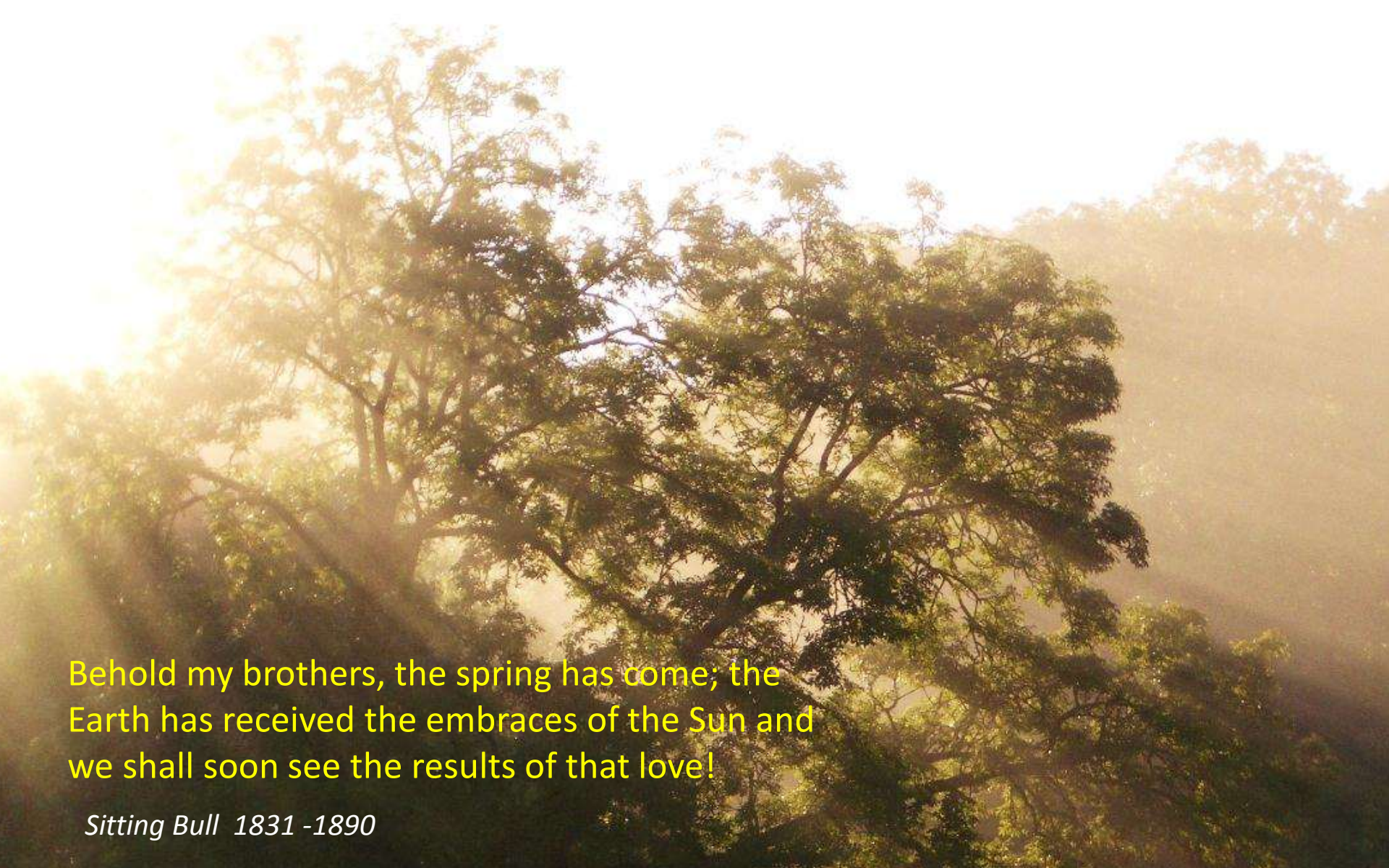
*Chief Seattle 1780 – 1866  
(free translation)*



A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a large tree trunk in the foreground on the right. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, blue-tinted color palette, giving it a serene and somewhat ethereal atmosphere. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the ground.

We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and winding streams with tangled growth as 'wild'. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery

*Chief Luther Standing Bear*  
1868-1939



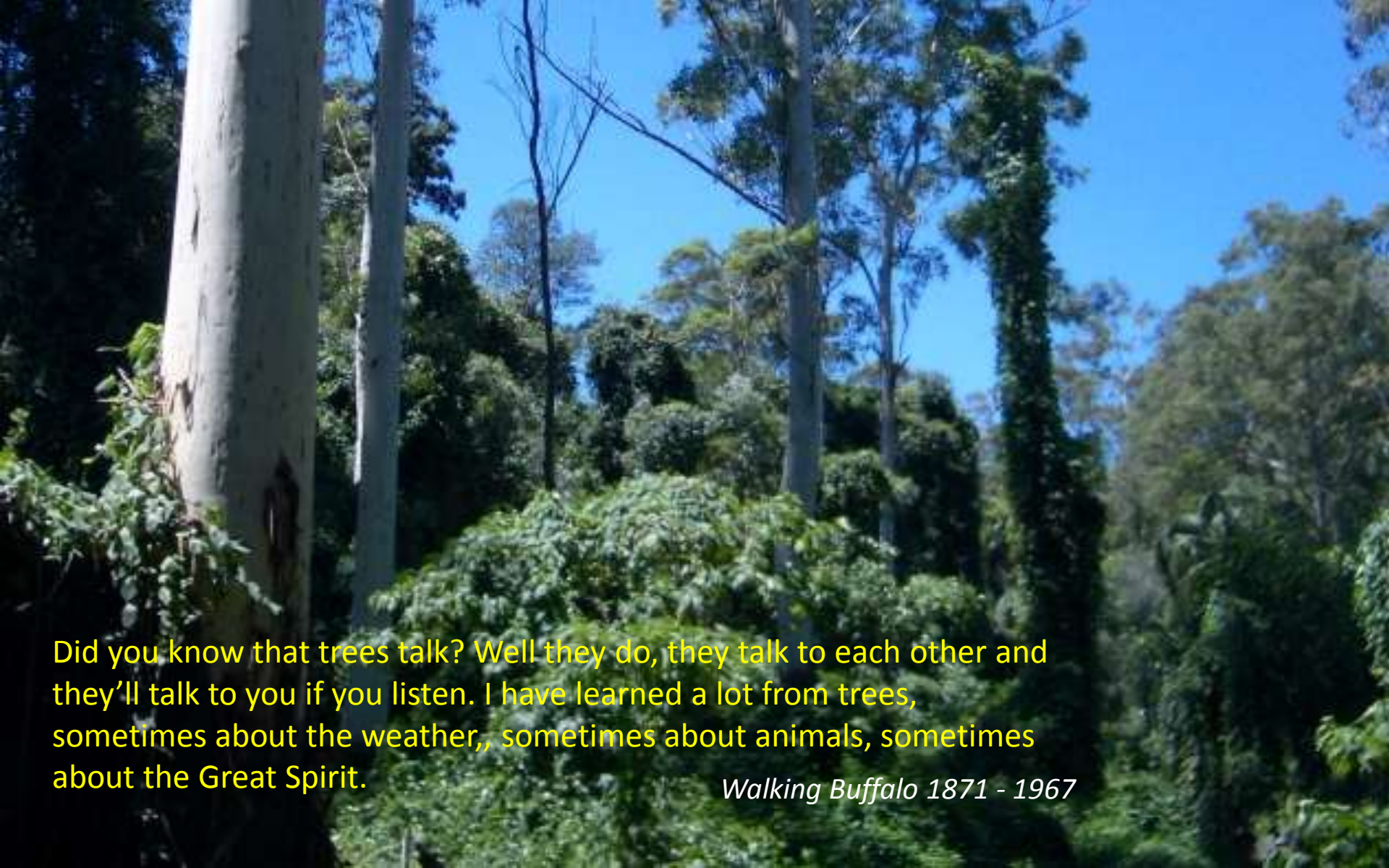
Behold my brothers, the spring has come; the  
Earth has received the embraces of the Sun and  
we shall soon see the results of that love!

*Sitting Bull 1831 -1890*



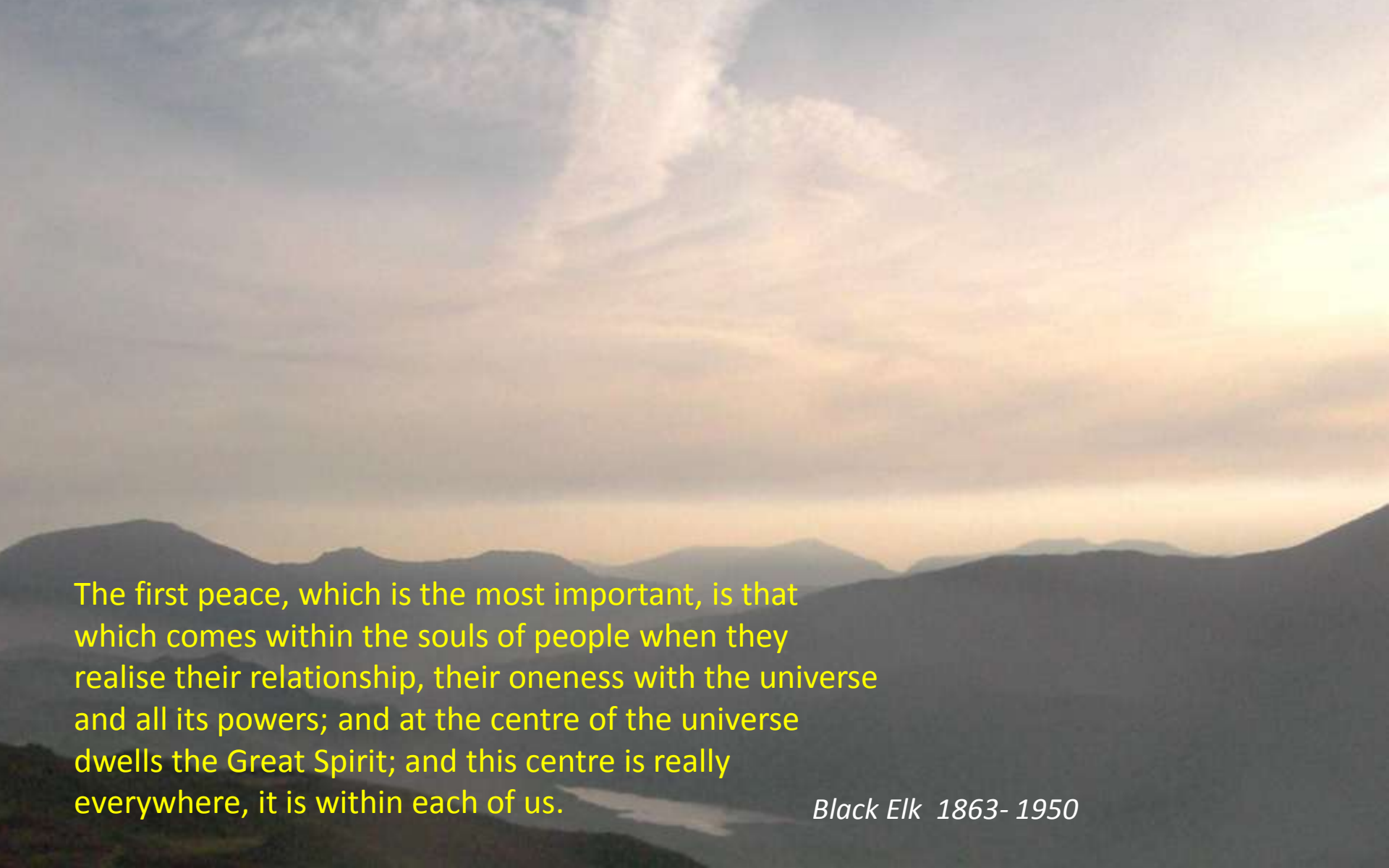
For the Indian to sit upon the ground is to be able to think more deeply and feel more keenly; he can see more clearly into the mysteries of life and come closer in kinship to other lives about him

*Chief Luther Standing Bear  
1868-1939*

A photograph of a forest with several tall, slender trees in the foreground and a dense canopy of green foliage in the background. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Did you know that trees talk? Well they do, they talk to each other and they'll talk to you if you listen. I have learned a lot from trees, sometimes about the weather,, sometimes about animals, sometimes about the Great Spirit.

*Walking Buffalo 1871 - 1967*

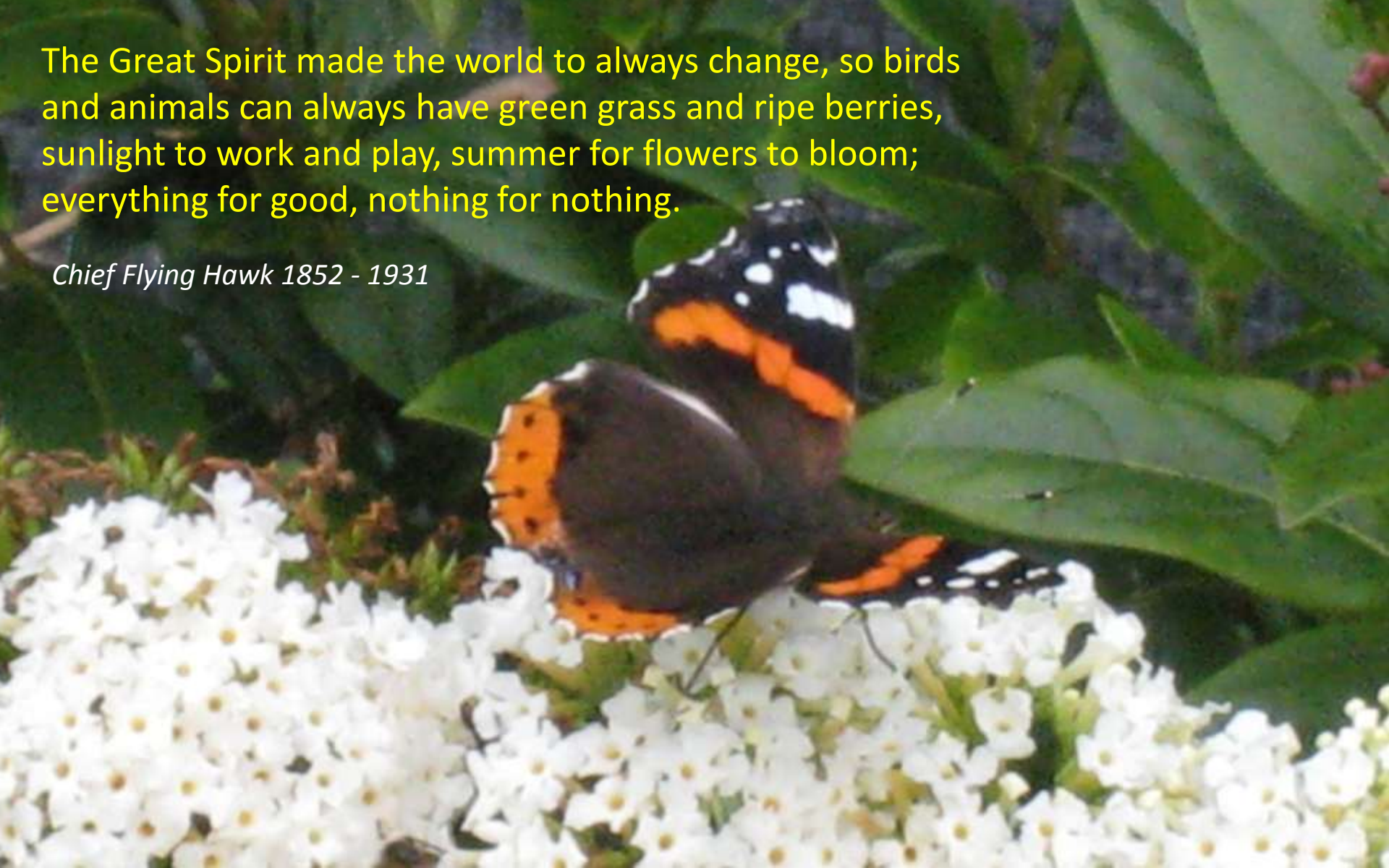


The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realise their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers; and at the centre of the universe dwells the Great Spirit; and this centre is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

*Black Elk 1863- 1950*

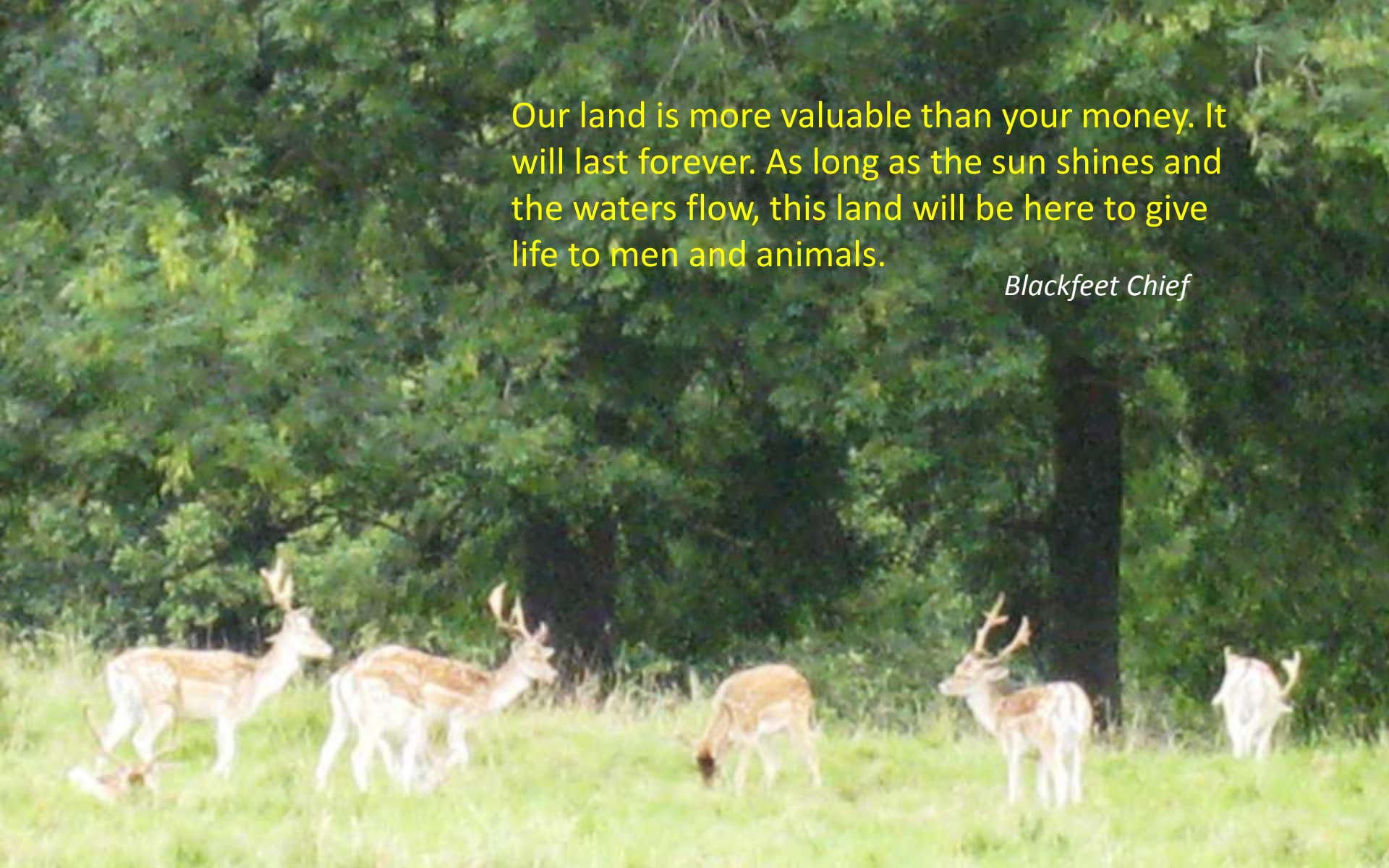
The Great Spirit made the world to always change, so birds and animals can always have green grass and ripe berries, sunlight to work and play, summer for flowers to bloom; everything for good, nothing for nothing.

*Chief Flying Hawk 1852 - 1931*



Our land is more valuable than your money. It will last forever. As long as the sun shines and the waters flow, this land will be here to give life to men and animals.

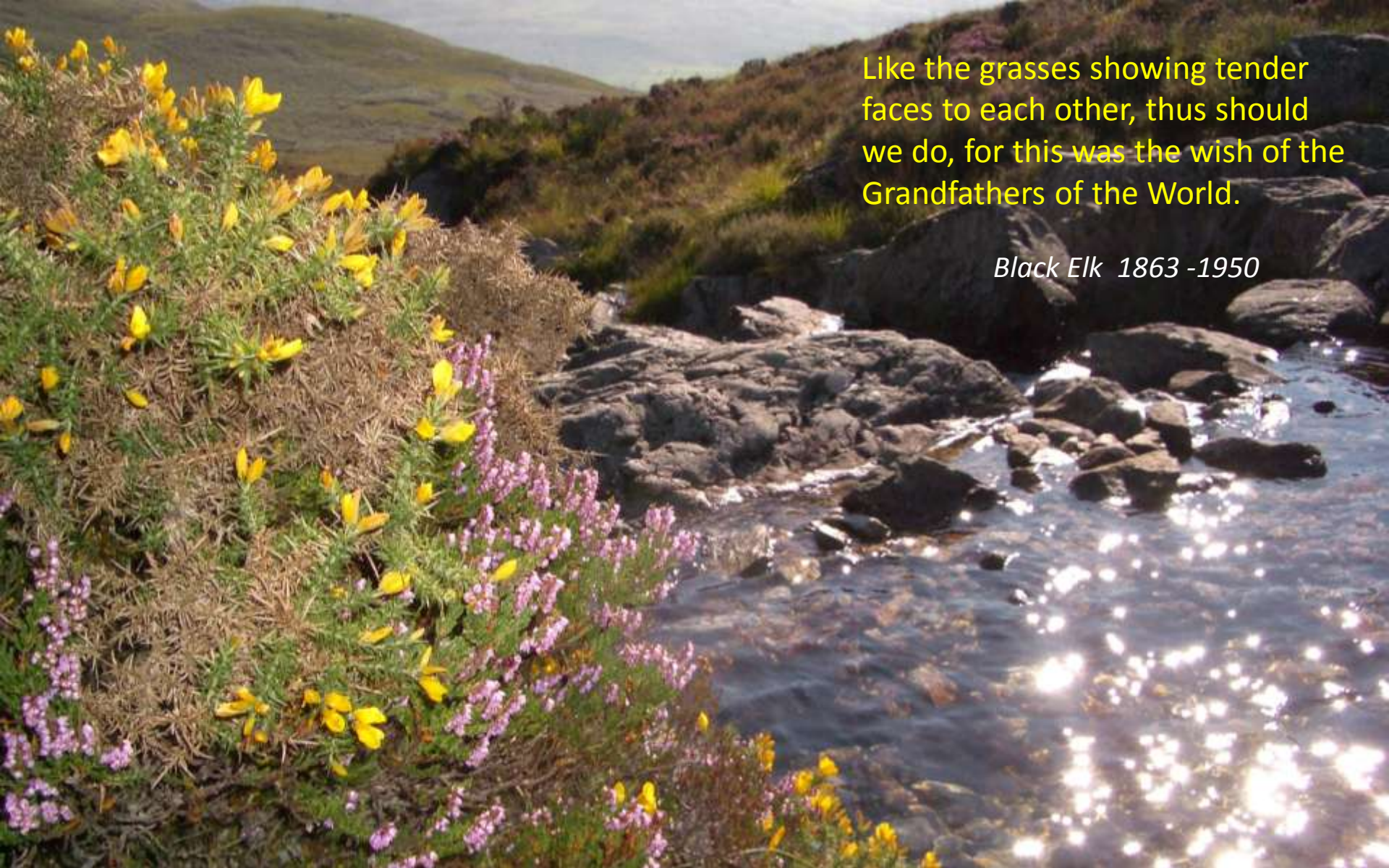
*Blackfeet Chief*





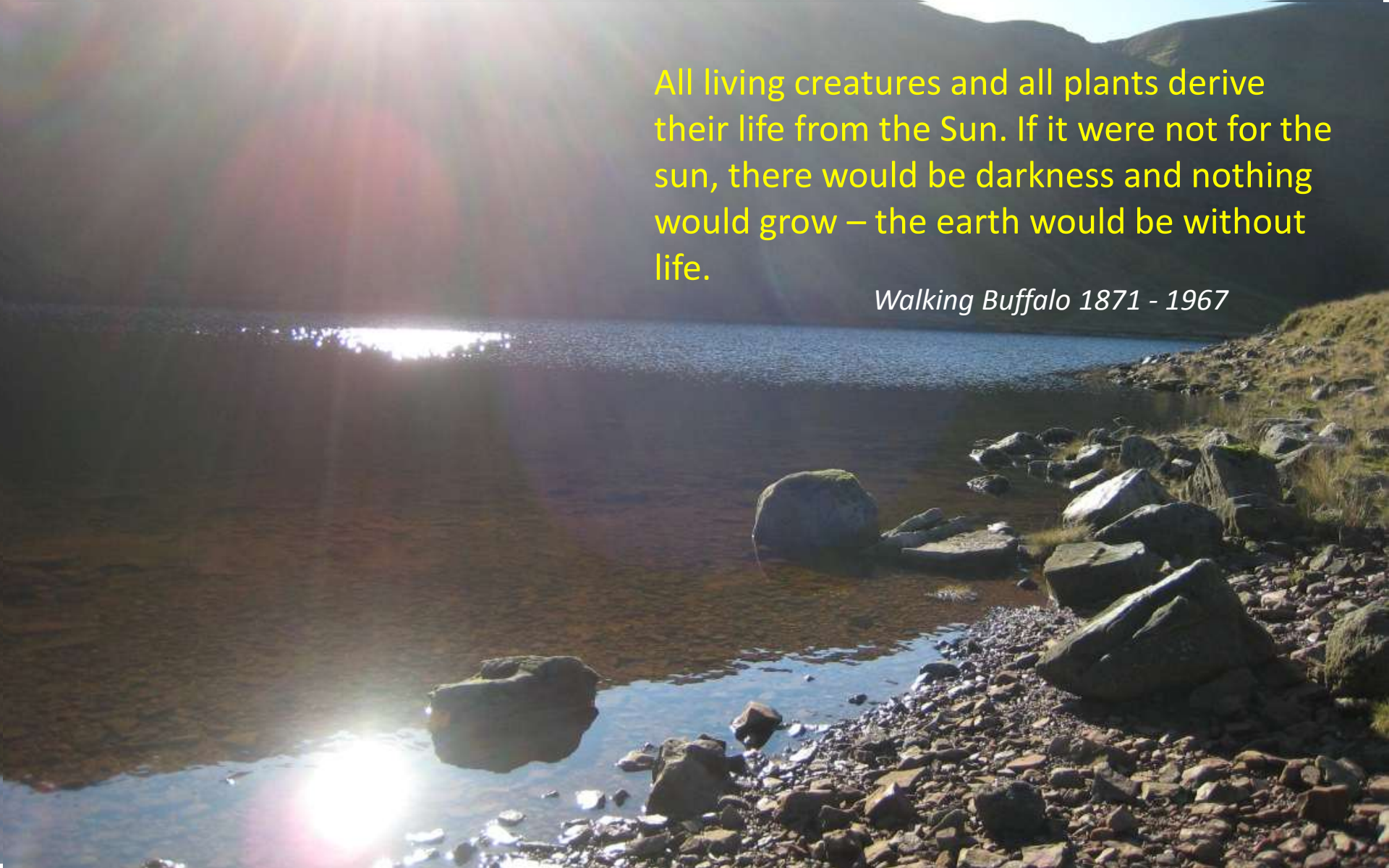
We saw the Great's Spirit's work in almost everything; sun, moon, trees, wind and mountains.

*Walking Buffalo 1871 - 1967*




Like the grasses showing tender faces to each other, thus should we do, for this was the wish of the Grandfathers of the World.

*Black Elk 1863 -1950*

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, a rocky shoreline with large boulders, and rolling hills or mountains in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright lens flare and reflecting off the water's surface. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

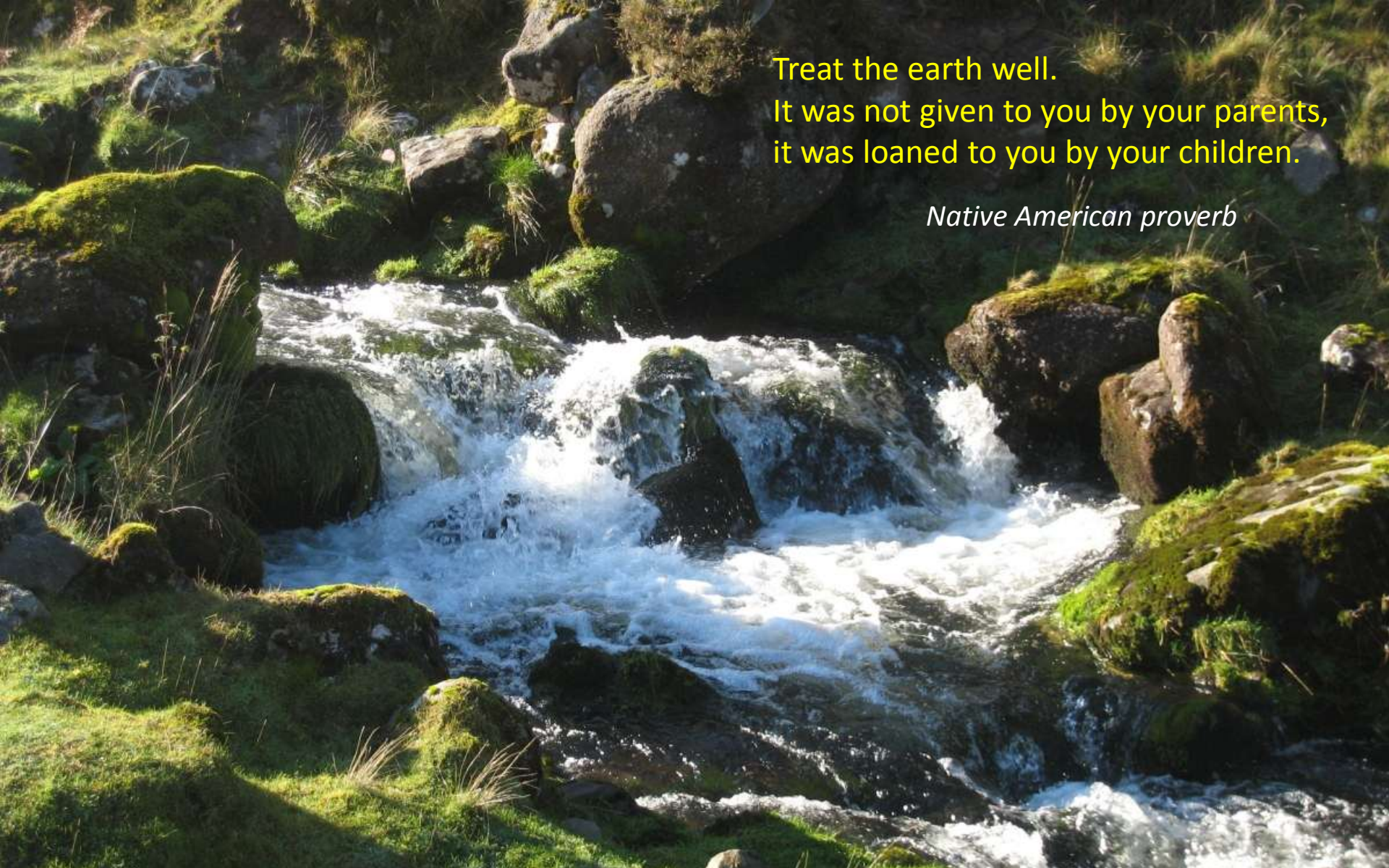
All living creatures and all plants derive their life from the Sun. If it were not for the sun, there would be darkness and nothing would grow – the earth would be without life.

*Walking Buffalo 1871 - 1967*

A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a valley. The river is surrounded by large, mossy rocks and lush green vegetation. The background shows rolling hills under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

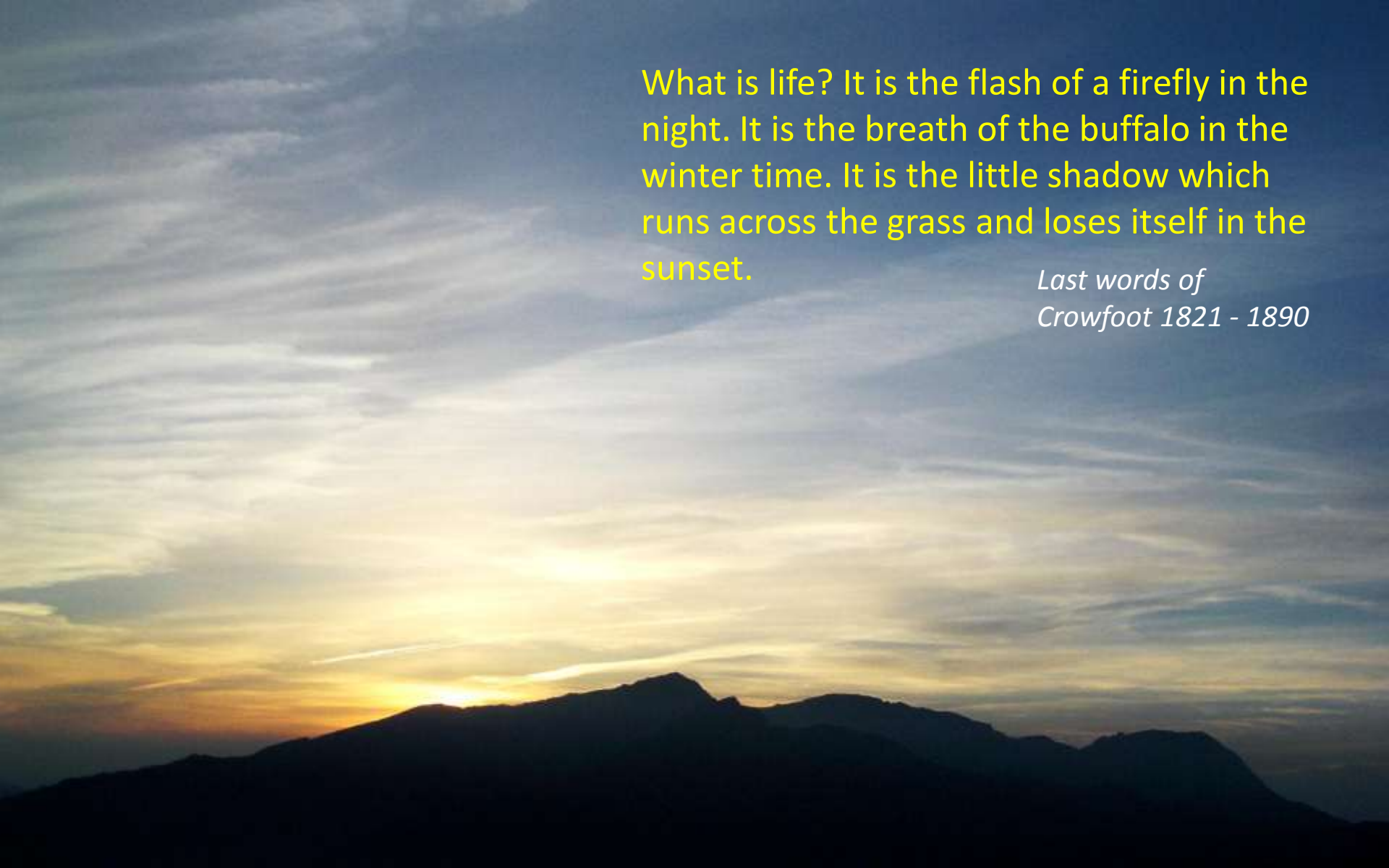
The man who sat on the ground meditating on life and its meaning, accepting the kinship of all creatures and acknowledging unity with the universe of things was infusing into his being the true essence of civilisation.

*Chief Luther Standing Bear*  
1868 - 1939



Treat the earth well.  
It was not given to you by your parents,  
it was loaned to you by your children.

*Native American proverb*

A photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright light. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of the buffalo in the winter time. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

*Last words of  
Crowfoot 1821 - 1890*

Thank you for joining us today, we hope you enjoyed it!



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