

LAKOTA CODE OF ETHICS



- 1 **PRAY.** Rise with the sun to pray. Pray alone. Pray often. The Great Spirit will listen, if you only speak.
- 2 **BE TOLERANT** of those who are lost on their path. Ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy - and greed stem from a lost soul. Pray that they will find guidance.
- 3 **SEARCH YOURSELF, BY YOURSELF.** Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road, and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.
- 4 **RESPECT & HONOR GUESTS.** Treat the guests in your home with much consideration. Serve them the best food, give them the best bed and treat them with respect and honor.
- 5 **DO NOT TAKE WHAT IS NOT YOURS** whether from a person, a community, the wilderness or from a culture. It was not earned nor given. It is not yours.
- 6 **RESPECT ALL THINGS** that are placed upon this earth - whether it be people or plant.
- 7 **HONOR** other people's thoughts, wishes and words. Never interrupt another or mock or rudely mimic them. Allow each person the right to personal expression.
- 8 **NEVER SPEAK OF OTHERS IN A BAD WAY.** The negative energy that you put out into the universe will multiply when it returns to you.
- 9 All persons make mistakes. And **ALL MISTAKES CAN BE FORGIVEN.**
- 10 **BAD THOUGHTS CAUSE ILLNESS** of the mind, body and spirit. Practice optimism.

11

NATURE IS A PART OF US. Nature is not FOR us, it is a PART of us. They are part of your worldly family.

12

CHILDREN ARE SEEDS OF THE FUTURE. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons. When they are grown, give them space to grow.

13

AVOID HURTING the hearts of others. The poison of your pain will return to you.

14

BE TRUTHFUL AT ALL TIMES. Honesty is the test of ones will within this universe.

15

KEEP YOURSELF BALANCED. Your Mental self, Spiritual self, Emotional self, and Physical self - all need to be strong, pure and healthy. Work out the body to strengthen the mind. Grow rich in spirit to cure emotional ails.

16

MAKE CONSCIOUS DECISIONS as to who you will be and how you will react. Be responsible for your own actions.

17

RESPECT THE PRIVACY & PERSONAL SPACE OF OTHERS. Do not touch the personal property of others - especially sacred and religious objects. This is forbidden.

18

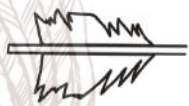
BE TRUE TO YOURSELF FIRST. You cannot nurture and help others if you cannot nurture and help yourself first.

19

RESPECT OTHERS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. Do not force your belief on others.

20

SHARE your good fortune with others.



12 LAKOTA VIRTUES

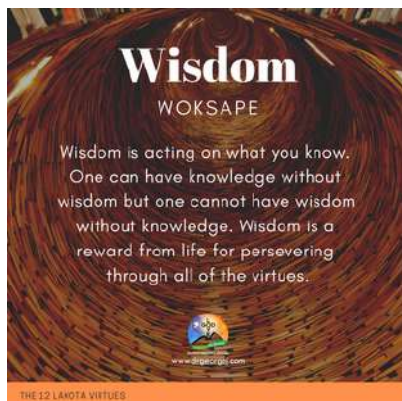



Love
CANTOGNAKE

Love rules over all things. The whole universe exists because of love, it is the motive of all creation. Love represents the balance that exists in everything. The ultimate love is spiritual joy which is responsible for life.



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Wisdom
WOKSAPE

Wisdom is acting on what you know. One can have knowledge without wisdom but one cannot have wisdom without knowledge. Wisdom is a reward from life for persevering through all of the virtues.



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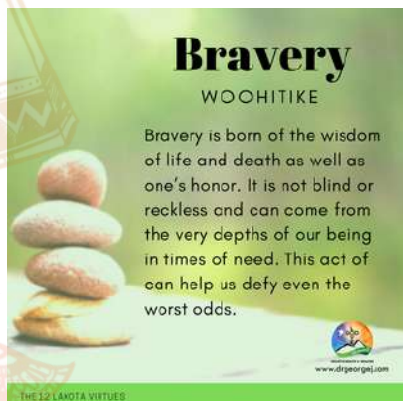


Sacrifice
ICICUPI

The fruit of love is sacrifice. In the beginning the Creator sacrificed Himself to make all that there is and through this humble act we can understand the significance of offering ourselves.



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Bravery
WOOHITKE

Bravery is born of the wisdom of life and death as well as one's honor. It is not blind or reckless and can come from the very depths of our being in times of need. This act of can help us defy even the worst odds.


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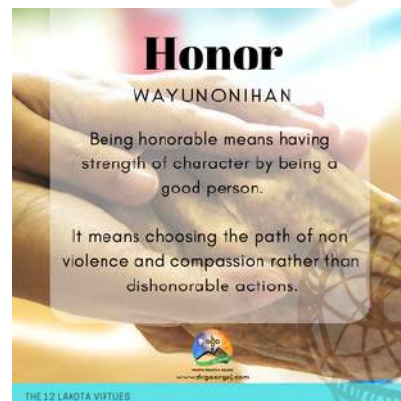


Compassion
WAUNSILAPI

Doing what is right in caring for others as you would yourself is what makes a person compassionate.


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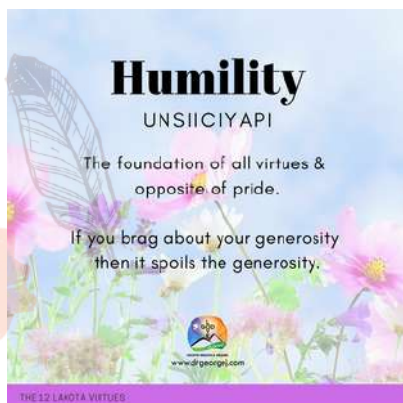
Honor
WAYUNONIHAN

Being honorable means having strength of character by being a good person.

It means choosing the path of non violence and compassion rather than dishonorable actions.


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Humility
UNSIICIYAPI

The foundation of all virtues & opposite of pride.

If you brag about your generosity then it spoils the generosity.


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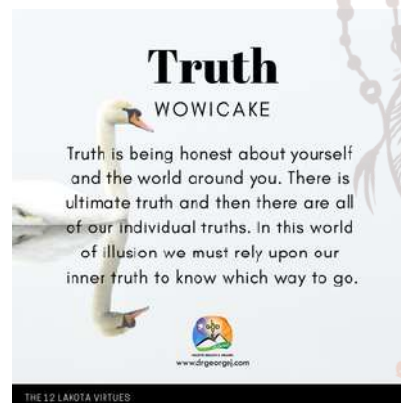


Respect
WAWOOHOLA

A basic teaching among all tribes was that of respect towards all beings (sentient and insentient). In our present culture this important virtue has become lost with a general message of excess.



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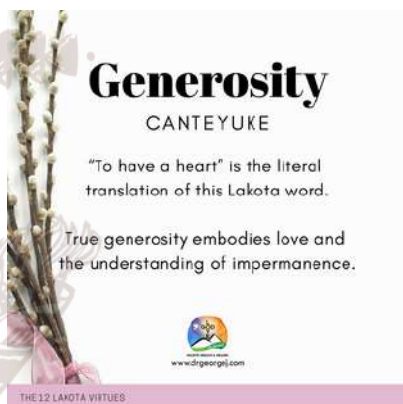


Truth
WOWICAKE

Truth is being honest about yourself and the world around you. There is ultimate truth and then there are all of our individual truths. In this world of illusion we must rely upon our inner truth to know which way to go.


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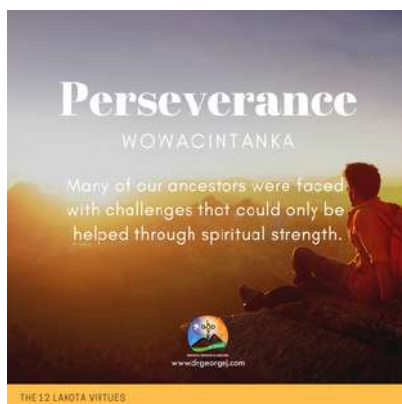
Generosity
CANTEYUKE

"To have a heart" is the literal translation of this Lakota word.

True generosity embodies love and the understanding of impermanence.



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Perseverance
WOWACINTANKA

Many of our ancestors were faced with challenges that could only be helped through spiritual strength.


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Fortitude
CANTEWASAKE

It is a quiet, gentle voice of a Grandmother with deep faith, trust, and understanding.


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Many blessings as we lead with Love!

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