

Time to Waken!

An Essay by Richard Zane Smith

Kweh brothers,

I've been giving this a lot of thought, wonder if anyone else might get anything out of it? If so...please feel free to spread it along.....

Assimilation has got us. Assimilation is most effective when it acts as a strong river. To choose to fight the current takes a deliberate directional turn, extreme energy, which many modernized Native Americans don't seem to have time or energy for. To fight assimilation takes a kind of vision/belief that sees the downstream pull or drift as a kind of disaster... a kind of death, awaiting....our people. Not many (comfortable river rafters!) are quite there yet. Native Language (even ceremony) is often seen as a kind of romantic ndn luxury, not a true awakening of a lost identity that could help heal us.

Culture is defined by mainstream (no pun intended) to be simply "color" like M&Ms, NOT inherent in ones foundational identity as a human being. This is part of the brainwashing we have been exposed to. So many majority people will speak of how we are all basically the same. Though we all share common ancestors, we have over eons developed very holistic and functional patterns of smaller circle societies that have kept specific identities for 1000s of years without being parasites of the earth in which they lived. In the last two hundred years, this is changing.

Since the Industrial age, the human being has been redefined, reclassified. We are been cultivated as good Consumers - like the new hybrid salmon. These salmon will never have to fight rapids, they grow astonishingly fast, and will never be swiped up by bears or eagles or even fly fisherman. They will be grown in vast cages that control their every move. The question we should be asking ourselves is, "Am I being cultivated and hybridized...if so, Hybridized for what?"

We THINK we are making choices about our lives and our lifestyles, but are we really? Have we become so addicted to THESE modern comforts that we are being weakened, sickened into a kind of dependent state? Is our country becoming a kind of walled cage to feed and fatten us?

WHO or WHAT could feed on us? In a numbed state we are unalarmed and complacent in our comforts and can fail to sense instinct or ask questions that might be about actual survival of our entire species on the planet. Eventually instincts of domesticated, or caged animals warp and become destructive.

What we DO know is anger when we are pulled from the nipple. When industry stops feeding us...we become enraged "Consumers". We will fight, do violence, and even kill simply to maintain our "lifestyle", to be plugged back into the nipple that seduces us into our euphoria. Are we being groomed as servants for some kind of industrial use?

What shocks people awake? An occasional burglary, a "free-way" accident, a bout with cancer, ones fragility of health? Sometimes these only make us more "self"-protective, "self"-aware, even "grateful" for being given more time to euphorically feed again, but even this might not waken us, as we are being washed gently down a deep muddy river, even as we try on different colorful cultural costumes.

Cynicism and ridicule are becoming acceptable ways to confront those with whom we can't agree with. When we feel "We hold the Truth", we begin to view others as "less" and so we fall into belittling one another. Politics has devolved into shaming the opposition with ridicule. Have we ended constructive discussion and humble debate? We attack each other more like domesticated chicken farm squabbles than free grouse or quail, who are too busy hunting seed and being alert, to attack each other.

Industrialized Christianity once rose to become THE SUPER power, and ran itself right into the ground with its violence, wars and corruption. Now a new kind of deity has appeared on the scene - Modern Science. Science says there are no miracles, only Natural explanations.

Modern Science as it's taught, has declared itself the only acceptable absolute, taking the very roll of omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, becoming itself a god... more specifically THE GOD of truth.

We must stop, listen to our own heartbeat, awaken and develop gratitude for our existence. A sense of thanksgiving will help us. Consider the odds of your own existence - your life is a miracle! Science says, "It may SEEM like a miracle, but considering the natural world around us, it is NOT a miracle, because life itself is likely and even probable." But one thing science misses: Consider the odds of YOURSELF existing... Yourself! not simply any ol' life existing, THAT IS A MIRACLE. Time to waken!... Bust out of the cage ! And start fighting the currents that we were BORN to fight! Language and cultural revitalization may not seem important until we actually begin to dig in and see what a different kind of thinking it produces,

thanks for reading me,
ske:noh
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