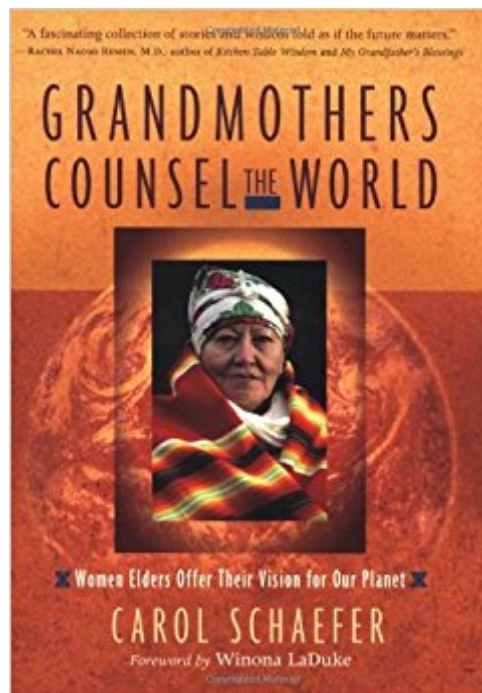




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# Grandmothers Counsel The World: Women Elders Offer Their Vision For Our Planet



## Synopsis

We are thirteen indigenous grandmothers. . . . We are deeply concerned with the unprecedented destruction of our Mother Earth, the atrocities of war, the global scourge of poverty, the prevailing culture of materialism, the epidemics that threaten the health of the Earth's peoples, and with the destruction of indigenous ways of life. We, the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, believe that our ancestral ways of prayer, peacemaking, and healing are vitally needed today. . . . We believe that the teachings of our ancestors will light our way through an uncertain future. In some Native American societies, tribal leaders consulted a council of grandmothers before making any major decisions that would affect the whole community. What if we consulted our wise women elders about the problems facing our global community today? This book presents the insights and guidance of thirteen indigenous grandmothers from five continents, many of whom are living legends among their own peoples. The Grandmothers offer wisdom on such timely issues as nurturing our families; cultivating physical and mental health; and confronting violence, war, and poverty. Also included are the reflections of Western women elders, including Alice Walker, Gloria Steinem, Helena Norberg-Hodge, and Carol Moseley Brown.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In October, 2004, 13 grandmothers from around the world came together in a historic gathering, fulfilling an "ancient prophecy, known by many of the world's indigenous tribes: 'When the

Grandmothers from the four directions speak, a new time is coming." This somewhat mystifying book documents that gathering, which also included such celebrities as novelist Alice Walker, feminist Gloria Steinem, former U.S. senator Carol Moseley Braun, and Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller, who are here called "women elders," not "grandmothers," despite their equally strong voice in the proceedings. The first half of the book consists of biographies of the "grandmothers" and "women elders," followed by "guidance for our perilous times," with sections on "prophecies," "women's wisdom," "our mother earth," "oppression," "nature's pharmacy," and "prayer." The advice is mostly valid, sometimes extreme, and generally predictable: "the imbalance of male and female energies could cause the destruction of ...the Earth;" "the human race and all of nature is really one great family" that needs to live in peace together. Readers interested in indigenous female viewpoints may be intrigued, but Schafer's writing style is so awkwardly journalistic that she makes even brilliant communicators like Steinem and Walker sound inarticulate. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Intriguing and meaningful . . . Grandmothers Counsel the World is an uplifting read that should be displayed prominently and hand-sold to those who wish for world healing." —New Age Retailer "Resonates with warmth and compassion . . . it will press you to see the world through the eyes of indigenous wisdom." —Feminist Review "Grandmother Spider is said to have the power to weave up the broken web of connection which sustains the world. This book was surely written in her spirit. Grandmothers Counsel the World is a fascinating collection of Grandmother stories and Grandmother wisdom told as if the future matters." —Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., author of Kitchen Table Wisdom and My Grandfather's Blessings "Prophecy foretold the gathering of the Indigenous Grandmothers long before these thirteen wise women-elders from the North, Central and South America, Africa, Tibet and Nepal, and the Artic Circle were brought together. Who they are and what they have to say at this critical time in human and planetary history is fascinating. We can hope that they may be harbingers of a major spiritual shift toward peace, prophesized to occur in 2012 with women taking the lead, and circles of people bringing visible and invisible worlds together." —Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D., author of Goddesses in Everywoman and Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World "Wise women from around the globe stand strong together on behalf of all of life. Their stories are amazing, their message to us is strong and inspirational. They are marvelous role models of how we can gather our energies together to make the necessary changes needed to return to a life of balance and harmony. I felt truly blessed to read this

book. •Sandra Ingerman, author of Soul Retrieval and Medicine for the Earth

This was on a book list for an indigenous grant writing course I took recently. I chose this because I enjoy reading about our elders and learning from their wisdom. I enjoyed reading about the backgrounds of the grandmothers and their own views on the fate of humanity. I also enjoyed reading about the strong ties between spirituality, nature and humans. Unfortunately, I did find a decent amount of repetition as I read through the second half of the book. Overall, I found this to be informative and interesting.

One of the most moving books I have read. We have gotten away from listening to the stories. We have gotten away from listening to our Grandmothers (Elders)! So often today we say we honor our Elders, but do we actually listen and honor what they have to say to us today? I say.....we better get back to listening and doing what their guidance directs us. I have shared so much of the knowledge shared in this book to others in public events including our Tribal meetings.

Carol, and the wise women she brings into our lives make this an outstanding opportunity to find the wise woman within yourself. Our own grandmothers come forward from memories as we read the stories of these elders, and hope rises that when we are at this stage of our life, we will have learned by the example they all brought to our attention. Excellent job of sharing the "interconnected, and oneness wisdom" of all truly wise women, starting with the indigenous heritage teachings.

I had the pleasure of seeing the Grandmothers this past summer in Mandela..amazing spiritual and environmental leaders.

This is a true story of prophetic proportions that is current and relevant to every part of our daily lives. Many people and stories come together to tell the biggest story, a very inspirational read! Devine intervention is observed and recorded in a variety of very different contexts. Shamanism, Christianity, and the idea that everything is sacred coexist in a way that the Creator is able to work miracles.

This book changed my view on diseases and illnesses and I have a science degree and hard to be convinced! I read the book before I watch the movie and I'm glad I did that.

I feel that this book has a very important message to the world today. We all know the the industrial world does not have all the answers. I feel that if the industrial world and those that are bringing these important messages to us must work together in harmony and share the wisdom. I also feel that more and more people are wakeing up to the problems of the world and are looking for new answers. I and my family are vegaterians and grow our own food and share with others. We also respect all living creatures. I am having a discusion group in my church and at home on this wonderful book.

Very nice book

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