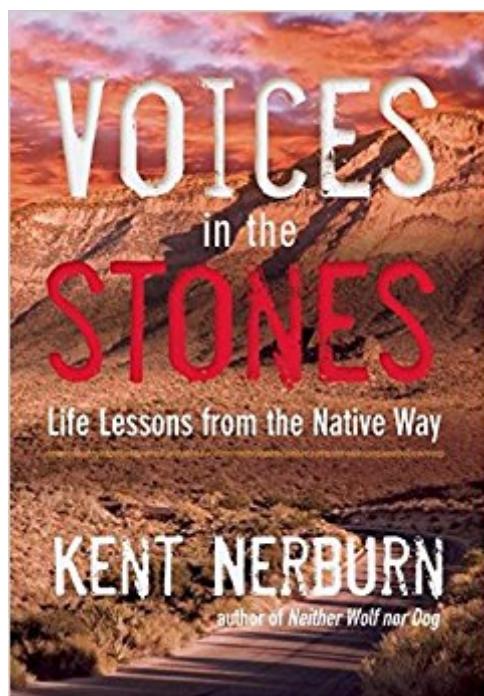


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# **Voices In The Stones: Life Lessons From The Native Way**



## Synopsis

Native Americans are lauded for their profound spirituality and deep understanding of the land. Kent Nerburn here draws on his three decades living and working among Native peoples to offer stories and reflections that reveal what the ways of Native Americans have to teach us all; about giving, sharing, grieving, and celebrating. Nerburn takes readers inside a Native feast that highlights respect for elders, to a nearly forgotten Nez Perce battlefield, and to both the traditional burial of a young man and the reinterment of the ancient bones of two teen-aged girls. At a dusty roadside cafe he introduces us to an elder who remembers when his ancestors could talk to animals. Whether moving and dramatic, delightfully humorous, or all of the above, these vignettes remind us that as common children of a common land, we have much to learn from each other; if only we have the heart to listen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kent Nerburn speaks reverently of the bridge between our Judeo-Christian tradition and the spiritual gifts of the Native Americans. There is much healing to be had in our lives and for the land by crossing this bridge. Richard Rohr, bestselling author of *Falling Upwards* and *The Divine Dance* Kent Nerburn reminds us that in the timeless Native American ways of seeing and being, the truth of life is not found in knowledge but in something closer to prayer. Even today, amidst coffee shops, graveyards, old cars, and cafeterias, the wisdom keepers Nerburn follows in his sensitively told narratives still follow the voices of stones, streams, and dreams, listening to the wind with open ears

and open hearts, not knowing where it will lead, or what they will learn. Evan Pritchard, director of the Center for Algonquin Culture and author of *No Word for Time and Bird Medicine*"

A two-time winner of the Minnesota Book Award, Kent Nerburn is the author of thirteen books on spirituality and Native themes, including *Chief Joseph and the Flight of the Nez Perce* (featured on the History Channel), *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, and *The Wisdom of the Native Americans*. He lives in Portland, OR.

I have only just read the Preface and the Prologue but already my heart is both full and breaking. Kent Nerburn is an eloquent and evocative writer. He makes you yearn for a better way of life and proud that you are aware there is that possibility.

I don't remember who I discovered first, Kent Nerburn or Ohiyesa. Or was it they who discovered me? Together, they have gently guided me to a better understanding of Native America, and more importantly to a better understanding of myself and my role in the ever-expanding universe. Having read nine of Mr. Nerburn's 11 previous books, I looked forward to this, his twelfth. It was my Christmas gift to myself. I turned the final page last night. In two words, another gem. Being brutally honest, I did not particularly enjoy this book subtitled 'Life Lessons from the Native Way' until I reached page 70 and read, "When I was a child, my parents gave me a little black puppy." Despite growing up next to a veterinary clinic, my parents never allowed me to have a dog, much less a puppy. Dogs have been an important part of my adult life, and I do consider them at the pinnacle of creation. Mr. Nerburn's book is not about dogs, but he touched my heart when he wrote about his final moments with his dog, "I was raised to believe that we humans are the apex of creation, as my Sunday school classes had taught me, in the image and likeness of God" "the only element of creation possessed of an eternal soul" As I held my dog in my arms and watched the light fade from her trusting, caring eyes, that conviction drained out of me as surely as the life drained out of her aged and trembling body. Her eyes had held a consciousness that was equal to mine. No one could tell me she didn't have a soul. Having experienced that moment most recently in the early summer of 2016, the book had my full and singular attention that grew white-hot like the melting point of sunlight through a magnifying glass. Mr. Nerburn struck me deeply in his chapter "The Hip Bone: We Are Children of the Earth; We Walk in the Footsteps of Those Who Came Before Us." "We are common kin, born of a common earth, far deeper and far richer than the movements of people

and events that take place upon the surface of creation. That is why we feel the presence of ghosts when we stand on hallowed ground — the battlefield at Gettysburg, the hard stones of Dachau, the rocky promontory of Masada, the lonely hilltop at Wounded Knee. I walked that hilltop on a gray, windy day in October just passed. The ghosts are real. Voices in the Stones rises above most books you have read or that you are apt to read. As we emerge from the dark winter, I recommend you pull up your chair to a warm fireplace and learn some lessons from the Native Way.

A very brief book. It would be excellent for one who has never encountered Native Americans or their spirituality. It is well written and interesting, though for one who already has read much about Native American spirituality there is not much new here.

I've read three other books by Newburn. This one is as good as they were. One of his books has been made into a movie. Though it had trouble getting theater acceptance, it's also very good.

I am blessed to have read this book. I will re-read it from time to time, and I will ponder again, or as my daddy used to say, cogitate. It spoke to my understanding that all is sacred.

Kent Nerburns' books are real spirit guides, easy to read and very inspiring...among my favorites. this one especially !

This is a non-exploitive, non-self-serving narrative about a way of thinking that is far removed from our Greek-way-of-thinking-learning. One must be open to thinking that is not linear, not Anglo-Saxon-Christian or Roman Catholic...in other words, the Native American's way of perceiving and living in the natural world without exploiting it, honoring children and the elders, honoring nature in all its forms.

I thought it was so great and insightful that I gave it to a teenager hoping she could understand herself.

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