



## #56 *The Three Sisters*



*A young Potawatomi girl was asking the corn to grow a little differently because her family had moved to the side of a mountain and the soil drained here a bit quicker than it had for the parents of this corn. “I know you are a seed and have not learned the ways of this land, so let me tell you,” she spoke in gentle tones directly to the corn kernels as she distributed them, “give yourself time between drinks, for the water may flow more sparsely.” In time she planted beans to grow up the corn stalks and then she planted squash to fill in the spaces on the ground. She knew that the three sisters: corn, beans, and squash would cooperate in finding sunlight and water. Her parents taught her about this cooperation as they passed down this story from the ancestors. She was told that the beans would pull nutrition from the air to give to the corn and squash. She was taught that all three would provide a balanced meal as they had for as long as their stories remembered.*

*But one day the girl went to school. There she was taught a different story - a science story, called a theory. It supposed that her friends, the three sisters, were in competition with animals, with each other and even with their own species. It alleged that nature seeks to survive this competitive battle through conquest.*

*The girl told her parents this science-theory-story. She wanted to know what to believe about the three sisters. Her parents drew a deep breath and remembered a sadness. "We lived on the other side of this theory," they explained. "This is a story of competition, not cooperation. When people we have lived with think too much about a story where the world is made up of adversaries, it justifies TAKING. They get aggressive and take food from nature and then take land from people. Our tribes had to experience this. Just remember, my dear, the story you tell most often is the food that shapes your life."*

*CHOOSE YOUR STORIES WELL*