

Translation of the Traditional Opening  
Presented by Tadodaho Sidney Hill

This to us he has given our Creator, our way to be no matter the number of people at one place are gathered. It will be the first in order the thanksgiving address. It has become my duty to put through the first matter. Now then this day as it is, the sunlight as it is, that peaceful our minds should be. Now then this many of us people we are gathered here at this place as one. We put our minds together. First, we greet one another and give thanks let it be that way in our minds.

Now truly he has created this earth whom we call our Mother, whom we are thankful for. There he has planted all for our benefit, that is where we take from to keep us content. Now at this time she is still doing her duties that the Creator has given to her. Now then we respectfully put our minds together as one. We give thanks to our Mother Earth let it be that way in our minds.

Now then we are thankful for all the things he has set down for us, our Creator. That peacefully and content we will be as we walk about on earth. It is a great matter that here he has planted and also let loose, all the things and beings that will benefit all peoples. Now then we respectfully put our minds together as one. We give thanks to all things he has set down for us. Let it be that way in our minds.

Now then we give thanks that there are the gentle moving winds they make good air for us to breathe. Now we are told there is a mass, like a net covering, slowly turning from that source it is the moving winds circulating about. With great care and respect we put our minds together as one, we give thanks to the moving winds. Let it be that way in our minds.

Now he has separated things, he has given each one duties, these are special duties. He has given them each additional powers. The first one being our grandfathers the thundering voices in the direction of the setting sun. Now also our elder brother the sun and also our grandmother the moon and we include the stars. Now it is of great importance their duties. Now we are fortunate they are all still doing their duties in the sky. Now as one we give thanks that they are all still doing their duties in the sky. Now as one we give thanks that they are still doing their duties in the sky let it be that way in our minds.

Now he has selected four sky people who protect us. They come from a place where our Creator lives. When he was back on earth to inspect what he created. He noticed it would not be right to walk this land without protection for the land has all kinds of shapes. So he picked the four people who will protect us so that we won't have bad things happen. They have also the duty to keep our minds straight in good thoughts. Now it is very important the duties that they have been given. Now also we give thanks to our leader Handsome Lake. He brought the words of our Creator. Now we respectfully as one give thanks to the four protectors and also our leader Handsome Lake. Let it be that way on our minds.

Now what he has done our Creator he has decided that from the earth we will start when they give thanks and finish there at the place that he has made. He does not reduce the amount every day, every night the love and compassion he sends to us. We are fortunate he has given to us the original peoples a way to make things right. Now then we are very thankful that he still loves us. So, we kindly put our minds together as one. We thank the one who lives in the sky world our Creator. Let it be that way in our minds.

That is all.