

# ICWG Eco-Spirituality Resources

## Prayers

This is a collection of prayers that may not be available on the internet

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### *Thomas John Carlisle*

Help us to harness  
the wind,  
the water,  
the sun,  
and all the ready  
and renewable sources of power.

Teach us to conserve,  
preserve,  
use wisely  
the blessed treasures  
of our wealth-stored earth.

Help us to share  
your bounty,  
not to waste it,  
or pervert it  
into peril  
for our children  
or our neighbours  
in other nations

You who are life  
and energy  
and blessing,  
teach us to revere  
and respect  
your tender world.

Amen

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### **Unknown**

Creator God, we worship you as the One who creates and recreates his people.

In a world that is slowly waking up to its duty to care for creation, slowly becoming aware of the damage we inflict upon the planet, beginning to fear for the future of the earth, let the disturbing truth become ever more clear, in order that a deeper hope may become ever more real.

In a world where talking about our environment fails to lead to action, where bold pledges are shallow publicity stunts, where urgent steps are postponed because of their political cost, let our lives reflect our claims in order that our promises may ring true.

In a world where guilt or indifference or despair prevent us from being stewards of creation and worthy heralds of the Gospel, let us worship our Creator in Spirit and in truth, in order that our lives and the life of the world may be remade.

Lord God of heaven and earth, who was creating and is creating, make our lives into signs of hope that point to you, the Creator and Redeemer of the world.

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### **Climate Challenge Prayer**

God, Creator and Sustainer,

Free us from ignorance about your gift of Earth.

Inspire us to act together in respect for your gift and change our ways as we relate to the Earth's rhythms with humility.

May we welcome the truth when scientists speak of climate change, and reject false pathways designed to confuse.

At this point in history, help us to urge our politicians to take moral decisions and urgent action in negotiating sustainable living.

Ground all our thoughts in your revealing scriptures and the wisdom of holy men and women who have gone before us to help build the new creation as followers of your Cosmic Son.

Give us a discerning spirit to work with ecological and the human, the social and the economic realities of this world, and instill in us a spirit of respect and compassion able to imagine pathways of harmony. Amen.

Fr Charles Rue

Coordinator of Columban JPIC Australia

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### **Prayer used at the ICWG Meeting in Rome, February 15, 2010**

God our creator, we are aware of the sins committed daily against our mother earth and against all of humanity. Lord, forgive the injustice we have done to our Creation. Let us pray to the Lord: Lord hear our prayer

Lord, give us the grace to respect and protect your Creation and to take bold steps to eradicate the wounds inflicted on the earth and on all humanity. Let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us ask the Lord to give us the grace to admire and experience His love in every created thing. Let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for ourselves, that each one of us may be filled with awe of God's Creation. Let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray that we may continue breathing God's breath into our relationship with God's nature and with the people who are part of our lives. Let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer

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**Catholic Earthcare Australia, 2002**

God of the sun and the moon,

Of the mountains, desserts and plains,  
God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams,  
God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air,  
Of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth.

We are formed by Christ into your People  
Called to bring the world into your marvelous light,  
As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation,  
We are entrusted with caring for this Earth that you have created.

Help us to love and respect it,  
To repair what we have damaged,  
To care for what you have make good and holy,  
Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds,  
Our hearts and our ways.

Let us be mustard seeds in our world,  
Bringing about ecological conversion which grows and  
Spreads to every corner of the Earth.  
We ask this, through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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**From 'The Cry of the Earth' – Irish Bishop's Conference**

God our Creator,  
You have given us  
the earth,  
and the sky and the seas.

Show us the way  
to care for the earth,  
not just for today  
but for ages to come.  
Let no plan or work  
of ours damage  
or destroy  
the beauty  
of your creation.

Send forth your spirit  
to direct us,  
to care for the earth  
and all creation.  
Amen

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## **Joseph Mary Plunkett**

I see his blood upon the rose  
And in the stars, the glory of his eyes,  
His body gleams amid eternal snows,  
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;  
The thunder and the singing of the birds  
Are but his voice – and carved by his power  
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,  
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,  
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,  
His cross is every tree.

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## **Jane Deren (2009)**

Your creative love, O God, brought forth our world,  
Once a garden where humans  
Could taste and see the goodness of the earth.

But our eyes have been blinded  
To the beauty of creation,  
To the knowledge that it is Gift,  
One given so that all human beings may live and flourish.

Our indifference changes the world;  
Even mighty glaciers weep now.  
Our disregard for our sisters and brothers  
Threatens the very skies above us.  
Our passivity begins to choke us, and  
The excess of our lifestyles blot out the sun.

Call us to renewal, to stewardship;  
Call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures.  
Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains to us;  
Give us new spiritual energy to become active  
In loving the world through our daily life;  
Give us new voices to speak out for environmental solidarity.

Bless us again with the gift  
Or being a joyful community;  
Bless us with a love of your Creation  
And we will glimpse your Eden once again.

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## **Jane Deren (2)**

God of Justice and love,  
We pause a moment to call to mind that we are in your presence.  
We pause to thank you for the many blessings you offer us:  
the sun,  
the spring,  
the smile and greeting of a neighbour,  
the love of family and friends,  
the community we are to one another.

We pause to remember that we live in a world  
which is not yet as you would have it, despite all  
our advances of culture and technology.  
We still place profit and gain before people and our environment.

We wage war on our sisters and brothers,  
whether it take the form of sanctions or suicide bombings.  
Men and women continue to live without the most basic necessities:  
Shelter,  
Food,  
The opportunity to work,  
The most basic health care.

To live with eyes open is to see a world  
which groans under the burden of oppression.  
And yet, we pause to remind ourselves that hope  
has always shined through the cracks of our broken world.

We pray that you grant us the grace to be ministers of this hope,  
That we may shine in your service,  
That we may be yeast to a world in need of lifting,  
Agitation to a world which can rest too easy in false comfort,  
Agents of empowerment to those who feel they have none.

We pray that our world will awake from blindness,  
ignorance, and apathy and reawaken with new vision, compassion, and action.  
We pray that we may be instruments to your will.  
That through our work the world may know you, your power, and most importantly, your love.  
Amen

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God of the sun and the moon,  
Of the mountains, desserts and plains,  
God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams,  
God of all creatures that live in seas and fly in the air,  
Of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth.  
We are formed by Christ into Your People,  
Called to bring the world into your marvelous light,  
As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation,  
We are entrusted with caring for this Earth that you have created.  
Help us to love and respect it,

To repair what we have damaged,  
To care for what you have made good and holy,  
Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds,  
Our hearts and our ways.

Let us be mustard seeds in our world,  
Bringing about ecological conversion which grows and  
Spreads to every corner of the Earth.

*We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen** ( Catholic Earthcare Australia, 2002)*

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### **Litany of Confession: The Lord's Prayer and Creation Care**

Leader: Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray by saying, "Our Father,"

**People: Yet we often forget that you are a loving parent who created us, who made this world, and who called your creation good.**

Leader: We pray, "...who art in heaven..."

**People: Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.**

Leader: We pray, "Hallowed be thy name..."

**People: We confess that our reverence for you is not always reflected in our reverence for the earth, sky, and sea that are your gifts.**

Leader: We pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

**People: We confess that we often put our own interests first—exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest.**

Leader: We pray, "Give us this day our daily bread..."

**People: We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day.**

Leader: We pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors..."

**People: We confess that we see these words only in spiritual terms, while the Bible is filled with teachings about economic justice.**

Leader: We pray, "Lead us not into temptation..."

**People: Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.**

Leader: We pray, "Deliver us from evil..."

**People: Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you.**

Leader: We pray, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever..."

**People: Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power, and giving you glory.**

Leader: We pray, "Amen."

**People: May all these words be more than a spoken prayer. May they be a way of living faithfully in the world that you love. Amen—let it be so!**

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Bruce & Carolyn Gillette, Pastors Limestone Presbyterian Church

## **Prayer for Climate Change**

Your creative love, O God, brought forth our world,  
Once a garden where humans  
Could taste and see the goodness of the earth.  
But our eyes have been blinded  
to the beauty of Creation,  
to the knowledge that it is Gift,  
one given so that all humans may live and flourish.  
Our indifference changes the world;  
Even mighty glaciers weep now.  
Our disregard for our sisters and brothers  
Threatens the very skies above us.  
Our passivity begins to choke us, and  
The excess of our lifestyles blot out the sun.  
Call us to renewal, to stewardship;  
Call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures.  
Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains to us;  
Give us new spiritual energy to become active  
In loving the world through our daily life;  
Give us new voices to speak out for environmental solidarity.  
Bless us again with the gift  
Of being a joyful community;  
Bless us with a love of your Creation  
And we will glimpse your Eden once again.

--Jane Deren, 2009

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## **Prayer for the Environmental Common Good**

As we breathe the very air which sustains us,  
We remember your love, God,  
which gives us life.  
Fill us with your compassion for Creation.  
Empty us of apathy, selfishness and fear,  
of all pessimism and hesitation.  
Breathe into us solidarity  
with all who suffer now  
and the future generations who will suffer  
because of our environmental irresponsibility.  
Move us into action  
to save our earth  
and to build your sustainable Kingdom.  
Amen.

Jane Deren

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## **Our Sister Water**

**Opening Prayer:** Praised be You my Lord for Sister Water, who is useful, humble, precious and pure-

Creator God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the waters,  
who gathers the seas into their places  
and directs the courses of the rivers,  
who sends rain upon the earth that it should bring forth life:  
we praise you for the gift of water.  
Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts,  
that we might receive them with gratitude,  
care for them with love,  
and generously share them with all your creatures,  
to the honour and glory of your holy name.

*(Psalm 65)*

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## **Native American Prayers for the Earth**

Earth, Teach Me

Earth teach me quiet ~ as the grasses are still with new light.  
Earth teach me suffering ~ as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility ~ as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth teach me caring ~ as mothers nurture their young.  
Earth teach me courage ~ as the tree that stands alone.  
Earth teach me limitation ~ as the ant that crawls on the ground.  
Earth teach me freedom ~ as the eagle that soars in the sky.  
Earth teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.  
Earth teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.

An Ute Prayer

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## **Thanksgiving**

We return thanks to our mother, the earth,  
which sustains us.  
We return thanks to the rivers and streams,  
which supply us with water.  
We return thanks to all herbs,  
which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.  
We return thanks to the moon and stars,  
which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.  
We return thanks to the sun,  
that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.  
Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit,  
in Whom is embodied all goodness,  
and Who directs all things for the good of Her children.

Iroquois

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### **The Web**

Humankind has not woven the web of life.  
We are but one thread within it.  
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.  
All things are bound together.  
All things connect.

Chief Seattle, 1854

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### **Honor the Earth**

Honor the sacred.  
Honor the Earth, our Mother.  
Honor the Elders.  
Honor all with whom we share the Earth:-  
Four-leggeds, two-leggeds, winged ones,  
Swimmers, crawlers, plant and rock people.  
Walk in balance and beauty.

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### **Hymn of the Universe**

I live at the heart of a single, unique Element,  
the Center of the universe,  
and present in each part of it:  
personal Love and cosmic Power.  
To attain to him and become merged into his life  
I have before me the entire universe  
with its noble struggles, its impassioned quests, its myriad of souls to be healed and made  
perfect.  
I can and I must throw myself into the thick of human endeavor,  
and with no stopping for breath.  
For the more I bring my efforts to bear on the whole surface of reality,  
the more also will I attain to Christ and cling close to him.  
God who is eternal Being-in-itself,  
is, one might say, ever in process of formation for us.  
And God is also the heart of everything;  
so much so that the vast setting of the universe  
might be engulfed or wither away or be creation's dust,  
which is vitalized by a halo of energy and glory,  
to be swept away, the substantial Reality  
wherein every perfection is incorruptibly contained and possessed would remain intact;  
the rays would be drawn back onto their Source and  
there I should still hold them all in close embrace.

by Teilhard de Chardin

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## **O Great Spirit**

O, Great Spirit  
whose voice I hear in the winds,  
Whose breath gives life to the world,  
hear me . . .  
I come to you  
as one of your many children.  
I am small and weak.  
I need your strength and your wisdom.  
May I walk in beauty.  
Make my eyes ever behold  
the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect  
the things you have made,  
And my ears sharp to your voice.  
Make me wise so that I may know  
the thing you have taught your children,  
The lessons you have written  
on every leaf and rock.  
Make me strong,  
Not to be superior  
to my brothers and sisters,  
but to fight my greatest enemy . . .  
Myself . . .  
Make me ever ready to come to you  
with straight eyes,  
So that when life fades  
as the fading sunset,  
My spirit may come to you without shame.  
Amen.

Based on Psalm 143:8-11

Source: "Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha," *The People: Reflections of Native Peoples on the Catholic Experience in North America*. National Catholic Education Association, Washington DC: 1992. Special Thanks to Kateri Mitchell, SSA, of the Mohawk Nation.

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## **Our Land, Our Mother**

Lord God, creator of all the earth, you have given us the mountains and trees, the waters and the good earth which supports our crops, our animals and ourselves. Never let us lose our love for our land, which is our mother. Help us to protect the land from abuse and to enrich the soil when we abuse it. Make our mother, the earth, fruitful again.

Prayer from the Philippines

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## **Prayer for a Globalization of Solidarity**

Awesome God of the expanding immensity of cosmic time and space,  
Intimate God, at home in each human heart,  
Energizing, Organizing God, drawing us together into global Solidarity,  
Yahweh,  
Allah,  
Bra h man,  
God of many names,  
God of no name,  
Abba,  
Father Mother,  
we thank You and we praise You  
for the inspiration and human creativity  
through which You are weaving us together  
through communications and travel, social movements and expanding consciousness  
into one planetary web of Life,  
one stunning revelation of Your Creativity and Love.  
Awesome  
Intimate  
Unifying  
God,  
we beg Your forgiveness  
for every time,  
for every way  
that we let our small glimpses of Your Immensity  
swell our smallness into arrogance,  
dividing us from our sisters and brothers in whose hearts You dwell  
through Other images, experiences, cultures, revelations,  
Longing for the Fullness  
that only our Oneness can reveal.  
We ask you to break us free  
"as gently as You can . . .  
but as forcefully as we demand"  
from the unconscious/conscious idolatry  
of wealth and "free markets" and individualism and competition and consumption  
that blind us to the rich complexity of Your Presence,  
that reduce our sisters and brothers  
"and us"  
to consumers or producers, competitors or markets in our service.  
Break the enduring chains  
of slavery and colonialism  
that have set our lives on such vastly diverging paths of wealth and poverty.  
Turn those paths toward each other into  
Your True Path  
to Fullness and Unity.  
Purge us of whatever it is within us  
that turns our eyes away from Your crucifixion-by-poverty  
in nearly three billion of  
our sisters and brothers,  
that allows us to starve Your Revealing and Unifying Love  
in 800 million of  
our sisters and brothers,  
that allows us to plunder our planet,  
uncaring of our children's children,  
careless of the Sacredness it displays.  
Yahweh  
Allah,

Bra h man,  
God of many names,  
God of no name,  
Abba,  
Mother Father,  
alert us to  
Your Sacred Presence,  
Your Urgency,  
Your Tireless Struggle  
within each of us in our uniqueness,  
in all of us in our infinite diversity,  
through all the forces drawing us together into one global village.  
Fill us  
with as much awe and joy at Your Presence in our sisters and brothers,  
with as much energy and passion to work with You  
as we can bear,"  
that we all may be  
**One in You**  
and  
**You**  
may be glorified in us.  
Amen.  
Alleluia.

James E. Hug, S.J.

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### **God of Peace**

God of peace,  
Today in the wilderness  
Springs beauty like water.  
Seeds lie in the dry earth  
Awaiting the rains.  
Where the parched desert cracked  
Mighty rivers flow,  
In a garden of plenty  
Trees yield up their fruit.  
Together in Your love,  
We will realize our tomorrow.  
With all those who scattered,  
We will gather our crops.  
In farms, field and cities  
We will celebrate your justice  
And in loving community  
Reap a harvest of peace.  
Linda Jones

Linda Jones

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## **CAFOD PRAYER**

### **Your kingdom come**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Lead us to worship only you, Lord, and not money,  
to put people before profit  
and 'being' before having'.

Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

Inspire us to work together to change the world  
so that everyone has enough  
and all can live life to the full.

Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Create in us the desire  
to live in harmony with creation  
so all people may flourish  
and your kingdom come.  
Amen.

Adaptation Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

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You cry out with sorrow  
God you made our  
Mother Earth, who cries out with sorrow.  
May the wonder of your creation be revealed to us:  
Water that gives life, not destruction  
Crops sown, not destroyed  
Pure air to breathe, not polluted  
Renew in us a respect for the magic of  
A tiny seed  
A flowing waterfall  
A hovering skylark  
Restore us to closeness with you  
Call us to change for you and  
May your spirit cry out within us always.

Mary Clark/CAFOD

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## **Walk lightly**

Each leaf, each petal,  
each grain, each person,  
sings your praises,  
Creator God.  
Each creature on the earth,  
all the mountains and great seas  
show your glory,  
Spirit of love.  
And yet the hand of greed  
has patented and plundered  
your splendour,  
has taken and not shared  
your gift,  
has lived as owner of the earth,  
not guest.  
And so  
the ice is cracked  
the rivers dry,  
the valleys flooded  
and the snowcaps melt.  
God our Father, show us  
how to step gently,  
how to live simply,  
how to walk lightly  
with respect and love  
for all that you have made.  
Amen

Linda Jones/CAFOD

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## **Celebrating God's justice**

God of peace,  
Today in the wilderness  
Springs beauty like water  
Seeds lie in the dry earth  
Awaiting the rains  
Where parched desert cracked,  
will flow mighty rivers  
In a garden of plenty  
Trees yield up their fruit  
Together in your love  
We will realise our tomorrow  
With all those who scattered,  
Gather our crops  
In farms, fields and cities  
We will celebrate your justice  
And in loving community  
Reap a harvest of hope.

Linda Jones /CAFOD

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## **Respect for the earth**

Grant us a spirit of concern for the future of our environment;  
Bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources;  
Encourage us to be responsible stewards of your creation.

Response: Lord, make us prophets of our time

Grant us a spirit of respect, recognising the value and integrity of each person;  
Encourage us to be accepting of ourselves and of others.

Response: Lord, make us prophets of our time

Help us become advocates of peace, bringing an end to conflict and division;  
Renew our commitment to challenging the causes of injustice.

Response: Lord, make us prophets of our time

Grant us a spirit of openness to see God within and around us;  
Help us rejoice in the good we have experienced as we move forward to the future;  
Help us use our senses to celebrate beauty and creativity in the world.

Response: Lord, make us prophets of our time

Grant us a spirit of truth to recognise failings, which have hurt us, others and the world;

Give us the humility to ask forgiveness for our part in any wrongdoing;

Response: Lord, make us prophets of our time

Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out in trust to those we encounter;

Help us to embody God's love in our relationships with one another.

Response: Lord, make us prophets of our time

Sophie Stanes /CAFOD

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## **The splendour of your creation**

Loving Creator God,  
We gaze in wonder  
At the splendour of your creation.  
Rich carpeted fields of yellowing grain  
And overflowing baskets of ripe fruit.  
A banquet of fine wines and rich food,  
A feast spread out for all to share.  
Help us to learn from your generosity  
How to share our bread with the hungry  
And to commit ourselves to preparing  
A banquet for all peoples,  
A generous feast for all to share.  
Amen.

Linda Jones/CAFOD

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## **The Prayer of the Forest**

I am the warmth of your home on a cold winter's night  
And the protective shade when summer's sun is strong.  
I am the framework to the roof of your house and  
The top of your table, and the bed in which you sleep,  
And the timber with which you fashion your boat.  
I am the handle to your spade and the door to your house.  
I am the wood of your cradle and the boards of your coffin.  
I am the bread of your kindness and the flower of beauty  
Hear my prayer: 'destroy me not'

Indian