

# **Why the World Doesn't End**

## **Told by Martha Ellis, Anadarko, Oklahoma**

One of the old prophecies states that when the Delawares have been pushed to the Pacific Ocean the world will end in fire. Another says that the end will come when the turtle, who is always journeying westward, reaches the Pacific. Still another, more hopeful, allows that although an old woman is "weaving" the end of the world, her work, fortunately, is unraveled each night -- some say by mice.

One time a man went to an old woman's house. She gave him food. He saw there was only a piece of corn. He thought to himself that this piece would not fill him up. He ate the piece of corn, and before he knew it, there was another to take its place. The man did this to each of the kinds of food. The old woman was over in the corner weaving a basket.

It is said that whenever the old woman finished the basket, the world would come to an end. This would never happen because each time, at the end of the day, the old woman had nearly finished the basket, but the next day she would find the mice had chewed and made a hole in it.