



# Tsoodzil



# EXPLANATION

**Tsoodzil** is the Navajo name of Mount Taylor, in northwest New Mexico, just near the town of Grants. The Spaniards called this mountain Cebolleta (tender onion), but it was renamed in 1849 for then-president Zachary Taylor.

**Tsoodzil**, a dormant volcano, was during centuries a source of lumber for the pueblos, but more importantly one of the six sacred mountains of the Navajo, populated by supernatural beings such as Turquoise Boy and Turquoise Girl. In their mythology, First Man created the sacred mountains with a stone knife.

The most accepted translation of **Tsoodzil** is Turquoise Mountain, but etimologically it could derive from tsodizin (**“prayer”**) + **dzil** (**“mountain”**).

**Tsoodzil** marks the southern boundary of **Dinétaah**, the large area around the Four Corners region, considered the ancestral homeland of the Navajo.

The Navajo call themselves **Diné** ("The People") and they constitute the largest Native American group in North America, and they still practice their beautiful liturgy ceremonies such as the Nightway or the Mountain Chant.

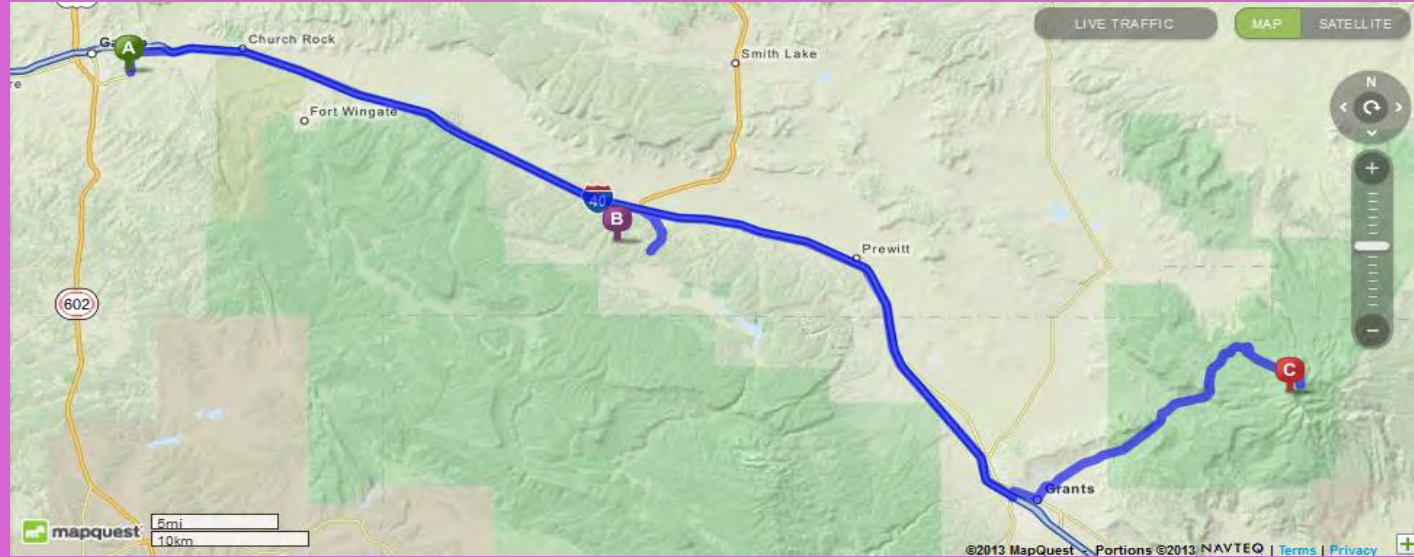
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From Gallup to Mount Taylor.

# Tsoodzil

A PHOTOALBUM BY FLORENTIN SMARANDACHE

ISBN 978-1-59973-719-5



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*Photography:*

The photographs were taken by professor Smarandache during a trip from Gallup (where he is academically based at the University of New Mexico), to Mt. Taylor, on November, 8th, 2013.

The photographs were filtered with artistic effects, in search of a mystical air (as Mt. Taylor is a holy / magical mountain), and accompanied with Navajo words and expressions from sacred texts, collected from different sources, and followed by their English translations.

*E-publishing:*

Educational Publisher

1091 West 1st Ave

Grandview Heights, Ohio 43212

United States of America

E-mail: [info@edupublisher.com](mailto:info@edupublisher.com)

Website: [www.EduPublisher.com](http://www.EduPublisher.com)

*Editing:* Mihai Paul Tudor



## Bahkse-hotetsa

“I hear about him.”

Place name near Mount Taylor.







## Ahzeth

Place name near Mount Taylor.



## Awáy-atsálth

Cradle of Etsán-ah-tleháy.









# Hadach-éh

Thing of value.





# Iknee

God of Lightning.

Personification in the thunderbird.

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# Adáhgeh-Hasleén

“Man Who Came Behind.”  
He was created in the Third world







## Insontzeel-odolíth

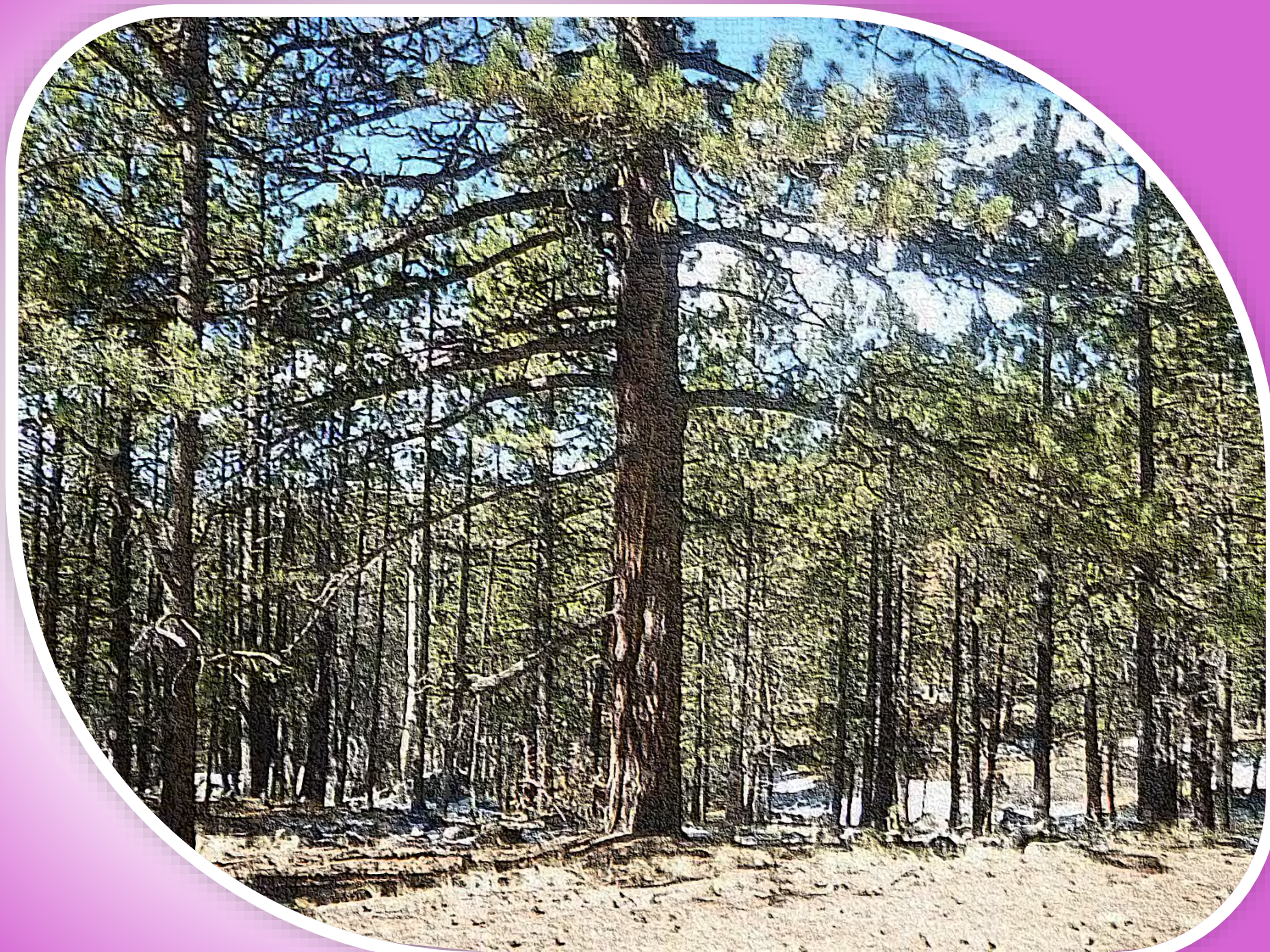
“Creating little rain on mountains.”

A phrase in the Creation Song



# Tabastéen

Otter.







**Data-téhe**  
Humming Bird.



## Odolíth

Obsolete word in the Creation Song probably meaning “Creating”.





## Rázeh-beyín

“Ladder Song” of the Emergence  
People.







**Ajah-tohée**  
Poison water-weed





**Nah táhyah-ni-zhéhni**  
“Standing for the Law,”  
ceremonial name of the boy to whom  
Estsán-ah-tleháy taught her medicine.

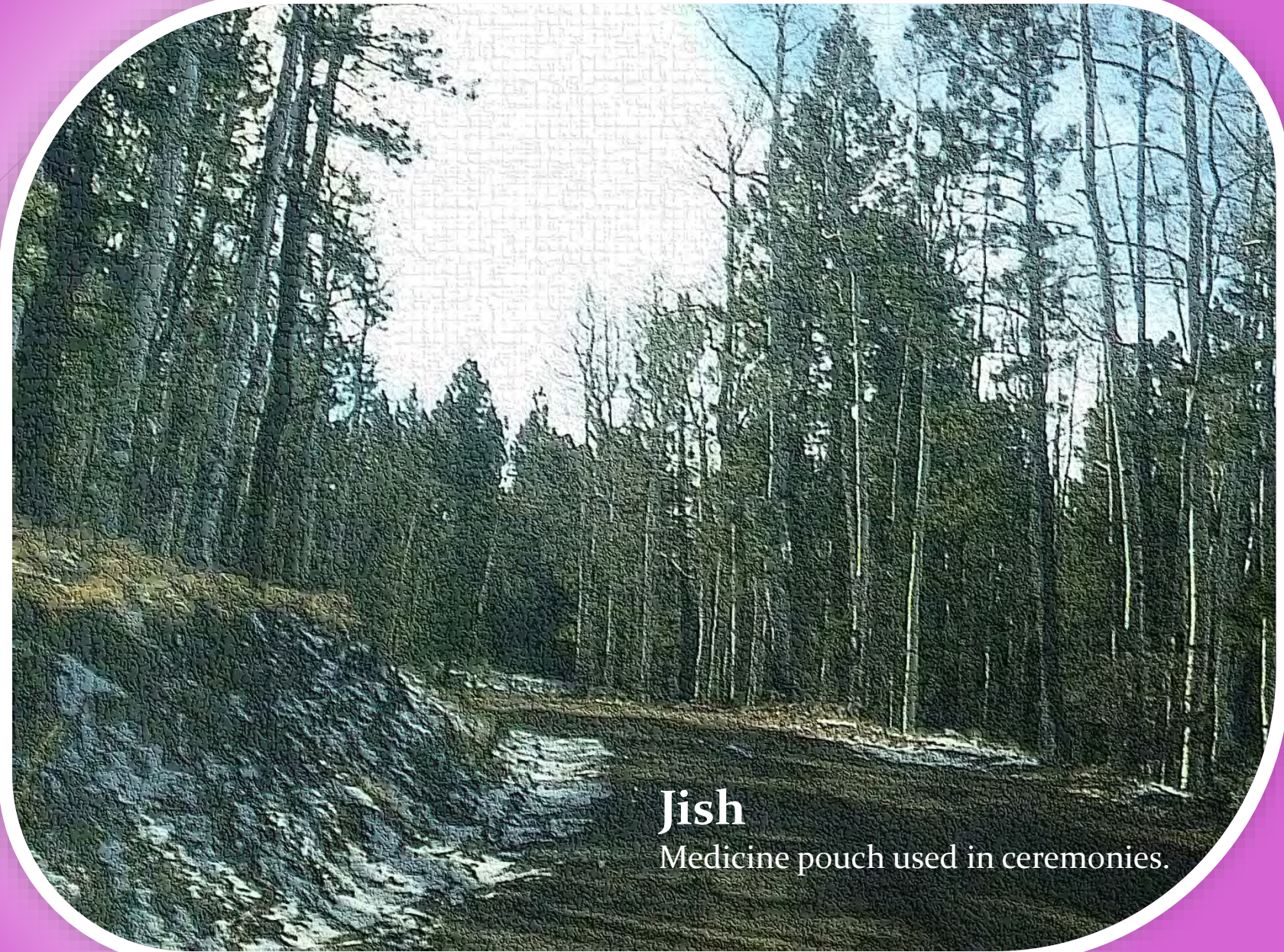


## Náhtoh-beyín

“Tobacco Song.”







## Jish

Medicine pouch used in ceremonies.



# Gáhgi

Crow







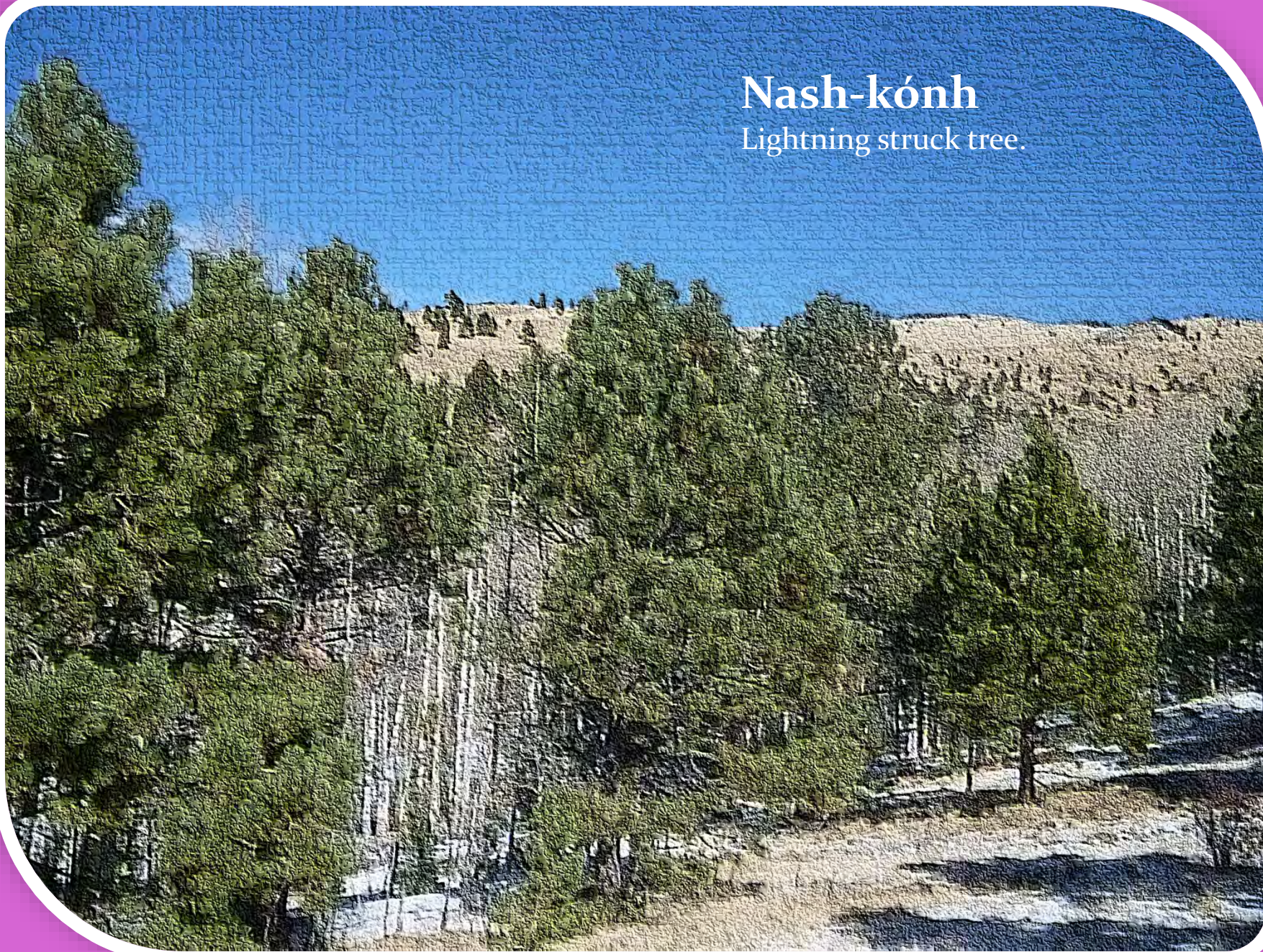
**Do-bitsáh-hállih**

Name of Chief of Bitahni clan.



## Nash-kónh

Lightning struck tree.





# Nah-zunny

Snow bug.





## Trádadéen yeh-káheh-deyázh

Pollen path between earth and sky spirits.





## Tsilth-ran-es-tseel

“Bright-shining or Blue Mountain,”  
on Santa Cruz Island, California.





## Eékai-estáhi

Milky Way, constellation of the month of February.





**Atráhgeh-Hasleén**  
“Centre Man,”  
created in the Third World.

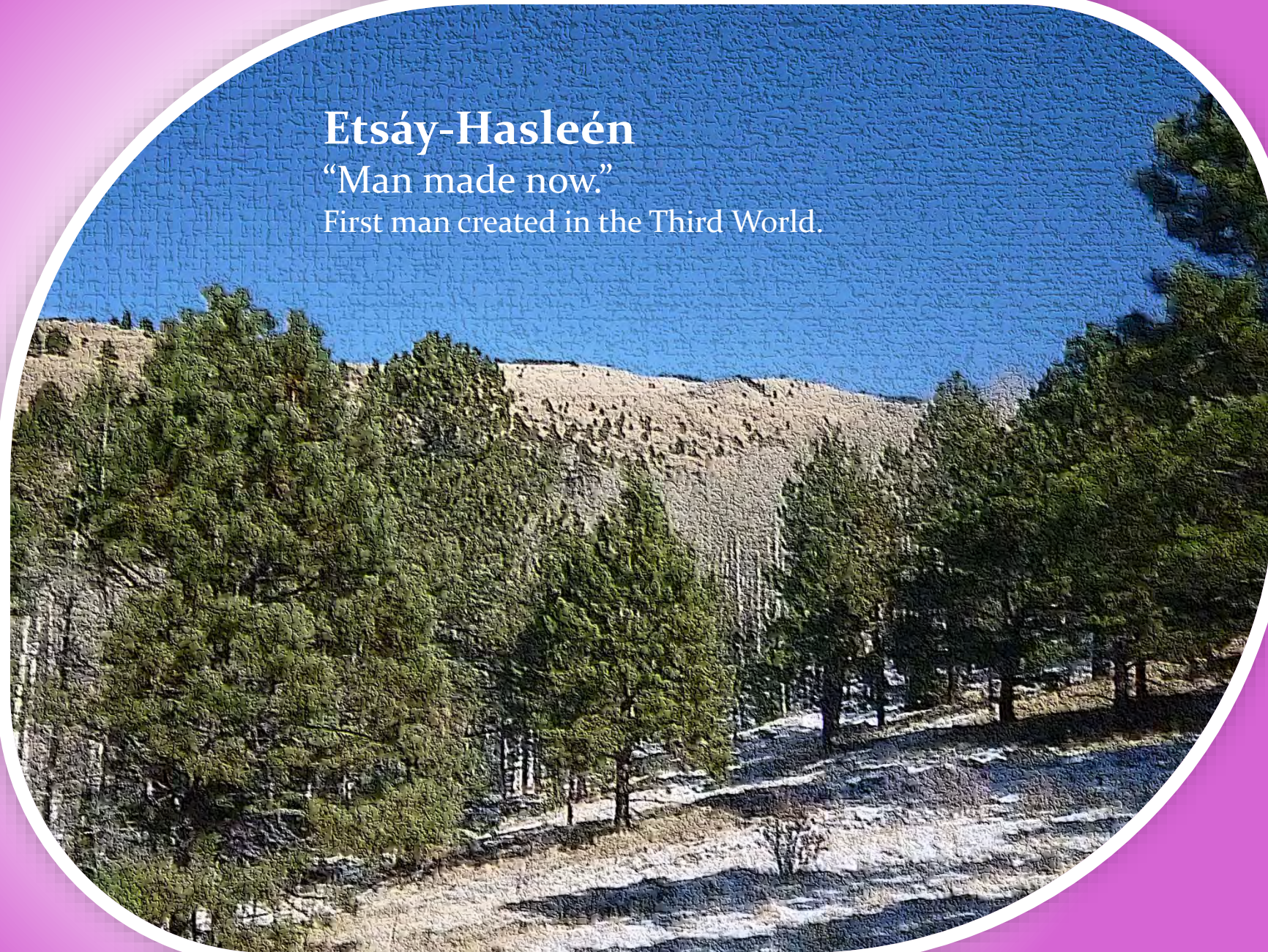




## Etsáy-Hasleén

“Man made now.”

First man created in the Third World.





## Lukatsó-sakáh

“Place where big reed grows.”





**Ayáh-zush-chíly**  
“Early greens are ripe.”  
Name for June





# Kloh-lachée

Red Grass.





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# Tsin Wood.





**Deh-nózzi**

“Mountain Sheep People,”  
ceremonial name





## Yeh-kai-beyázhí

“Place of the children”  
on the road to the Sun’s house.





## Nehochée-dothinlah

Name of the door of the Hogahn-of-Darkness.





## Tsilth-en-dokahnt

Mountains on way to California.  
Created in Fourth World.







## Tsilth-assún-odolíth

“Creating the Mountain person,  
who is both man and woman.





**Ahchíni-bah-jee-chin**  
We won't give the children away  
Children's song





**Tóh-wúlth**  
Taos, New Mexico.



## Secháí

Grandfather. A title of honour.





# Sahanahráy

Holy Spirit.





## Naho-kanái

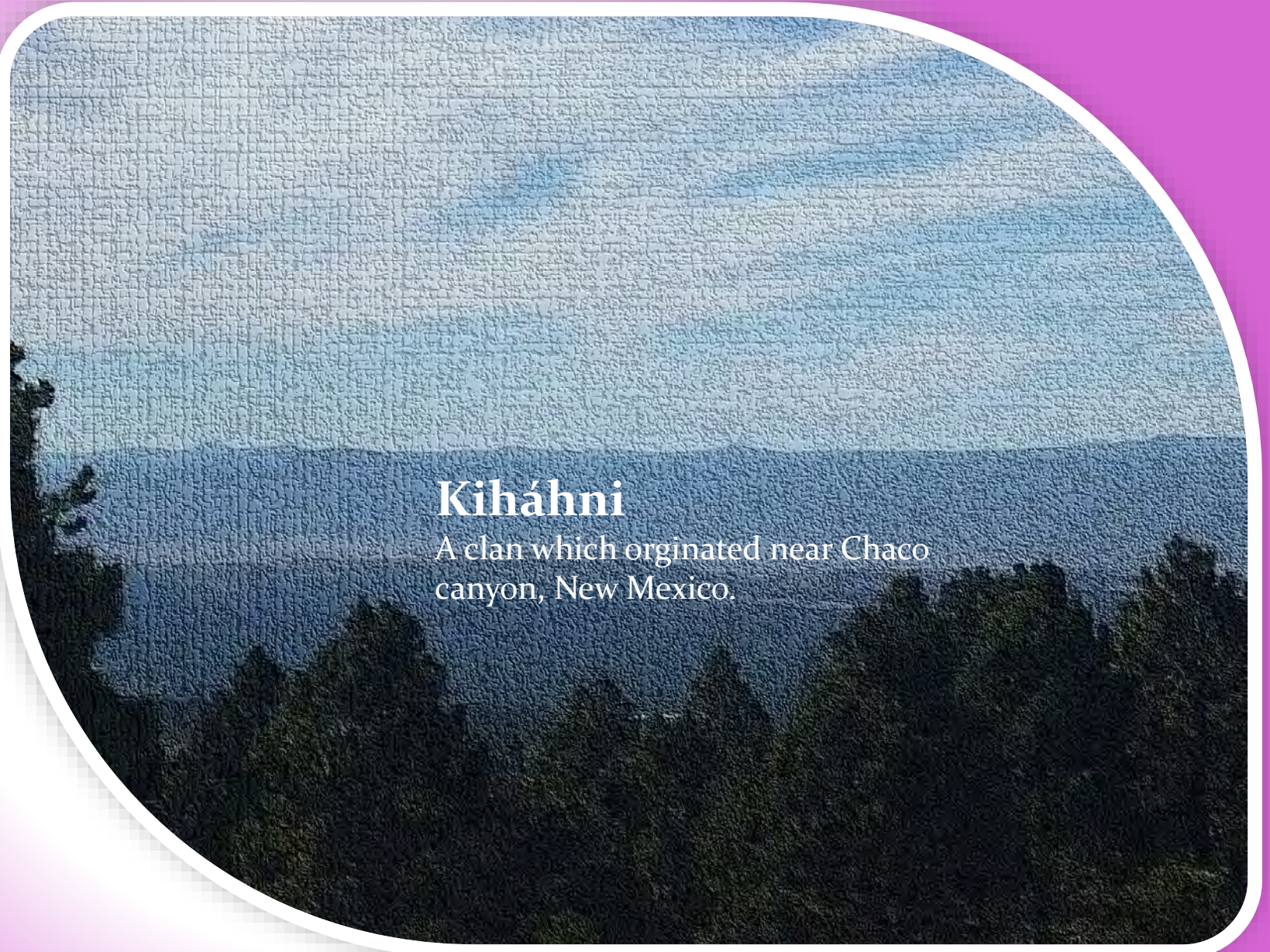
“On the Earth” people.





## Kiháhni

A clan which orginated near Chaco canyon, New Mexico.





## Hozhónigi

“Making the path of life beautiful.”  
Maiden ceremony.







## Bahkse-hotetsa

“I hear about him.”

Place name near Mount Taylor.



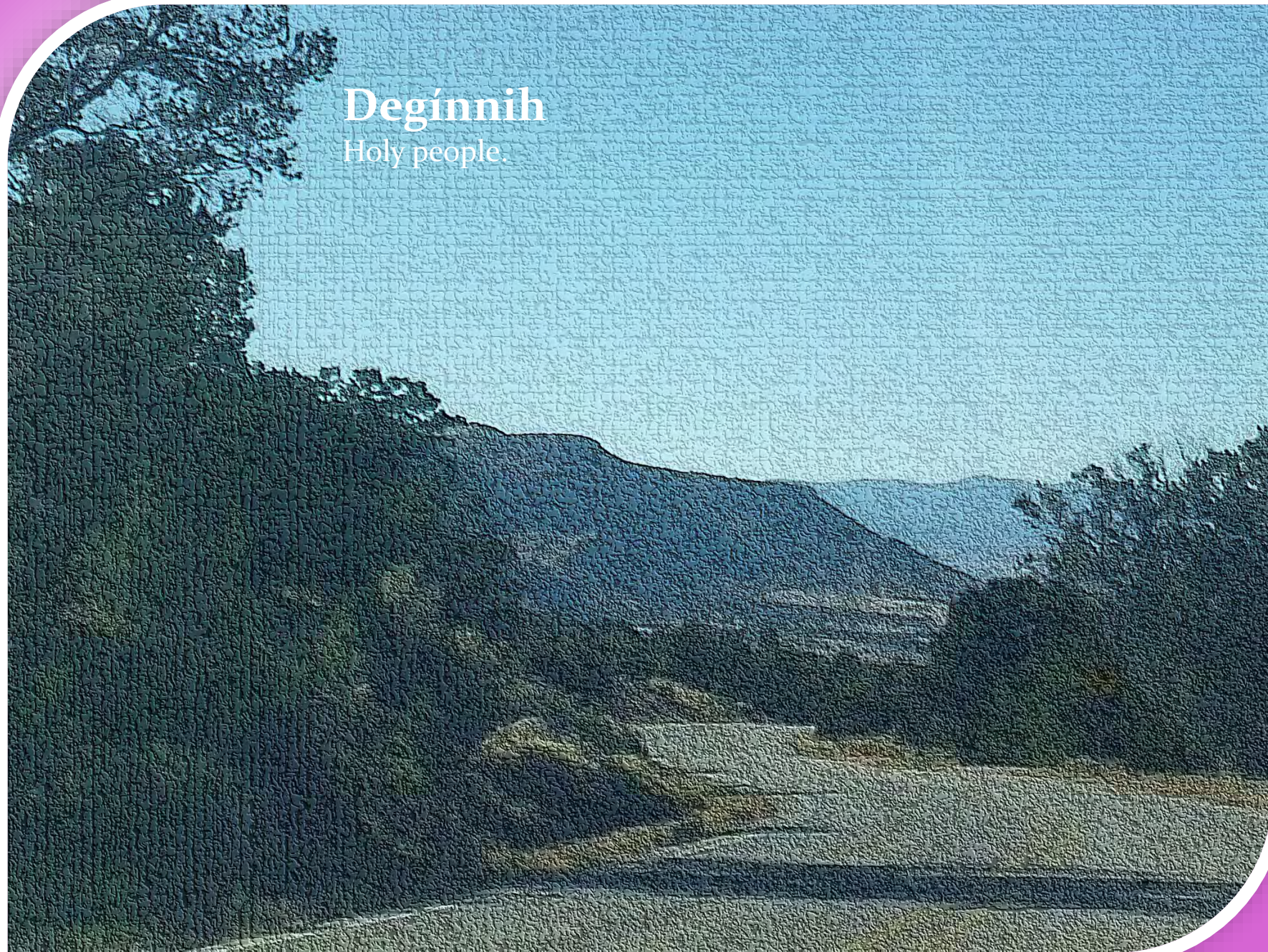
Etsáy-etsó  
“Big Man,”  
name of a star.





# Degínnih

Holy people.





Hágoónee'  
See you later





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