

3-15-1991

## ***Medicine Cord***

David Sparenberg

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Sparenberg, David (1991) "*Medicine Cord*," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 1991 : Iss. 11 , Article 17.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol1991/iss11/17>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Mythopoeic Society at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Mythic Circle by an authorized editor of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).

To join the Mythopoeic Society go to:  
<http://www.mythsoc.org/join.htm>



---

## Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



### Abstract

I grasp in my hands today the tail feather of a hawk

### Additional Keywords

Poetry; Medicine Cord; David Sparenberg

## MEDICINE CORD

by David Sparenberg

*I grasp in my hands today  
the tail feather of a hawk,  
a swift ascender, a mighty watcher  
of the upper air.  
Swift as the spirit, hawk  
reflects the Spirit of the Sky.*

*Between my fingers rests  
a purple sphere of harmony,  
a glass bead  
of the immaterial world,  
a wooden disc of remembrance  
of the Tree of Life,  
from which all living  
creatures descend.*

*Joined by the seeds of declension,  
these symbols of unity  
top a thong of rawhide,  
bound on my wrists, running  
through my palms, hot  
with pulsations of life.*

*Here I hold together  
emblems of life:  
wing feather of a sea bird--  
and the vastness of Ocean is on my side--  
brown sphere of remembrance  
of the intensity and integrity of Earth,  
home for the diversity of creatures  
my senses share--  
and Earth and her creatures stand beside  
me--  
star of my faith, fire-star,  
and shell heart of compassion, light-heart  
--guiding my on my path of life--  
bone disc of remembrance of mortality,  
condition of passage  
that I hold in common  
with my brothers and sisters  
of this planet of soil, air, fire  
and water.*

*Beyond my fingers I have tied  
a knot of strength against death,  
a strong knot of prevention,  
a tight knot of resistance.  
Far below and away*

*a red clay bead of bloodshed,  
a bone tooth of wounding,  
an inverted black feather of death,  
with its quill that shoots  
like an arrow at life.*

*Today I stand up,  
grasping in my strength  
a medicine cord,  
crying out a song.*

*I am turning aside danger  
from a weak one.  
I am wrestling with death  
as a warrior.  
Standing here in my medicine,  
Standing in my manhood,  
I am standing up in balance.*

*Now Earth has beheld me;  
Ocean has beheld me;  
Sky has beheld me.*

*Death is a coward.  
Death is a weakling,  
an eater of carrion,  
beaten in life's shadows.*

*Life-giver has given  
me the powers of a savior,  
skills of a shaman,  
standing up in balance,  
questing for a weak one, wrestling  
as a warrior.*

*I am wrapped up  
in my medicine.  
I am standing  
here in balance, crying  
out a song.*