

THE USE OF TOBACCO

It is customary that prior to taking anything from the natural world, we as **Ukwehu·wé** (The Real Human Beings) always offer **Oyu?kwa?u·wé** (The Indigenous Tobacco) first. At the time when **Shukwaya?túsu** (The One Who Created All of Us) created the many different life sustaining sustenance, each and everything was given a responsibility; a reason for being here. To this day they are still fulfilling that obligation.

It is our belief that everything in the universe has a spirit and is alive. They're able to hear, see, smell, taste, touch, feel, communicate, and sense things in their own way just like we do. Through the offering of **Oyu?kwa?u·wé**, we are showing the highest form of respect to **Tyunhéhkw ʌ** (the things that are necessary for all of us to live [the sustenance of life]). The offering of **Oyu?kwa?u·wé** to the things of the natural world is our way of acknowledging and showing our respect to the power they possess so that we may humbly ask for their assistance. This is a responsibility **Shukwaya?túsu** gave to us as a way of honoring and strengthening the relationship to the natural world prior to taking anything.

The following is a brief **Oyu?kwa?u·wé** offering speech.

Ō·nʌ né· tho niwʌhniʌló·tʌ né· tkaye·lú· wa?téktane? né· tsi?nu tho ka·yʌ·
Now then on this particular day it is right I am standing as to where there it is

yotunúhe? né· ka?i·ká _____ . _____ nú· y&kyats Ukwehuwehnéha,
it's growing this [plant/animal's Oneida name]. _____ is my Oneida name, _____

[Wakkwáho, Wakenyáhtʌ, Wakeskle·wáke] **niwaki?talóhtʌ. Talu?kowanhné twaknákehle?**
[Wolf, Turtle, Bear] is my clan. The place of is where I live Bountiful Ducks

Ōnlyote?a·ká· Niwakatuhwʌtsyóhtʌ. ** Né· wa?kuyu?kwahsólýehte?
People of the Standing Stone Is the Nation I'm from. Now I give you an offering of tobacco.

né·n akakwe·nú· kwú· ʌkunyáhese? né· tsi?náhte? sa?satstʌhslayʌ. **Ta· ō·nʌ
for it to indeed be possible I'll depend as to what the strength Now then
on you you have.

wa?kuyu?kwahsólýehte? né· ʌskya?takénha okhale? tsi? she·k& satlihwahʌtyehtuhátýehse?.
I give you an offering that you'll help me and that still you're continuously going
of tobacco along carrying out your responsibilities.

Ta· tho niyoht&hak né·n yukwa?nik&hla?.

This is how it shall be our minds.

[* * - put Indian tobacco down first and then say this phrase]