

Dear Relative,

Thank you for receiving this calendar gift! It will ask something of you in return, as gifts sometimes do. It invites a playful spirit, a sharp mind, and an openness to beauty.

Peopling the background of the calendar are names of 574 “federally recognized Tribes” on Turtle Island. If you happen to have the small version, gently tip the top of the calendar back and forth. The metallic ink will shimmer, as if to wink and say, “Don’t be fooled. There is more.” We are indeed much more than what governments “recognize” or see as legitimate. Our Blood Memory connects us to each other, and ourselves, if we listen.

Black, Yellow, Red, and White are sometimes seen as rainbow clans of human beings, each one bright and proud. Drawing them together are ribbons of what scientists have named DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid, if you prefer), expressed in a beautiful double helix, which holds everything that we are and allows us to pass it on.

We Are All Related. Plants, four-leggeds, winged creatures, rocks and insects are Kin. Indigenous peoples have always known that, although even we sometimes forget. All living things, from a stalk of corn to a bison to a newborn human baby hold astoundingly similar DNA.

The scientific way of knowing uses different words, but affirms the same truth: everything is interrelated, and without “right relationships,” things fall apart, even a double helix. Science affirms that the simplest, most beautiful answer, whether a mathematical formula or the composition of a helix, is the true one.

In this time of great division and violence, may *OUR* Circle remain; may the sacred center of generative forces hold; may the first sound we hear, the pulse of life, the Heart of the Drum, reassure us that we are held in Sacred Waters which envelop and sustain us.

From the entire team at First Nations Women’s Alliance  
#beagoodrelative

If you would like to comment on the calendar or order multiple copies, please contact Ronya at [hoblit2001@yahoo.com](mailto:hoblit2001@yahoo.com). Large orders may require a contribution for postage.

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THANK YOU!