



## Porcupine

Hello, you all, I'm a porcupine,  
My unruly look is by design,  
My name means pig with prickly spines,  
I'm a rodent by genes, and that is fine.

I'm a vegetarian and don't bother others,  
I carry quills rather than feathers,  
Please take care whenever you're near me,  
I could accidentally poke a quill in your knee.

I actually can't shoot these quills at you,  
My preference is to act to make you shoo,  
At first, I puff up and then my teeth clatter,  
And then I release odor to tell you this matters.

As a last resort I rely on my quills,  
But protecting myself gives me no thrills,  
I would certainly prefer to be left alone,  
Off to myself, in my own zone.

I spend a lot of time in the trees,  
Off of the ground, enjoying the breeze,  
For a rodent I have a relatively long life,  
Perhaps my quills keep away nasty strife.

The indigenous people thought I was okay,  
A hunter who saw me would have a good day,  
I'm considered a good spirit that stands for humility,

Based on my preference of peace to hostility.

I attend Earth church services and sit at the rear,  
I'm really afraid for you to get too near,  
I have great weapons but prefer not to use them,  
I offer this concept as an Earth church anthem.

All beings can learn from one another,  
We act as one - as sister and brother,  
This pig with spines now bids you good day,  
Thanks for letting me visit and have my say.

So welcome to Earth Church,  
Pull yourself up a pew,  
Here all types of beings  
Have knowledge for you.