

"Opening yourself to
another worldview
will assist you
in understanding
what occurs
both in and outside
of native communities."

--Lakota Elder Dottie LeBeau

“To encounter the sacred is to be alive at the deepest center of human existence. Sacred places are the truest definitions of the earth; they stand for the earth immediately and forever; they are its flags and shields.

earth for what it really is, places. At Devil’s Tower Chelly or the Cahokia touch the pulse planet; you feel You become one pervades geologic time

If you would know the learn it through its sacred or Canyon de Mounds, you of the living its breath upon you. with a spirit that and space.”

A portrait of N. Scott Momaday, an older man with glasses, wearing a light blue denim shirt and a tan cowboy hat. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a textured, light brown wall.

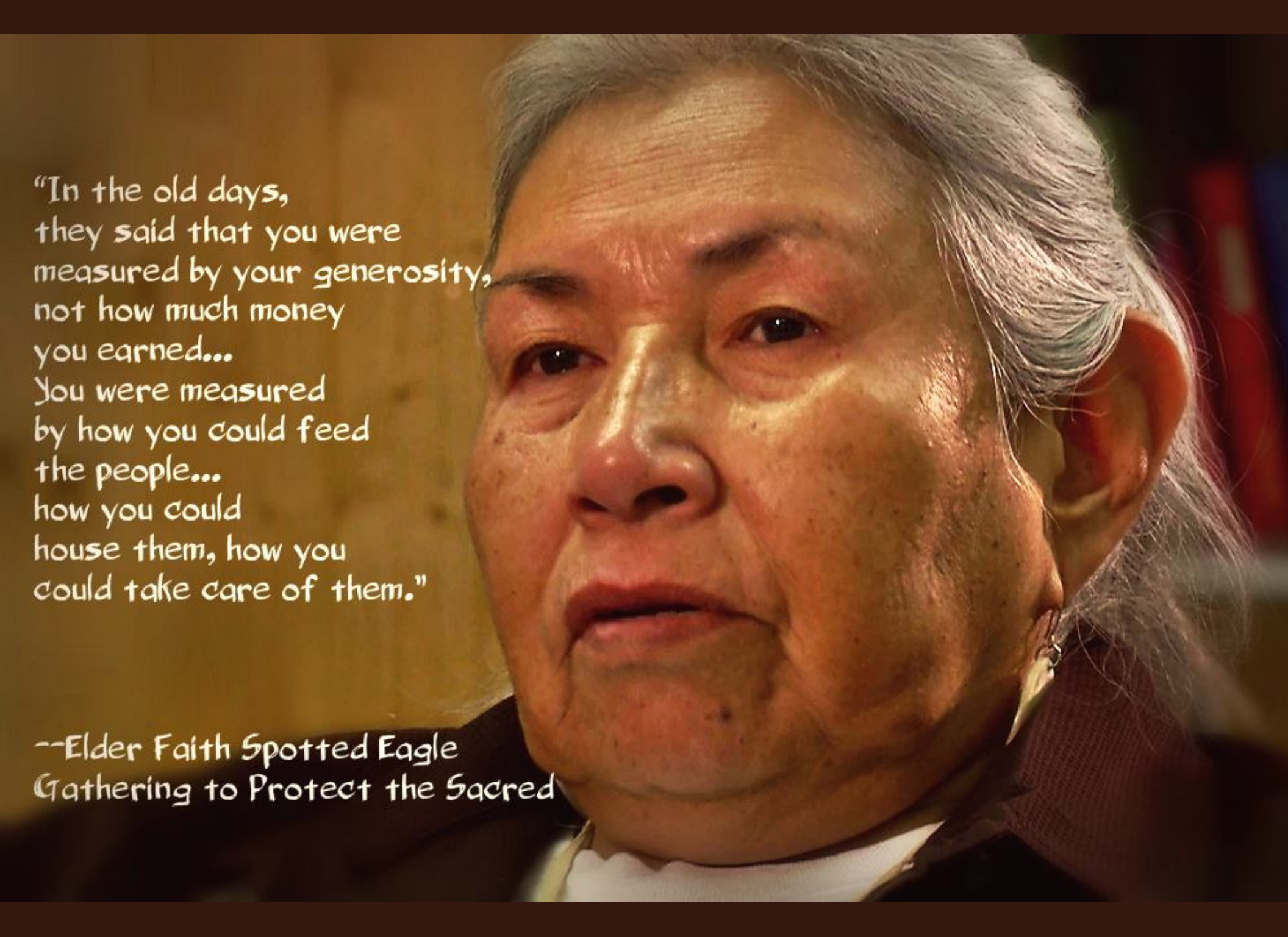
N. Scott Momaday

A close-up portrait of an elderly man, identified as Elder David Bald Eagle. He is wearing a black baseball cap with the text "WV 1941 VETERAN" and a small American flag on the left side. He is also wearing a plaid shirt and a purple scarf. His hands are clasped in front of him, and he has a serious expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden structure.

**OUR LAW IS THE
LAW OF NATURE...**


**AND YOU NEVER
CAN GO WRONG
WITH THE
LAW OF NATURE.**

ELDER DAVID BALD EAGLE

A close-up portrait of an elderly woman with short, wavy grey hair. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of her skin and her hair. She is wearing a dark-colored top with a white collar visible at the bottom.

"In the old days,
they said that you were
measured by your generosity,
not how much money
you earned...
You were measured
by how you could feed
the people...
how you could
house them, how you
could take care of them."

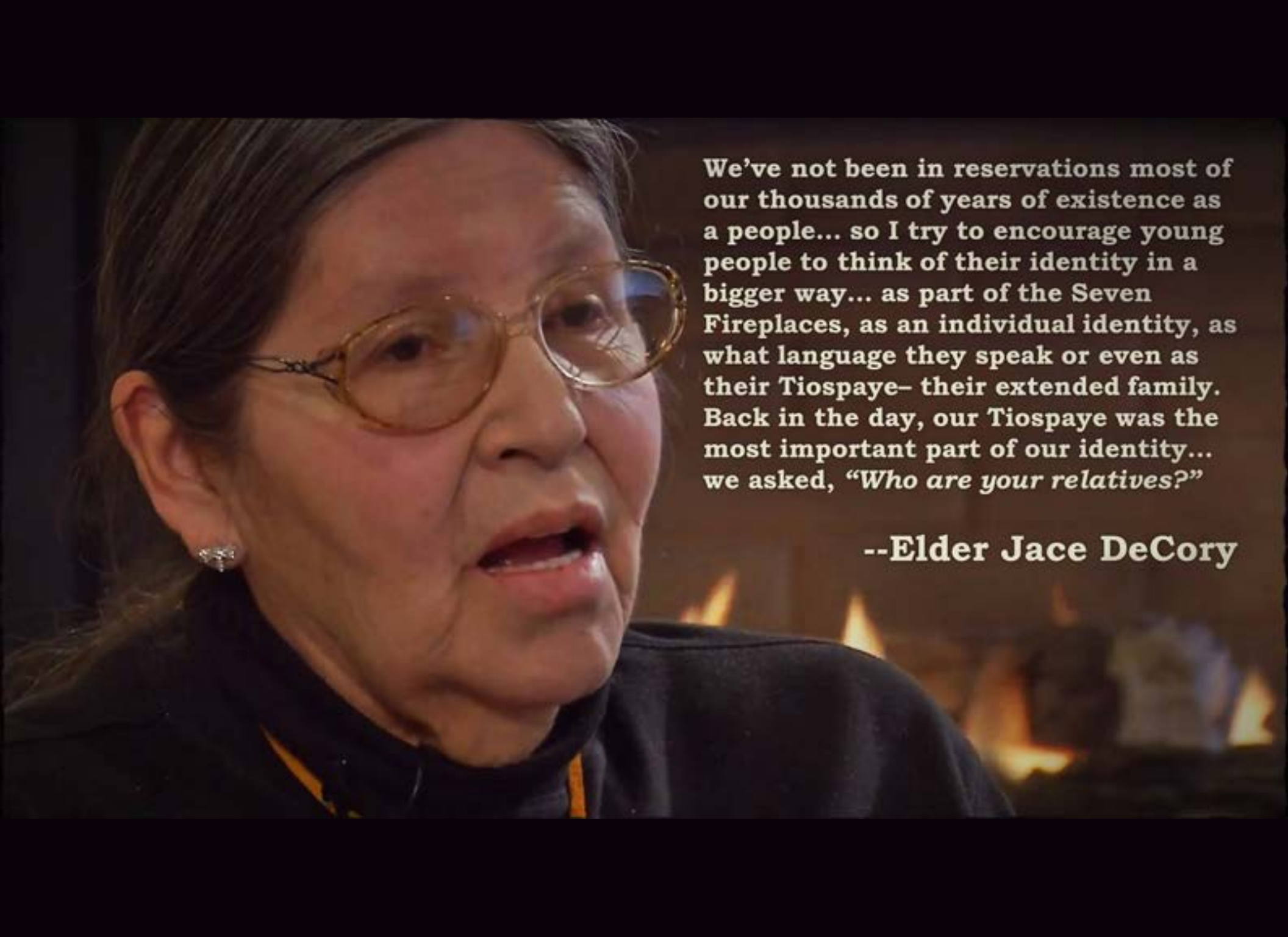
--Elder Faith Spotted Eagle
Gathering to Protect the Sacred

A close-up portrait of Elder Duane Hollow Horn Bear, an elderly man with long, straight white hair. He is wearing a red, textured garment, possibly a traditional Native American tunic, with a large, circular, light-colored ornament at the collar. The background is dark and out of focus, with some warm, glowing light sources on the left side, suggesting an indoor setting with a fire or candles.

You are but a mere speck
in the vastness of all Creation.
Sometimes you feel unimportant,
but to Creation, you are
important...

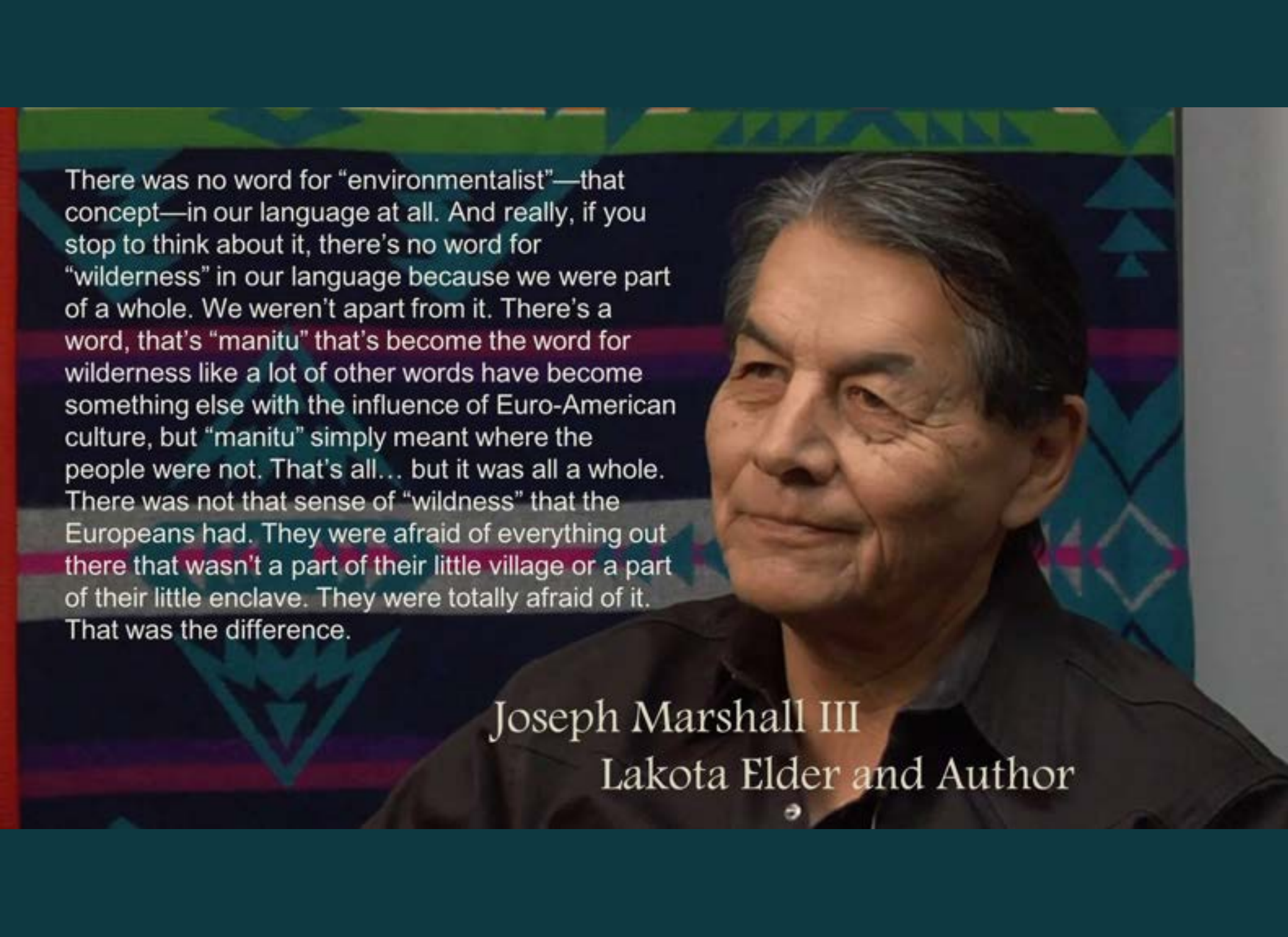
Creation needs you...
and you need Creation, and the
stories will guide you, help you
to learn, help you to understand...

Elder Duane Hollow Horn Bear

A close-up photograph of an elderly woman with grey hair, wearing glasses and a dark blue turtleneck sweater. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some warm, glowing light sources.

We've not been in reservations most of our thousands of years of existence as a people... so I try to encourage young people to think of their identity in a bigger way... as part of the Seven Fireplaces, as an individual identity, as what language they speak or even as their Tiospaye- their extended family. Back in the day, our Tiospaye was the most important part of our identity... we asked, *"Who are your relatives?"*

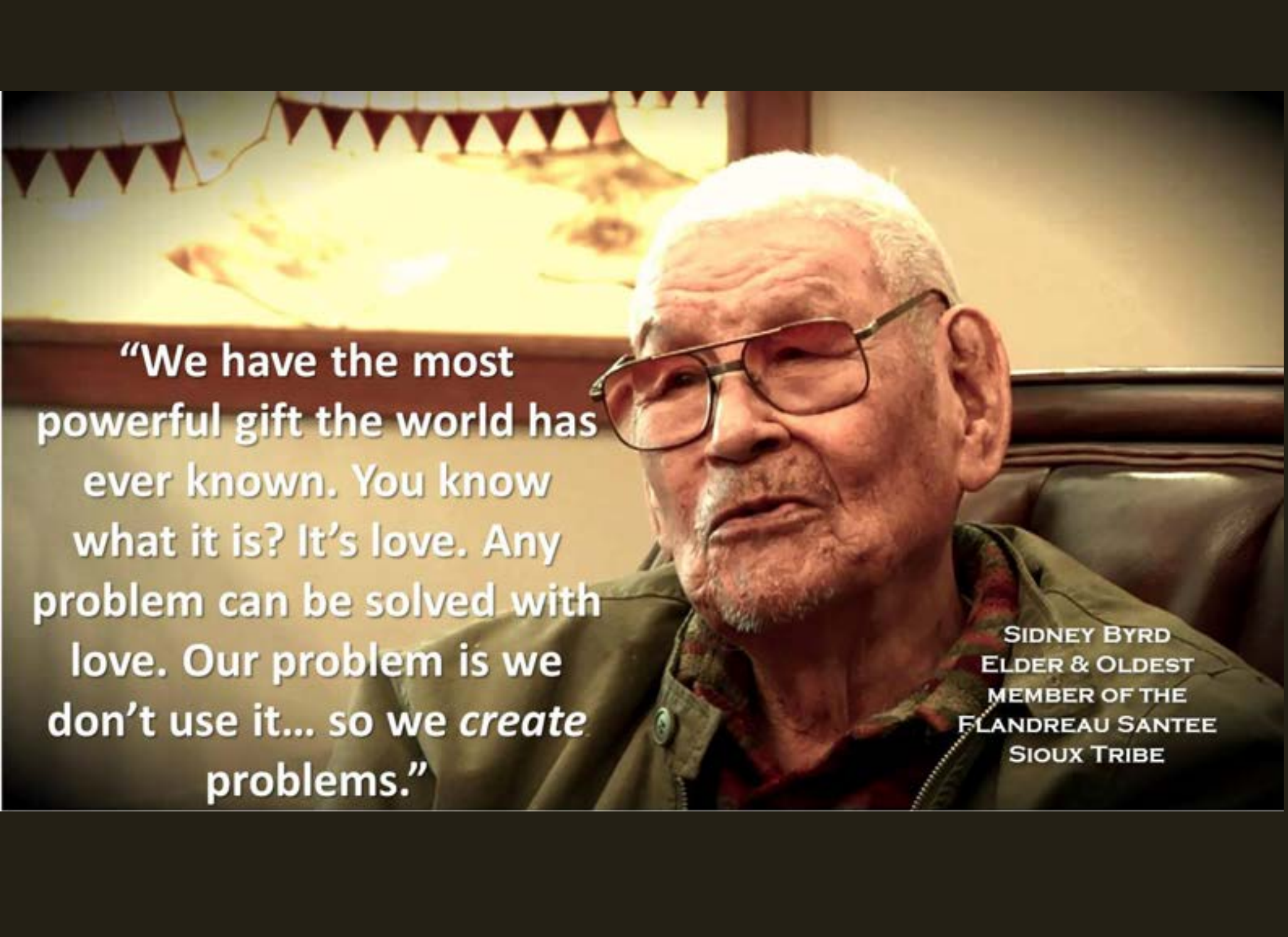
--Elder Jace DeCory



There was no word for “environmentalist”—that concept—in our language at all. And really, if you stop to think about it, there’s no word for “wilderness” in our language because we were part of a whole. We weren’t apart from it. There’s a word, that’s “manitu” that’s become the word for wilderness like a lot of other words have become something else with the influence of Euro-American culture, but “manitu” simply meant where the people were not. That’s all... but it was all a whole. There was not that sense of “wildness” that the Europeans had. They were afraid of everything out there that wasn’t a part of their little village or a part of their little enclave. They were totally afraid of it. That was the difference.

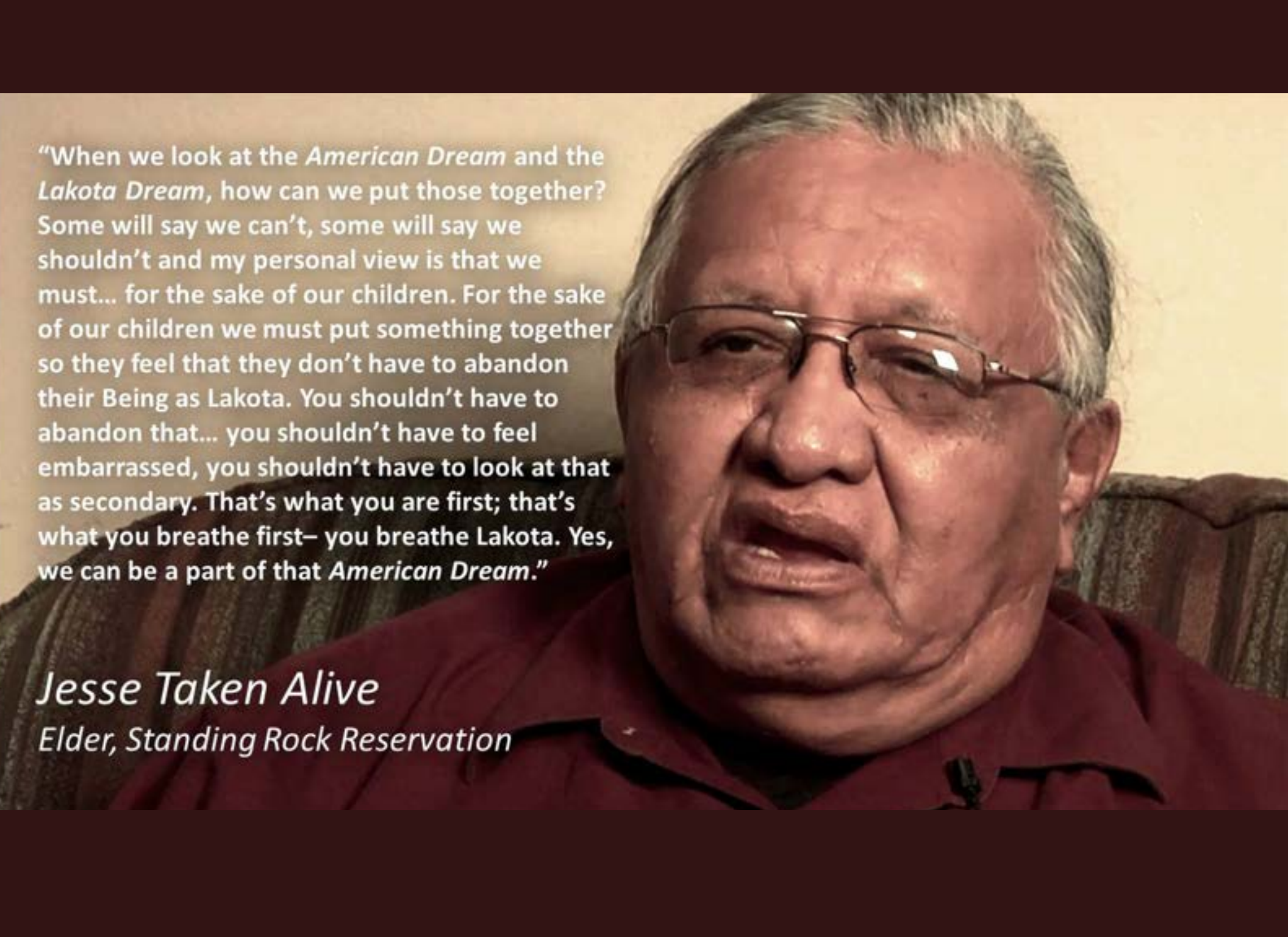
Joseph Marshall III

Lakota Elder and Author

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a green jacket over a patterned shirt. The background is warm and slightly blurred, showing a string of triangular bunting flags and a large, glowing light fixture.

“We have the most powerful gift the world has ever known. You know what it is? It’s love. Any problem can be solved with love. Our problem is we don’t use it... so we *create* problems.”

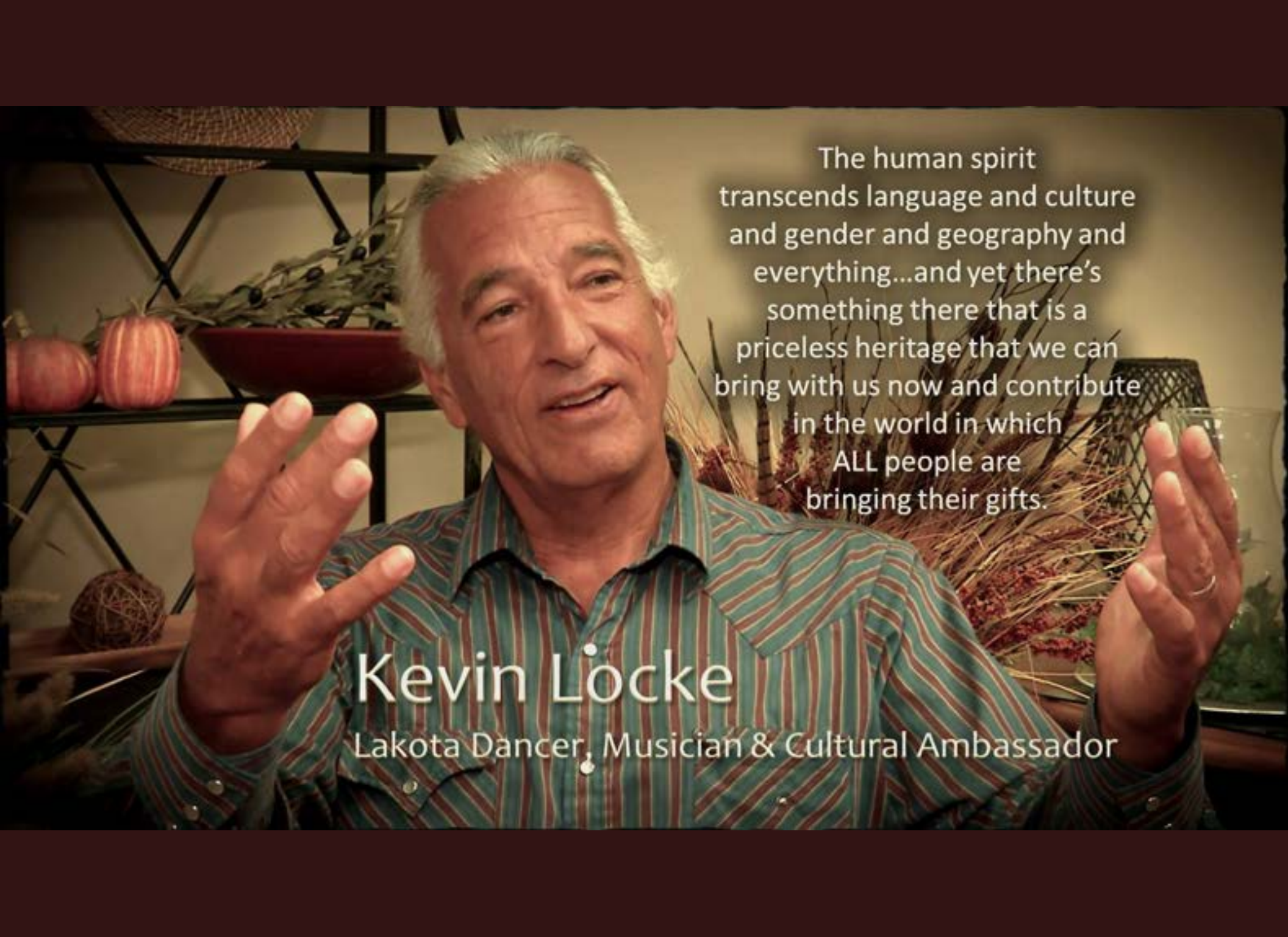
SIDNEY BYRD
ELDER & OLDEST
MEMBER OF THE
FLANDREAU SANTEE
SIOUX TRIBE



"When we look at the *American Dream* and the *Lakota Dream*, how can we put those together? Some will say we can't, some will say we shouldn't and my personal view is that we must... for the sake of our children. For the sake of our children we must put something together so they feel that they don't have to abandon their Being as Lakota. You shouldn't have to abandon that... you shouldn't have to feel embarrassed, you shouldn't have to look at that as secondary. That's what you are first; that's what you breathe first— you breathe Lakota. Yes, we can be a part of that *American Dream*."

Jesse Taken Alive

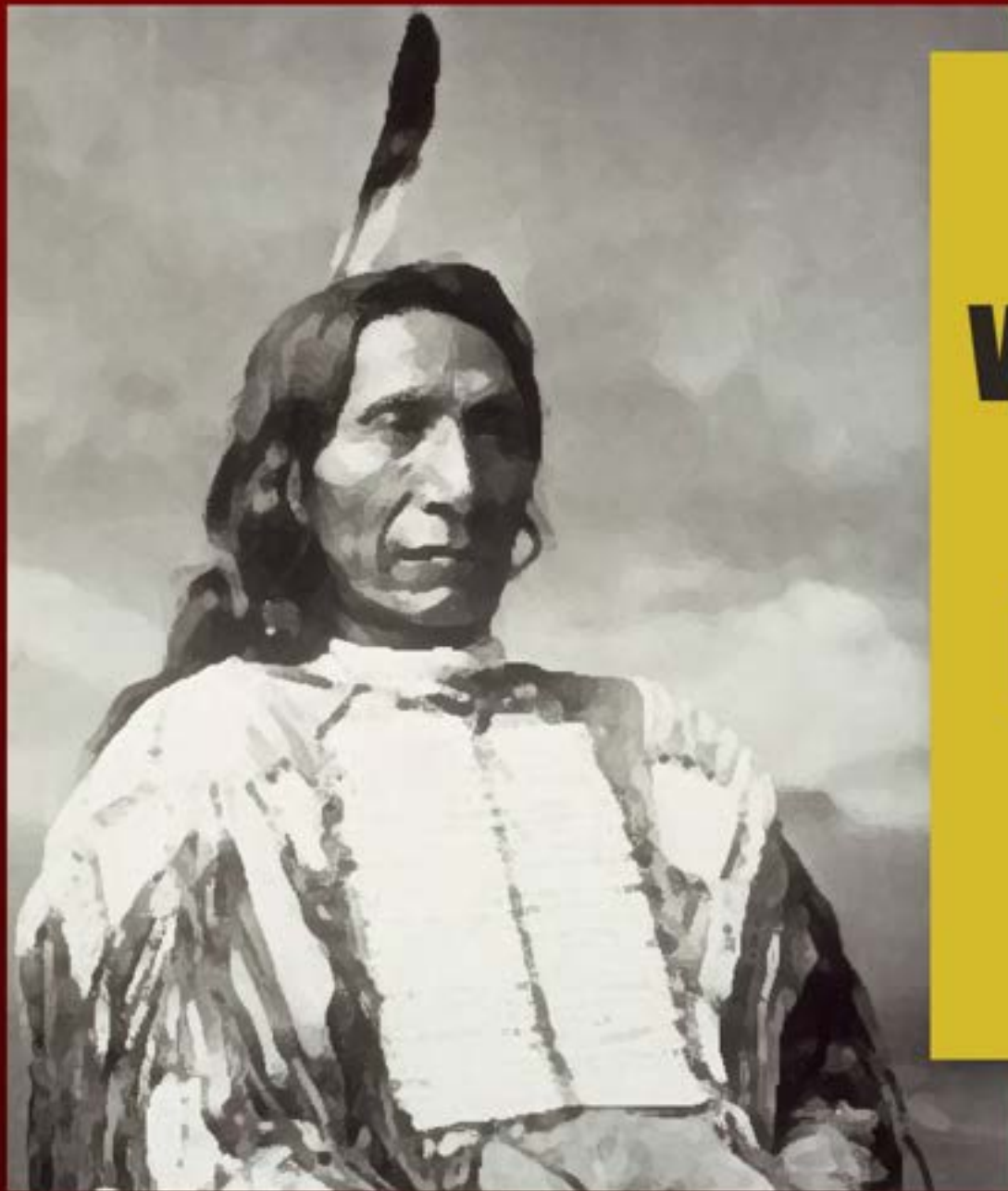
Elder, Standing Rock Reservation

A middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a green and brown striped shirt, is speaking and gesturing with his hands raised. He is in a room with a black metal shelving unit in the background. On the shelves, there are several pumpkins, a bowl of dried herbs, and a decorative arrangement of dried grasses and berries. The lighting is warm and focused on the man.

The human spirit
transcends language and culture
and gender and geography and
everything...and yet there's
something there that is a
priceless heritage that we can
bring with us now and contribute
in the world in which
ALL people are
bringing their gifts.

Kevin Locke

Lakota Dancer, Musician & Cultural Ambassador



**We do not
want riches,
we want
peace and
love.**

Red Cloud

Let Us Put Our Minds
Together And See
What Life We Can Make
For Our Children



Sitting Bull