

Native American Heritage Month



A Native American Journey Through Time

The Trust and the Stewardship
A painting by S. Denise Housley, Georgia Tribe Eastern Cherokee



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In the beginning, it is said that the Cherokee (meaning "the first people") came to the Earth from holes in the ground and they had nothing—starving, sick, cold and suffering. It is also said that the Earth, the plants, and the animals saw the peoples' suffering and had pity. The generous and compassionate earth and living things therein, decided to sacrifice themselves to provide all that the people needed and end their sufferings. And so it was that the first people and the Earth trusted in each other as a mother and child throughout the phases of life: a perpetual trust that the Earth will provide and the

people will respect, conserve, and protect the soil, water, air, trees, plants and animals in their service. They are forever interdependent and intertwined—Trust and Stewardship. This painting depicts the perpetual trust of Mother Earth pouring forth her bounty from the Earth's soils, waters, forests and seas. Mother Earth has sacrificed this for the people since the beginning; providing all throughout the phases of our lives. Our births—our new moons. Our prosperous life—our full moons. And, at the close of our life—our waning moon. Thus, the title of this painting is: "The Trust and the Stewardship."

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