Honoring the Spirit of the Child

Wakanyeja Ta Nagi Ki Yuonihanpi (Honoring the Spirit of the Child)

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Oinajin Topa/Four Stages of Life
LAKOTA WAY OF LIFE

NAGI YATA (spirit world)

PRE-BIRTH: Singing to unborn baby; mother is not exposed to anything negative; family and extended family looks out for mother and unborn baby.

Return to Spirit World

Establishes own family; begins process of passing on teachings

Age 50+

Age 12+

Isna Ti Awicalowan Pi; Wicasa Ihuni Pi – Rites of Passage

Elder role includes providing teachings; ensuring social/custom/spiritual order

Age 21+

Iowicayujuntapi/cleaning of mouth by Grandmother; Path predicted for baby; Lakota name given soon after birth; Pe Wi Wi La (soft spot on head) protected

WOTAKUYE (kinship) – FOUNDATION OF LAKOTA SOCIETY

R. Two Dogs and E. Iron Cloud-Two Dogs, 2010
Oinajin Topa/Four Stages of Life Interrupted Journey

NAGI YATA (spirit world)

Return to Spirit World
Pre-Birth +

Interruptions begin (e.g. abandonment, sexual abuse, trauma at age 3)

NO ELDERS TO PASS ON TEACHINGS OR KEEP SOCIAL/CUSTOM/SPIRITUAL ORDER

Age 50+
Death/males – 45-50;
Females – early 50’s

Age 21+
Living on the streets;
alcoholism/ drug addiction; prison

Age 12+
Suicide Attempts/completion

R. Two Dogs and E. Iron Cloud-Two Dogs, 2010

WOTAKUYE (kinship)– WEAKENED IN CONTEMPORARY LAKOTA SOCIETY
Tewicahila Pi Ogna Waunspeewicakiya Pi

“Teaching with Love”