



PEACEMAKING STATEMENT ABOUT MOTHER'S DAY

“Navajo Women-Our Strength, Our Endurance”

“Navajo Mothers are the Backbone of the Family”

**“Diné Asdzání Bee Nihidziil- Bíní' dóó Bits'íís Bidziil, Bee Ha'ínílní, Díí Doo
Beidiyii'nahda”**

The COVID19 virus has been a game changer for work, families, and the rules for our celebrations. For some, Mother's Day will not be the same as before. This is a special day dedicated to our mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters to share and express why they are unique in our lives. In some small way perhaps some will make the best of it considering our current situation. Many who have suffered a loss are in grief and some have lost their way as feelings of isolation have taken over. The role of motherhood has been the one who provides the stability and joyfulness in all we do. Nothing can replace that feeling of being loved, valued, and appreciated that comes from our mothers. Diné women as Amá'; amasaní, amá yazhí; deezhí, shadí and the women veterans are the stronghold of every household. A mother's actions and teachings preserve order. She makes laughter and kinship strong medicines that bind sacred life. Without her, we feel a loss of stability and continuity, replaced only with memories and sentiments. We must now reflect those sentiments in offerings and prayers. It is said through our journey narratives that kinship was first established with mother earth and father sky. What was given to us was kinship of family and social unity by our mother Asdzáán Nadleeh. Many things were given to us through Asdzáán Nadleeh. Not only is there social order but teachings to combat loneliness and despair. The teachings that will remain with us are those of understanding ourselves: personality, physical, social and spiritual. These things bring us back in line with *sa'ah naaghéí bik'eh hózhóón níjísdlíí'*. It has been told to us that there are 13 challenges in life and each challenge comes with negative and positive. Our daily walk is to achieve center; not too much to one side. Now is the time to honor motherhood by exercising these learnings to become stronger and stable for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. Our Diné must put this in everyday practice and, by doing so, honor motherhood.

Thirteen Challenges in Life

<u>Challenges</u>		<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive</u>
Curiosity	<i>Haada Sha Yit'e hwiinidzin</i>	Bad outcome	Good Outcome
Laziness	<i>Il-hóyéé`</i>	Boredom	Self Determination
Poverty	<i>Té'i'i</i>	Rapid Wear and tear	Preservation
Lice	<i>Yaa`</i>	Bad hygiene	Good hygiene
Old Age	<i>Sá</i>	Get Old fast	Get Old slowly
Thirst/Hunger	<i>Dibáá/Dichin</i>	Poor Diet	Good Diet
Sickness	<i>Atahhoniigááh</i>	Poor Health	Good Health
Jealousy	<i>lé`hasin</i>	Enviousness	Working for things
Gossip	<i>Atseezí</i>	Causing commotion	Respect for others
Ignorance	<i>Yiniáhodildin</i>	Causing trouble	Expending Ability
Forgetfulness	<i>Hwiyoó`nééh</i>	Forgetfulness	Learning
Boastfulness	<i>Ádaahodzóddli</i>	Turn People off	Self Assurance
Greed	<i>Ihatsoh</i>	People Will Not Help	Caring and Sharing

The expectation of having someone or something made better only make us look elsewhere; make this a time of self-reflection and practice t'ááhóájít'éigo.

Hastói dóó Sáanii

Hoolzhishdégé' bídeiinílká

Díshjǰǰidi T'áádíkwíyee' bíl yiidziih

Haasha' hoot'éi dooleel dóó haasha' niit'éi dooleel

altsxo nihits'aa' aná'ooldee'go

jinízingo baa ntsíjíkees leh.