

PRAYER FOR THE GREAT FAMILY
by Gary Snyder *(after a Mohawk prayer)*

Gratitude to Mother Earth,
sailing thru night and day—
and to her soil: rich, rare and sweet
in our minds so be it.

Gratitude to Plants,
the sun-facing light-
changing leaf and fine root hairs;
standing still through wind and rain;
their dance is in the flowing spiral grain
in our minds so be it.

Gratitude to Air, bearing the soaring swift
and the silent Owl at dawn.
Breath of our song
clear spirit breeze
in our minds so be it.

Gratitude to Wild Beings, our brothers,
teaching secrets, freedoms and ways;
who share with us their milk;
self-complete, brave, and aware
in our minds so be it.

Gratitude to the Water: clouds, lakes, rivers, glaciers;
holding or releasing;
streaming through all our bodies salty seas
in our minds so be it.

Gratitude to the Sun: blinding pulsing light through
trunks of trees, through mists,
warming caves where bears and snakes sleep—
he who wakes us—
in our minds so be it.

Gratitude to the Great Sky
who holds billions of stars—
and yet goes beyond that—
beyond all powers, and thoughts,
and yet is within us—
Grandfather Space,
And Grandmother Mind is his Wife
so be it.

