

Reader discusses spirituality of whites

To The Editor:

I would like to make only a brief comment to the editor about J.Sesky of China writing on the Kiviuk idea in the issue of the Tundra Times for July 15.

In the next to the last paragraph, Mr. Sesky writes "... some would have us discard all Western culture and technology to retreat to aboriginal time stone age lifestyles" and thus preserve traditions, obviously few would favor such a retreat.

Speaking only for myself, I find the "Western (or Western European) nature of the culture around us to be overwhelmingly of a "spiritual" nature (even among atheist-secularists white people). This "spiritual" temptation, which comes from the differences that developed in Roman Catholicism in Western Europe from about 900 A.D. to 1400 or 1500 A.D. and which were taken over by Protestantism wholesale from the Roman Catholic experiences that they were discarding, is the real reason why white people and Natives are so different in their personalities and approach to life and the real reason why any

white man who cannot understand Natives' personalities and feelings intimately are unable to do so.

These differences of Roman Catholicism from Orthodoxy can be partially described as "rationalism" and "scholasticism."

This involves the idea that all expressions can be adequately conceived and defined and represented by the mind that the mind's conception derived from "pure reason" is a faithful representation of actual life expressions experiences of "reality."

All of "Western" philosophy — from the time that Western European (Roman Catholic) philosophies started debating the philosophical basis that they gotten from the pagan Greek philosophers (Plato, Aristotal, Socrates, etc..) is filled with this reationalism and "scholasticism" that has so destroyed the emotional and spiritual understanding and functioning of "white people" that they almost alone are unable to understand Alaskan Natives, American Indians or any non-Western people unless those non-Western peoples start to take on Western ways — even

specifically — and then it is only these (Western ways — even superficial ones) that are understood.

To be spiritually and emotionally healthy not only Natives but all Americans need to shun as personal emotional suicide the Western aspects of America's culture (as described above) and any part of Western technology whose use is really motivated by Western attitudes toward life, and to look back to that part of Alaska's history when it was called Russian America after the lawlessness and brutality of the original Russian merchants had been overcome and when people of white skin lived in respect of Natives and their differences (which were differences in the languages spoken, although many Natives were at least bilingual) and cultural and which was not expcially of a stone-age lifestyle which the white-skinned Russians did not themselves use there because of the advantages for that technology for that time and place.

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Inmates send invitation

To The Editor:

The brothers down here of the Tribe of Five Feathers in Lompoc, Ca. are having an all day Traditional Indian Culture Day in which we do everything the traditional way, from dawn until time will permit us to. The brothers here have been doing this a least once a year.

The Tribe of Five Feathers here in Lompoc, is a prison group, that was started by some brothers that cared enough to keep the Indian ways going inside prisons.

We are having our Traditional Indian Culture day on Sept. 22.

We are inviting anyone that you can send down here, so that we may share this day with you. Also to show you that although we are locked up here, we still have alot that we haven't forgotten about our own ways.

I'm sending you a copy of the visitors information form, along with the outside quest application sheet that you must fill out before you can come in here. I'm sending only one copy, but if you need more just use a copy machine.

I very truly hope that someone from up there will be able to come down here so that we can share this little time with you

from up there because I am from Alaska, because not only we show we care. But it will show that even if we are locked up, that we still have alot of our own ways still with us in here.

We'll be waiting your answer soon, the sooner you fill out the forms, the sooner we'll have your names on the visiting list. Because it takes them about a month to clear the names.

We'll be looking forward in seeing you here.

J.P. Tuckfield
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