

## Wayakin (The Guardian Spirit Of The Nez Perce)

In Vain

One time the wind blew free and there  
Was nothing to break the light of the sun  
In a past that is now lost forever  
There was a time when land was sacred  
And the ancient ones were as one with it  
A time when only the children of the Great Spirit  
Were here. To light their fires in these places with no boundar  
ies  
When the forests were as thick as the fur of  
The winter bearland and a warrior could walk  
From horizon to horizon on the backs of the buffalo  
And during that time when there were only simple ways,  
I saw with my heart the conflicts to come,  
And whether it was to be for good or bad,  
What was certain was that there would be chance

Wayakin, summon strength and ward us from evil  
Wayakin, a spirit with transformative powers  
Wayakin, talisman of superhuman forces  
Wayakin, the guardian spirit of the Nez Perce

We look to the bear, the owl and the eagle as our brothers  
To teach us how to live  
They talk to us, we listen  
The bear tells us of our strength  
The owl of our wisdom  
And the eagle of our freedom  
It is time for us to remember