

GIFTS OF POWER

The Indian people live with a true culture and it is something which comes down from our ancestors, making it very traditional. To some people this is hard to grasp because they don't stop long enough to try to understand it. Either that or their beliefs in culture, if it can be called that, are too much like the white people.

A white man can sit down and gather a group of his people and attempt to have 'cultural discussions' and they would get nowhere, much less know where to begin, because they have nothing that's connected with the great mysteries and forces of the universe. Their definition of culture is restricted to their fine arts or whatever other kinds of arts. Their races number too many and therefore their backgrounds are all based on a competitive structure. Even their Christianity is a race for power, which in turn causes them to war against each other. All this greed causes much confusion!

He is not even aware of his own confusion with regards to

death. When the white man dies and especially if he is a Christian, he is said to be going to one of four places after death: purgatory, limbo, heaven or hell.

The Indian? He goes to only one place after death. That is to the great beyond with the great Spirit, better known today as the happy hunting ground. No wonder the white man teaches the fear of death. Even after he dies he is confused. He doesn't know where to go.

Man was cursed with the power of reason. So cursed that no one today can come out a winner in anything they do. There is always a loser or at the very least, a compromised settlement, with one brave enough to accept the lesser. In this manner our people have learned to understand the lesser functions of what is important. They had to learn to understand because we were all born into the cycle of life put here by the great Spirit.

Among the people, a child's first teachings are of the four great

powers of the Spiritual Circle, or the Medicine Wheel. To the North of the circle is Wisdom. The colour of the Wisdom of the North is white. Its medicine animal is the 4-legged animal. The South is the place of innocence and trust and for perceiving closely our nature of heart. The color is green for the grass and the leaves. The animal is a snake. The West is the looks-within place which speaks of the introspective nature of man. The color of this is blue for the rains and the sky. The medicine animal is the fish. The East is the place of illumination and the newborns, where we can see things clearly, far and wide. Its color is yellow. The medicine animal is the eagle.

There are many of our people who have two or three of these gifts, but these people are still not whole. A man might be of the four-legged clan of the East and he would still lack the gift of touching and innocence and trust, of the snake symbol of the South.

We then must grow and attain, by

seeking understanding in each of the four great ways. It is only in this traditional belief that we can become full, capable of balance, and directional in how we live and what we do.

It is what the Great Spirit has given us through the animals and the winds and the sunshine and the rains and the water and the grass and Mother Nature, the stones and mankind. It produces true harmony of our Indian blood, body, mind, heart and soul.

Mostly it makes unity worth talking about!

In struggle and spiritual
harmony
Billy Brass