



Weaving: photo, Cetta Kenney

*O our mother the earth, O our father the sky,
Your children are we, and with tired backs
We bring you the gifts that you love.
Then weave for us a garment of brightness;
May the warp be the white lightning of morning,
May the weft be the red light of evening,
May the fringes be the falling rain,
May the border be the standing rainbow.
Thus weave for us a garment of brightness
That we may walk fittingly where grass is green,
O our mother the earth, O our father the sky.*

This prayer is traditional among the Tewa Pueblo peoples. The Tewa language is a branch of the Kiowa-Tanoan family. Today six Northern Tewa towns and villages are still occupied: Hano (in Arizona) and Nambe, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, and Tesuque (all in New Mexico, near Santa Fe).

This prayer is taken, with the permission of the editors, from Earth Prayers from around the world: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring the Earth. Eds., Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon. San Francisco: Harpers, 1991.