# Cherokee Teachings for Harmony and Balance: A Guide to Living in Harmony with the Natural World and Yourself

The Cherokee people have a rich and ancient culture that is steeped in the wisdom of the natural world. For centuries, they have passed down teachings that promote harmony and balance in all aspects of life. These teachings can help us to live more sustainable, fulfilling, and connected lives.

## The Seven Grandfather Teachings

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are a set of principles that guide the Cherokee people in their daily lives. They are:



### Walking on the Wind: Cherokee Teachings for Harmony

and Balance by Michael Tlanusta Garrett

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- 1. Humility: Be humble in your thoughts, words, and actions.
- 2. **Respect**: Respect yourself, others, and all living things.

- 3. Love: Love unconditionally, without judgment or expectation.
- 4. **Courage**: Be courageous in facing challenges and standing up for what you believe in.
- 5. **Honesty**: Be honest with yourself and others.
- 6. **Truth**: Speak the truth, even when it is difficult.
- 7. **Wisdom**: Seek wisdom from the elders and the world around you.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are interconnected and interdependent. When we live in accordance with these teachings, we create harmony and balance in our lives and in the world around us.

#### **The Four Directions**

The Cherokee people believe that there are four directions, each with its own unique qualities:

- 1. East: The east is the direction of new beginnings, light, and renewal.
- 2. South: The south is the direction of warmth, growth, and abundance.
- 3. West: The west is the direction of death, change, and mystery.
- 4. **North**: The north is the direction of wisdom, reflection, and introspection.

The four directions represent the different stages of the life cycle and the different aspects of human nature. By understanding the qualities of each direction, we can find balance and harmony in our lives.

#### The Medicine Wheel

The Medicine Wheel is a sacred symbol that represents the circle of life and the interconnectedness of all things. The wheel is divided into four quarters, each representing one of the four directions. The center of the wheel represents the Great Spirit, or Creator.

The Medicine Wheel can be used for healing, meditation, and divination. It can help us to understand our relationship to the natural world and to find our place in the universe.

## Living in Harmony with the Natural World

The Cherokee people believe that we are all part of the natural world and that we have a responsibility to live in harmony with it. We can do this by:

- Respecting the land and water.
- Hunting and fishing sustainably.
- Using plants and animals wisely.
- Protecting the environment.

When we live in harmony with the natural world, we are also living in harmony with ourselves. We are more likely to be healthy, happy, and fulfilled.

The Cherokee Teachings for Harmony and Balance offer a valuable guide for living a sustainable, fulfilling, and connected life. By following these teachings, we can create a world that is in harmony with nature and ourselves.

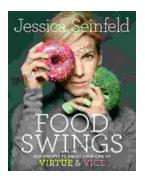
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