



Meditation by Chief Tecumseh (1768-1813) Shawnee Nation

"So live your life that the fear of death can
never enter your heart.

Trouble no one about their religion; respect
others in their view, and

Demand that they respect yours. Love your
life, perfect your life,

Beautify all things in your life. Seek to
make your life long and

Its purpose in the service of your people.

Prepare a noble death song for the day when
you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or a sign of salute when
meeting or passing a friend,

Even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show
respect to all people and

Bow to none. When you arise in the morning,
give thanks for the food and

For the joy of living. If you see no reason
for giving thanks,

The fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one
and nothing,

For abuse turns the wise ones to fools and
robs the spirit of its vision.

When it comes your time to die, be not like
those whose hearts

Are filled with fear of death, so that when
their time comes

They weep and pray for a little more time to
live their lives over again

In a different way. Sing your death song and
die like a hero going home."