

AN INDIAN PRAYER

O' GREAT SPIRIT,

*whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world,
hear me!*

I am small and weak,

I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes

ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made

and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand

the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden

in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,

but to fight my greatest enemy--myself.

Make me always ready to come to you

with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset,

my spirit will come to you without shame.

Red Cloud Indian School
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota