

Spider Grandma – Indigenous Cultures, Spiders and Their Webs by Yvette Massey

Description

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In many indigenous cultures, spiders and their webs are significant symbols, often associated with creation, wisdom, and connection. The spider, particularly the “**Spider Woman**” or “**Spider Grandmother**,” is a central figure in creation myths, representing the weaving of the universe and the interconnectedness of life.



Creation and Weaving:

Spider Grandmother is often depicted as weaving the world into existence, using her web to create the

cosmos and guide humanity.

Wisdom and Knowledge:

The spider's intricate webs are seen as a manifestation of wisdom and the ability to connect seemingly disparate things. This is often linked to the spider's role as a teacher, guide, or trickster in various indigenous stories.

Interconnectedness:

The web itself symbolizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the delicate balance of the ecosystem. It represents the importance of maintaining harmony and balance within communities and with the natural world.

Protection and Dream Catcher:

In some cultures, the spider's web is used to create dream catchers, which are thought to protect against bad dreams and filter out negativity, according to Georgian College.

Examples:

Hopi: Spider Grandmother (Kokyangwuti) is an Earth Goddess who assisted in creating all life, according to atmos.earth.

Navajo: Spider Woman is a powerful helper and teacher who taught the "First People" how to weave, according to Hearts Pest Management.

Lakota: The spider, Iktomi, is a trickster who can bring both good and bad, but never evil, and is considered a teacher, according to Lakota Times.

Category

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