

## What is an elder?

Vivian sat and listen as the old man told her and her friends a story about a man, a fish, and how it talked to him and gave him wisdom. The story was nice and she was happy that she got to hear it, she understood the message that it told her as well.

It was about that time she drifted from that spot in the library to a table where members of her family sat. Her family had listened to that story too, and her uncle smiled at her when she came to join them and asked: "Did you understand the meaning of the story?"

"Yes, I did" replied Vivian.

"Good!" Her uncle exclaimed as he smiled and winked at her.

"I don't understand," said her cousin. "I get the story and it's meaning, I just don't understand why we have to come to this library once a week to listen to this old man's stories."

"Don't you learn from him?" asked her mom.

"Yes," replied her cousin "but I don't get why we don't come on Wednesday, there is a younger lady that comes in and she reads books and makes things more interesting with activities."

"Hey!" exclaimed her mom "You need to have some respect, he is your elder, a leader and an elder in the Pagan community with a lot to teach and show you."

"Sorry." Said her cousin in a low voice.

### Activity-

- Get some Popsicle sticks or strips of paper already cut and a marker.
- As you give your child a word have them write one on each stick or paper strip. When done they will have a set of facts about elders that together will let them know the reasons to respect them.
- Here are some words to include (some you may need to explain to younger children); however, you may have more you feel important to add or take the place of the ones here.
  - 1 . Wise
  - 2 . Leader
  - 3 . High Morals
  - 4 . Role model
  - 5 . Honest
  - 6 . Mentor
  - 7 . Mature

- Have your child put their sticks or paper in a private place. Each night for at least a week make sure to review these with your child as they memorize what an elder is. Sometimes tell them and have them find the word, have them read them to you, you read them to them and have them give you the definition of the words. Just shake it up some as you help them review the material.