

Constellation, A Reflection and Teaching of Life

Grandmothers always encourage young mothers and mothers-to-be to acknowledge their woman and motherhood and to bless themselves accordingly; to communicate with their children on good behavior, as to instill good moral thoughts and ethics, especially while in the process of feeding. People were taught to have awareness of the environment in nature and its creation with respect, because living beings come into existence on Mother Earth and under the presence of Father Sky; a relevance and reference to being one and in harmony with nature. Reverence is also acknowledged to the constellation and the cosmic order, because each have their own reference and significance, as in “Gah Haat’e’ii”, the ‘Rabbit Tracks’ or the ‘Tail of the Scorpius’. The identified set of Stars in “Gah Haat’e’ii” is representation of all earthly footprints in the sky. On Mother Earth, there are many footprints imprinted, or trails of people and animals in everyday life. Imprinted footprints are made in the Blessing Way Ceremony with earthen tracks and sacred corn pollen, yellow / white corn meal for several reasons. The footprints are made on the ground with corn pollen, to symbolize that all the rules of common law revere to rejuvenation, revitalization and harmony, as they were initially applied upon the heroic twins’ returned cleansing and revitalization ceremony. They are generally relative and applied to growing and developing children; one that is kept very sacred, so that they will follow them as a guide and a pathway throughout their life journeys. This is why Dilyéhé represents early childhood and Atsé’ats’ózi represents adolescent in youth. Whereas, in contemporary perspective, it can be said that a rabbit’s physical character consists of tenderness in human babies and animals, as well as a server of their protection. Women and little children are apt to soft cuddly things, as in stuffed toy animals, much more than men do; whereas, women are prone to soft heartedness, an intuition for fondness and tenderness for newborns and little children. A trait in which some people often ask, why women should be more deserving of respect and protection than men do? Diné way of teaching encompasses compassion in the teachings’ of ‘Changing Women’ in the origin stories. In the sense of common understanding, respect for women was natural, therefore always present and emphatically taught by mothers through many generations, seemingly due to the teachings’ being concentrated on and around women, motherhood, head of households and the keeper of the family ‘Fire of Life’.