

\* POETRY \*

The Great Mother's Lament

My people have been with me a long time  
They came to me.  
They sat on my lap,  
And we spoke with meaning.  
We learned to live together.  
They became my children.  
When they were hungry,  
I fed them.  
They took no more than needed.  
They wasted not. We shared.  
We became plentiful.

A short time ago,  
another people came to me.  
They ignored me and called me a thing.  
They took more than needed,  
and left the rest to rot.  
They pulled my hair,  
Never to grow again.  
They destroyed and changed my children.  
They poisoned me and my life streams.  
Yet, still they take.  
Soon, I shall give no more.

Atonwa  
Spring 77

Thirst

I thirst  
for more than  
the freshness of water.

I thirst  
for the unquenchable,  
knowledge that brings growth.  
But for the now,  
I thirst  
for even more,  
a nice cold brew  
or two  
or three  
or four  
or .....

Atonwa  
Summer 77

Fog

Fog  
Slow  
Dark.

Nothing  
moves,

Save  
an occasional  
light.

There  
then  
here.

Nothing left  
unshadowed

The cold  
enters  
the soul,

And leaves  
a numbness  
in the bone.

There bears  
a semblance  
of unreal  
season

to the senses.

Atonwa  
Fall 76

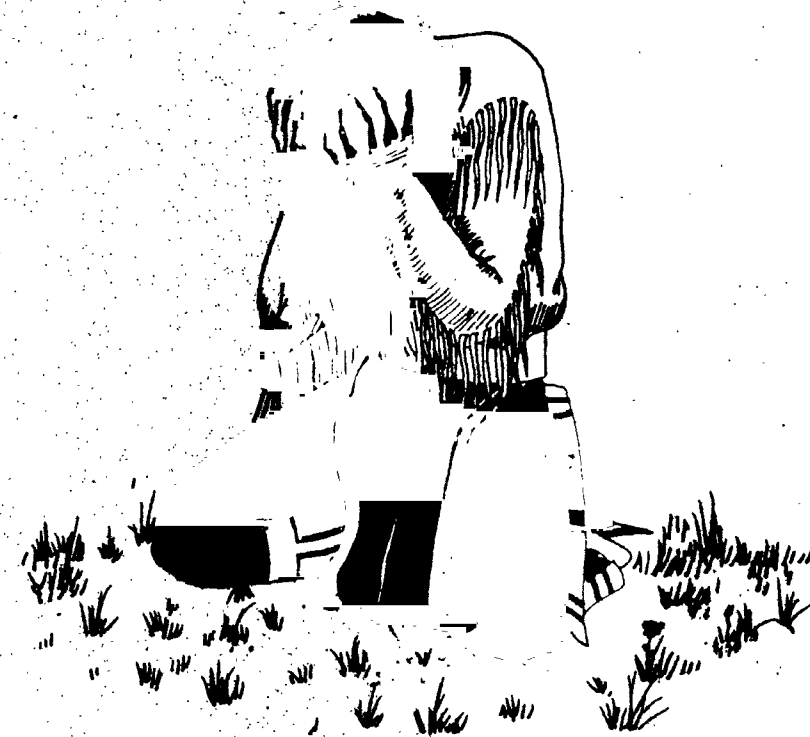


Photo Credit: Rokwabo

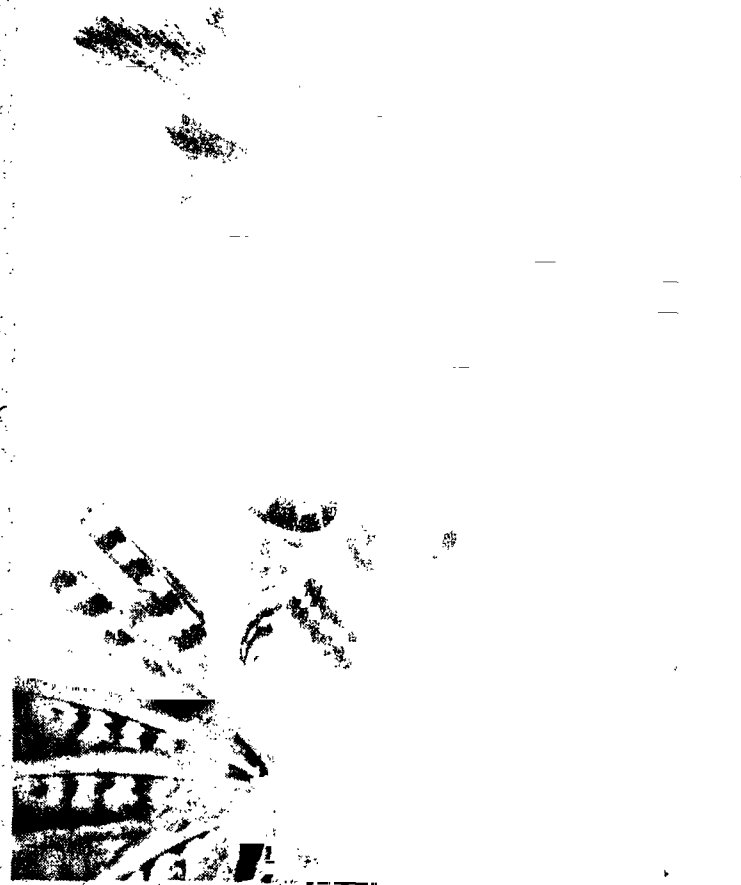


Photo Credit: Rokwabo

Maurice Kenny reading his poetry at the American Indian Lecture Series held at Potsdam State University.

Kaionwire Sky Thomas, son of Gesso & Velma Thomas

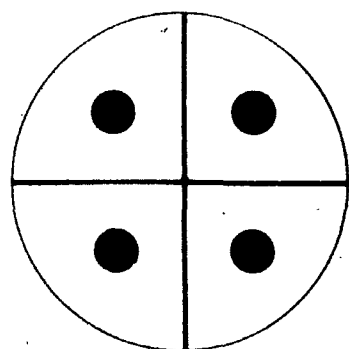
OSERANOHA — (Wolverine)

Under breeze  
in the light  
of the new moon of the wild strawberry  
into the roots  
and shadows  
of this clump of sumac  
I give you  
this old tooth  
so you  
will return it straight and strong.

tektatatenautron

June 1983  
Akwesasne  
Cornwall Island

MAURICE KENNY,



NORTH SUMMER  
For Leslie Silko

fireflies  
cedar song  
breeze on bat wings  
ruffled fur  
of hungry raccoon  
fighting trout  
in the stream  
flashing on shallow rocks

berries and honeysuckle  
on thick summer  
and grass wet with dew  
horse manure  
mushrooms glistening  
within hickory shadows

sumac and wisteria  
in the moonshine  
iris will bloom morning  
and pheasants  
rise in flight

10/8/76

Maurice Kenny 1982

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