

Water is Life: Thunderbird Prints

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The following two Thunderbird prints illustrate the importance of clean water, preserving the environment in its natural state and helping rehabilitate our ecosystems. They have become world-renowned and are used in environmental advocacy issues.

For the Ojibway people, thunderbirds represent water and sky. They also embody Mother Earth's natural laws. The lightning represents power and serves as a reminder that we are humble beings on this earth and that we don't actually have any power. The lightning also symbolizes medicine and some of nature's cycles.

The ongoing battle waged between the Serpents that exist below and the Thunderbirds up above induces nature's cycles to fluctuate between life and death, driving water away from the earth to the sky, then back to earth again. By providing life on earth, this cycle allows us to live. Although Serpents and Thunderbirds are engaged in battle, they have a great deal of respect for each other. Through their struggle, we have been given our life to live and for this we are grateful, and very humbled.



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