The Circle of Life

BY ELLE-HAN'SA

he Creator made the Earth round She made the Grass and the Trees the Birds, Fish and Animals to follow the purpose of Her Creation. and She made the four races of Mankind black, white, yellow, brown and placed them in the East, North, West and South She made the Sun, the Moon and the Stars and asked them to form circles so that we should understand the Wisdom and Meaning of Life. Because Life as the Creator meant it is a circle : from the Creator to the Creator, the Circle of Life.

The Earth is small and very sensitive All Creation has to share the same sources of living, this is as true as night follows day. The same Air that refreshes the peoples of the arctic North and gives relief to the drought-stricken peoples of the Samé is also filled with the war-cries of the East and surrounds the polluted cities of the West. How long will it last?

Freedom means to be in your right element, to be linked to the purpose of Creation, to be a part of History, its past, present and future. the bird is free only in the air. the fish only in the water. Have you ever known of birds that wanted to live under water or a fish that wanted to build its nest in the trees?

I have. I know of men who themselves wanted to be Masters of History who made their Gods silent and ideas and cut the Earth into square pieces. Will we survive under these masters? "If we don't survive as a people following the instruction and purpose of the Creation then we must ask: What is the purpose of survival?"

If you can't fence the air in square pieces how can you sell the Earth? But now the Earth, the Water and even the Air suffers because Man has placed himself in the centre instead of his God. Time has come when Man will discover the darkness around him that power, intelligence, wealth and glory is not enough to save his soul. Then maybe they will listen to the Wisdom and Understanding of those People whom they regarded as small and worthless,

the Indigenous Peoples of the Earth. They will ask for our help and we must give it: Unless the Creator is the Centre of the Circle unless we make Her the ruler of our lives There will be no equality, no brotherhood or freedom among the children of the creation. Only when we are a part of this Chain of caring and sharing will there be peace on Earth. The only freedom we ever got is to choose between Yes and No.

The Circle of Life is to become a part of Eternity. The Great Spirit links us together, It made us different not to control each other but to contribute. not to sell or take not even to give, but to share. the Voice of the Creator we can hear only when we listen, just like the Wind that refreshes suffering Mankind We can't see it, yet it is there. We don't know from where it comes or where it goes....

This poem was written by Elle-Han'sa, a Samé, for the First Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Point Barrow, Alaska, 1977. It was presented by Makka Kleist of Tukak Teatret at the opening ceremonies of the 1980 Indigenous Theatre Celebration, and first appeared in Hummelen, Remmelt, ed., We don't have a machine which serves me coffee.... (ANDPUA Books for Indigenous Peoples Theatre Association, 27 Carlton Street, Suite 208, Toronto, Ontario M5N 1L2, 1981), pp. 34-35.