

Pay Attention

by Joyce Johnson Rouse

Pay attention to the trees, pay attention to the river
Pay attention to the bees.....
Pay attention to the clouds, pay attention to the weather
Pay attention to everything you do to the Mother
We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestor
We are just borrowing it from our children,

Pay attention to the hills, pay attention to the water
Pay attention to the breeze...
Pay attention to the dreams, pay attention to the Wisdom
To the sisters and brother living close to the Earth
Whatever befalls the Earth befalls our sons and daughters
Whatever we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves.

Pay Attention to the birds, pay attention to the forests
Pay attention to the streams...
Pay attention to the snow, Pay attention to the glaciers
To the frostline and coastline, and coral beneath the sea
This we know: The Earth does not belong to us
We belongto the Earth.

Pay attention to the waves, pay attention to the ocean
Pay attention to the reefs.....
Pay attention to the heart, beating steady in the Mother
Or generations will pay for our ways.
We did not weave the Web of Life, we are merely a strand in it
Whatever we do to the Web, we do to ourselves.

Wisdom attributed to Chief Seattle

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