

### Walking on Earth Touching the Sky

By Harold Thompson

Life on the reservation is difficult and complex. Where conditions are very harsh. The people struggle with unemployment, poor housing, disease Alcohol and drug abuse, violence, depression and more. Yet we are amazingly resilient and spiritually powerful There is love for the land - "Unci Maka" - Grandmother Earth A system of our cultural ways.

The creator - "Tunkashila" - Jesus has blessed us with a sense Of natural spirituality brough fait amidst sometimes very difficult lives of struggle, Hopes and despair But through it all we have always survived Because we have the heart of our mother beating in our lives.

For we love our mother Unci Maka for she is truly respected By her people And we cherish her just like she was our own grandmother. "She is like the sky always watching over us her children."

Unfortunately, we carry a lot of sadness because of all the Poverty, unemployment and life expectancy The winters are very harsh and housing is often poor.

Alcohol and drugs, violence are very widespread We endure these hard realities with total despair But our spirits are forever powerful.

Racism is like a bullet through a person's heart It is also like a gun in a child's hands Loaded with all the bullshit the Devil would say.

Tears fall from our faces as we walk upon the lonely grasses Of our Mother Earth to a place That is unknown.

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