

We do not forgive  
by A. Ellie Mitchell (Saginaw Ojibwe; Eagle Clan)

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We do not forgive.  
We do not forgive you for the doctrine of discovery.  
We do not forgive you for smallpox, influenza, tuberculosis.  
We do not forgive you for whiskey, opium, and heroine.  
We do not forgive you for enslaving our relatives.  
We do not forgive you for dragging us through Europe as entertainment.  
We do not forgive you for loving beaverskin hats so much you decimate our ecosystems.  
We do not forgive you for fighting your wars on our lands.  
We do not forgive you for declaring your independence on our land.  
We do not forgive you for manifest destiny.  
We do not forgive you for negotiation under duress.  
We do not forgive you for bringing whiskey to treaty talks.  
We do not forgive you for broken treaties.  
We do not forgive you for encroaching on Indian Lands.  
We do not forgive you for removal.  
We do not forgive you for allotment.  
We do not forgive you for reorganization.  
We do not forgive you for poisoning the waters.  
We do not forgive you for the pipelines.  
We do not forgive you for the chemical spills.  
We do not forgive you for the nuclear waste.  
We do not forgive you for removing the rapids, for blowing up the sacred stones.  
We do not forgive you for drawing an imaginary line and calling it a border.  
We do not forgive you for graverobbing.  
We do not forgive you for hoarding our bones.  
We do not forgive you for performing medical experiments on us.  
We do not forgive you for sterilizing us.  
We do not forgive you for making us speak English.  
We do not forgive you for making ceremonies illegal.  
We do not forgive you for man-camps.  
We do not forgive you for being the cause of the missing and murdered.  
We do not forgive you for stealing children.  
We do not forgive you for the rape of children.  
We do not forgive you for the murder of children.  
We do not forgive you for covering up the stealing, rape, and murder of children.

We do not forgive.  
Forgiveness is a concept meant to help you live under the power of a jealous god.  
We reject forgiveness because we reject your jealous god.

We do not forgive.  
Instead,  
with humility,  
with honesty,  
with love and respect,  
with truth and knowledge,  
with bravery,  
we will hold you accountable for everything you did.

