

# The Red Heart Warrior

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## Why Tainos do not identify as “Hispanics” or as “Spanish”

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In 1492, Cristobol Colon (Christopher Columbus) wrote of them: “They are artless and generous with what they have, to such a degree as no one would believe. Of anything they have, if it be asked for they never say no, but do rather invite the person to accept it and show as much lovingness as though they would give their hearts. They love their neighbors as themselves, and their speech is the sweetest and gentlest in the world, and they always speak with a smile.” Columbus dubbed these people “*in Dios*” (of God), and in the name of the King and Queen of Spain, he set about enslaving and exterminating them.

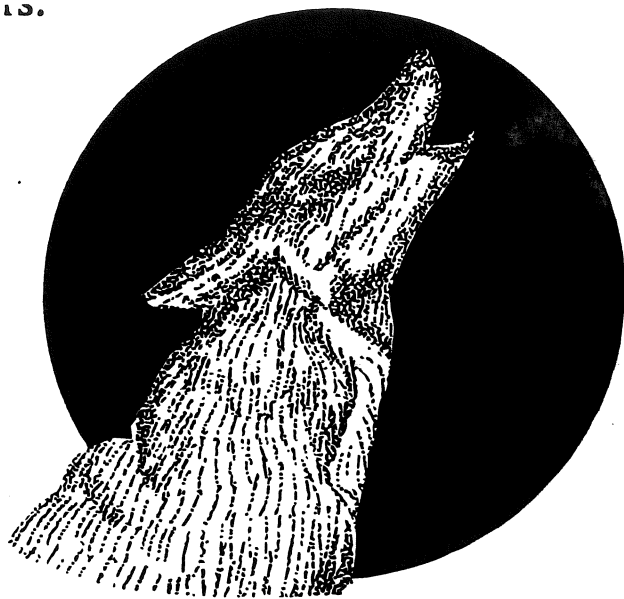
Colonialism quickly spread throughout the “New World,” as other European imperial powers rushed to compete with the Spanish *Conquistadores* in claiming the lands of the *Indios* as their own. Millions were slaughtered, worked to death or killed off by the European’s diseases. Here in *Lenape’hoking*, the homeland of the Lenape Indians, Dutch, Swedish and English colonists competed for hegemony in exploiting the indigenous people and their lands. In the name of Christianity, they spared neither women nor children the ravages of their hate and greed, nor of their lust.

They “ethnically cleansed” this homeland to make way for their colonization, and kidnapped millions of Africans to labor as slaves alongside captive Indians and those Europeans condemned to forced servitude for their politics or poverty. They called this land of opportunity “America,” a place where great fortunes could be made on the backs and from the blood, sweat and tears of the common people.

Today, millions of people of Tainos, or other *Indios* blood heritage, have been forced by economic and political reasons to immigrate to this homeland seeking jobs and a better life. We of the Lenape Nation welcome these brothers and sisters, many of whom have lost touch with their traditional culture and spiritual orientation, to our homeland. The Red Heart Warriors’ Society (RHWS), which is sponsored by the Lenape National Restoration Movement (LNRM), invites you to join us in reclaiming our stolen lands and heritage. We stand in solidarity with the struggles of the Tainos and other indigenous nations in reclaiming theirs.

MAY CREATOR STAND US TALL!

Wanishil



## If Prayer Worked

By Chief Big Warrior

If prayer worked, there would be no one in prison. They wouldn't even build them because they couldn't hold anyone, for who has not in the darkness of despair cried out to God for salvation from one's oppression? But still we pray, 'cause maybe it might help.

But if we are serious about ending oppression, we must rely upon ourselves, organize and overcome it. If we want something bad enough, we get scientific about it. Don't we?

Spirituality is not the same thing as religion. People don't fight wars over spirituality. Spirituality doesn't require dogma and beliefs. The only authority is one's own heart. It is doing what your heart tells you is right. If you think God is watching, and you are making points, that's not true spirituality.

I guess in essence your spirituality is what you feel right about, which boils down to what you think – because we feel the way we feel because we think the way we think. Change how you think about something or someone, and you will change the way you feel.

I think life is precious and needless suffering should be prevented. If I had a horse with a broken leg, I'd shoot it. I'd be out a bullet, but I'd feel it was the right thing to do. But I can imagine circumstances where it would be the wrong thing to do – wasting a bullet or making the noise – then I would use a knife to end the horse's pain.

This is something a Christian, Muslim or Jew can relate to – as can an Atheist. Maybe some religion would hold that it is wrong to take a life under any circumstances – even to spare a horse a slow painful death. This is not spirituality! It is being in love with ideas. It is like the difference between law and justice. In capitalist society it is legal to exploit people – even to death – so long as they consent.

Outright slavery is illegal, (except for the state), but if you can find a willing person to agree to be exploited for a wage,

that's legal – that's the basis of the economy. To rob someone with a six-gun, that's illegal, (except for the state), but you can rob them in other ways called "business." Lawyers and clerks make a living off finding legal ways to rob people. A "shrewd businessman" differs from a pirate only by lacking an eye-patch and a parrot.

Actually, pirate codes are more honorable than business law. Among themselves, the pirates were far more democratic than the Democrats.

It is common usage to equate Capitalism with Democracy: But Democracy for whom? Stockholders get to vote – but he who owns the most stock gets the most votes. So it is really all about ownership. Money talks and everybody else does as they are told.

Among the classes, the moneyed class rules. the freedom enjoyed by the workers is only to choose which party to belong to, to vote for and be loyal to. The Democrats pose as the "Party of the Common People," but they have more in common with the Republicans. Both parties are funded by the corporations and serve their interests.

Even the Socialist and Communist parties tend to end up selling the people out for a few concessions in exchange for a seat at the table. The power of corruption saps the will of those who set out to make revolution but end up seeking a few reforms.

What is Capital? It is an abstraction representing the value created by labor. In turn it is used to hire more labor to create more value. Today's labor is in bondage to yesterday's, and the dead haunt the living demanding perpetual servitude.

The expropriation of unpaid labor from the workers through exploitation reduces the free worker to wage slavery. The capitalists rob the workers hourly, daily – day in and day out, year in and year out. They take the unpaid labor of the workers as their own property.

When the worker becomes surplus to this goal, when he or she cannot be profitably exploited by the capitalist, he sets the worker free – free to seek some other boss or to go hungry, be evicted and made homeless. As the song says: "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose."

Capital is free and flows to wherever the rate of profit on investment is highest. Capital has no nationality. A dollar has no difficulty in converting itself into some other currency.

The big corporations have all become transnational and transact business wherever it profits them to do so. Teams of "bean-counters" work round the clock to figure out how each can maximize exploitation, pay the least taxes and reap the greatest profits.

So what is a state? What is a government? What is a country?

Mao says: "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun?" The *Godfather II* says: "Economics is a gun, and politics is knowing when to pull the trigger." Scientifically speaking: "Politics is concentrated Economics."

Every state is a dictatorship of those who own the basic means of production. A state consists of men (and now women too) with guns. It is the military, the political police, the prison guards and street cops (and a bunch of clerks).

A country is a fence and guns – same as a prison. The difference is one fence is meant to keep people out and the other to keep people in. The whole world is one big plantation – a prison planet – ruled by one internally-feuding family of monopoly capitalists. They compete and collude, make war and peace, buy and sell, with but one objective; to maximize their own profits. In effect, capital rules the capitalists. They are slaves to its demands.

Capitalism is a crap game you can't quit that goes on night and day. The dice keep rolling, and winners all end up losers, but capital keeps concentrating into fewer and fewer hands. As the old saying goes; "The rich get richer and the poor get poorer." We might also add "...and more numerous."

The Agricultural and Industrial revolutions keep reducing the percentage of the population necessary to feed and produce goods for everyone. We can now easily produce enough food and goods to assure everyone on the planet a decent standard of living. That is we could, but that's not how capitalism works. It only operates to make profit for the owners of the means of production.

The game makes a few "winners" (fewer and fewer) at the expense of a growing mass of "losers." The majority in the world today are living on less than \$2.00 a day they manage to hustle up, while living in hovels and shacks – driven from the land and unable to find regular work in a downsizing global economy.

The "invisible hand" of white supremacy tries to confine the worst poverty to the non-white peoples of Asia, Afrika and Latin Amerika. But as Malcolm X put it; "Chickens come home to roost!"

The "Third World" is growing, and in every urban center in Europe and Amerika the demographics are changing. Fences and guns don't stop the flood of immigration from the "Third World" seeking jobs and escape from abject poverty. The proletariat (wage slaves) is an international class – just as capital has no country. Capital goes wherever the rate of profit is highest and the proletariat goes where there is work and wages are best. Both tendencies serve to reduce wages and lower the standard of living in the imperialist countries and ultimately everywhere.

The solution is simple – abolish wage slavery and socialize ownership of socialized production: Simple, yes, but not easy! The exploiters will fight it to the last drop of our blood!

In Amerika the top 10% have the wealth and power while the poorest 50% have practically none of it. In the world the top 1% own practically all of it while the poorest 50% are living hand to mouth on scraps. The vast majority are poor and in debt.

The past few decades have seen the process accelerate dramatically. The gap between the "haves" and "have nots" keeps widening. While the middle class fears global warming, the poor are trying to fight hunger pain and keep body and soul together. This is the reality of capitalist-imperialism in decline.

If prayer worked, no one would see their children starve or grow up malnourished and sickly. If prayer worked..., we wouldn't have to contemplate what it will really take to set things right!

Who has not felt the need to talk to an imaginary friend? To seek understanding and forgiveness in an unforgiving

system that demands its "pound of flesh?" Who has not cried out in the night or wept bitter tears at the injustice of it all? Who has not begged for strength just to carry on? I've been there!

But come the dawn we must face the reality that no savior is coming. If we want social justice we must be our own liberators! We must unite and rise up to take matters into our own hands! Our true friends are not imaginary. They are the other slaves who share our oppression – all around the world!

We are the majority! We are the great mass of humanity, we are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural, and we sing in many languages. But we have a common song:

*"Arise ye prisoners of starvation, arise ye wretched of the earth, for Justice thunders condemnation. A better world's in birth. No more tradition's chains shall bind us. Arise ye slaves no more in thrall. The earth shall rise on new foundations. We have been naught, we shall be all!"*

The song is the *Internationale*, the marching song of the Paris Commune, the birth of the Communist movement in 1871, when for two months the common people ruled themselves without the bourgeoisie (capitalists) and stood together, men and women, guns in hands, with their children at their feet, and defended the barricades flying the Red Flag of Liberty. The Commune was drowned in blood, and the survivors of the mass executions were sent to a Devil's Island Hell, but they had shown the world a glimpse of the future the proletariat will create.

Every year on May Day, International Workers Day, people in every country raise the Red Flag and sing the *Internationale* in their own language. The Spirit of the Commune cannot be crushed. It advances wave upon wave and will do so until final victory is won. The World Proletarian Socialist Revolution is the wave of the future – a future based upon social justice and equality.

Chains break at their weakest link, and in 1871 the city of Paris was the weakest link in the rising bourgeois dictatorship. Surrounded by the Germans in the Franco-Prussian War and abandoned by the bourgeois government that fled ahead of the Prussians, the common people of Paris decided to defend their city. They elected their own government and raised their own National Guard to defend the barricades. In effect, the National Guard and the people were one. The government was the proletariat in arms.

Once they had the power, they began to use it to reshape the social relations among the people. They proclaimed "*La République Démocratique et Sociale!*" (The Democratic and Social Republic!) and ordered the separation of church and state, taking over the Catholic Church's property, including the hospitals and schools. School children were given free food and clothing, and the churches were converted into community centers.

Workers took over the factories and shops abandoned by the bourgeoisie. Workers were permitted to reclaim their tools from the pawn shops and a moratorium on debts was declared. Neighborhood committees were the heart of the people's government, as ordinary people and political radicals of every stripe worked together to create a participatory democracy. Three million people stepped together into the future – a future based upon social justice, internationalism and equality.

We can trace the roots of the Commune back much further to the clash of cultures that took place in Amerika when the European colonists met the Native people. The Epoch of Exploitation met the Pre-Exploitative Epoch, and the culture shock sent waves back on Europe. The concept of the self-governing "Noble Savage" stood in marked contrast to the decadent, bewigged and powdered French nobility, and it inspired the Enlightenment that launched the Age of Reason.

The bourgeoisie in its revolutionary period summoned the urban masses and peasants into political life, but Reason and Democracy breed class consciousness, and the emerging proletariat began to reason for itself and envision a world without an exploiting ruling class. Chief among these intellectuals was Karl Marx, for whom the early ethnographic studies of the Iroquois provided keen insights into the origins of class society and the ultimate advance to classless society or Communism.

Capitalism evolved into capitalist-imperialism and imperialist rivalry brought on World War I, and in that global conflict Russia became the weakest link in global capitalist-imperialism, and it snapped in the Russian Revolution of 1917. Once again the common people had guns in their hands and were flying the Red Flag. When the people rose up and deposed the Czar, many Marxists held that conditions were not ripe for a socialist revolution, that first Russia had to go through a bourgeois democratic revolution, but Comrade Lenin led the vanguard of the proletariat to seize the time and take on all forces of reaction.

The first Communist-led socialist state was born and defended itself against a world of reaction. From relative obscurity the Bolsheviks rode the wave to lead the most radical rupture with "traditions chains" imaginable. Almost everyone expected it to fail, but the Russian proletariat took the bit in their teeth and pulled Russia into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as a world power. Everywhere Marxist-Leninist factions split with the compromised Socialist parties to embrace revolutionary communism.

World War II brought forth a third wave of the World Proletariat Socialist Revolution centered in the colonial Third World countries. Inspired by the Russian Revolution, national liberation struggles broke out everywhere, and no where more powerfully than in China, Where Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Party led a New Democratic Revolution to liberate China from imperialist domination and set the stage for socialist revolution.

Mao recognized that objective conditions were quite different in China and the rest of the "Third World" from Russia in 1917, and that the proletariat must lead the peasant masses in a two-stage revolution by first liberating their countries from imperialist domination while sweeping away the remnants of feudalism and giving "Land to the Tiller" before embarking on socialist revolution. He called this first stage "New Democratic Revolution," and he developed the strategy of protracted "People's War" to advance it.

He further developed Marxism-Leninism by determining that class struggle must continue under socialism in the form of "Proletarian Cultural Revolution" directed at those raised to high office taking the "Capitalist Road" to prevent capitalist restoration. Mao's inspiration launched a new wave of the World Proletarian Socialist Revolution that seriously challenged imperialism even within the U.S., as it was

applied by the Black Panther Party and other revolutionary formations of the oppressed in the 1960's and 70's.

Today's revolutionaries are armed with a more thoroughly revolutionary understanding of the class struggle than was ever possible before. Marxism-Leninism is more potent than Marxism, and Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is more potent than Marxism-Leninism. The present wave will develop M-L-M even further to a new and higher stage.

If the present wave that is rising is to be the one that finally sweeps away capitalist-imperialism, it must inevitably be centered here in the home base of the global capitalist-imperialist system. The contradictions in U.S. society and the world capitalist system are merged into one. We can't change the set-up here without changing the political-economy of the whole world. Neither can the oppressed countries break free of the grip of neo-colonial imperialism without us rising up to storm the headquarters.

Our destinies are wedded together, and the future belongs to all of us or none. We must rise together as one. A chain breaks at its weakest link. Where is it now? We believe it is here in the unresolved contradictions at the root of capitalism and Amerikan society.

As Mao pointed out, capitalism "arose and thrived on the enslavement and trade in Negroes," and it will "fall with the complete emancipation of Black people." Bourgeois liberalism cannot resolve this contradiction. The best it can do is elect a Black President. But the Black masses are still oppressed, still chained in slavery, still praying for liberation. If prayer worked, it would already be won, and the children of the oppressed class would have a future to look forward to instead of poverty, oppression and prison.

To end racism we must end capitalism – to end capitalism, we must unite as one – all across the world – and resist and rise up against the Empire of Greed. We must join together as one giant fist of the oppressed to smash capitalist-imperialism!

As Comrade Hasan Shakur of NABPP-PC used to say; "the sooner begun the sooner done!" The time to move on it is now, and the movement must begin among the young, because the future belongs to the youth.

The United Panther Movement (UPM) has begun to form – led by the New Afrikan Black Panther Party Prison Chapter (NABPP-PC). No one can say our leaders lack courage. They rise up in chains, under the guns of their captors, to point the way forward.

Their only motive is love for the people. Their only weapon is truth, and the truth plus our courage and determination shall set us free. Prisoners cannot change the world alone, only the masses of people united can accomplish this feat.

The call has been sounded! Let the word be spread. Each one must teach another. Two or more must form a collective. Each collective must work to build the mass movement and the vanguard party to lead it.

The "Slave Pens of Oppression" must be transformed into "Schools of Liberation," and the oppressed communities must be built into "Base Areas of Cultural, Social and Political Revolution" in the context of building a worldwide "United Front Against Capitalist-Imperialism."

Black, Brown, Red, Yellow and White, the common people must unite! We must find strength in our diversity as well as pride in who we are. Each has a unique gift to bring to our alliance.

If you feel the need to say a prayer, ask Creator to stand us up tall. The rest is up to us! We can do what needs to be done! We can be our own liberators and free humanity through struggle!

The future shall be bright – because we shall dare to make it so!

Dare to Struggle Dare to Win!

All Power to the People!

Free the People Free the Land!



## First “National Day of Mourning” Held in Plymouth November 26, 1970

For the 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the United American Indians of New England (UAINE) will be hosting the National Day of Mourning demonstration in Plymouth, Mass. in protest of the “Thanksgiving” holiday. The first National Day of Mourning was held in 1970, after the Commonwealth of Massachusetts invited Wampanoag leader, Wamsutta (Frank James), to deliver a speech at the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pilgrims landing. But he was uninvited after the event organizers read a copy of his intended speech, which they termed “inflammatory.”

Refusing to be silenced, Wamsutta, called his own counter-event, which was attended by hundreds of Indians and supporters. It became an annual event contrasting the annual “Pilgrim’s Pride Parade.” By 1997, the town fathers had grown weary of being confronted by the TRUTH in the face of their money-making LIES, and they called upon the state and local police to attack and brutalize the Indian marchers. More than 50 police charged the peaceful demonstration and 25 mourners were arrested. Nearly all filed charges of police brutality.

But the press, for a change, told the TRUTH, and supported the “Plymouth 25.” Even the Judge didn’t budge, and the town was forced to make a settlement with the defendants – agreeing to pay \$100,000 to the Metacom Education Fund, and to put up two plaques commemorating the victims of the “police riot of 1997” and explaining the TRUTH about the “National Day of Mourning.” Further, they agreed not to interfere with the Indian’s right to demonstrate in Plymouth on the Day of Mourning ever again.

The whole story of the Pilgrims landing on Plymouth Rock is a LIE cooked up to promote tourism. First of all they landed on Cape Cod, and the town dug up the rock in the 1800s and dragged it to the shore to go along with the mythology. The LIE started during the Civil War to create a northern founding mythology and downplay Jamestown.

With the massive waves of immigration in the 1900s, it made a good fairy tale to tell to the recent immigrants, one they could identify with. But the Pilgrims weren’t fleeing religious

intolerance and persecution. They were a splinter group from those Puritans who had found a safe haven in Holland, where religious toleration had been established. Nor were they such wholesome saintly people, they engaged in piracy, slave-trading and genocide. This was a business venture. They came here to make their fortunes, and their religious bigotry and racial arrogance complimented their greed and ruthlessness. It suited their goal of dispossessing and enslaving the Native inhabitants to demonize them as “devil worshipers” and “heathen savages.”

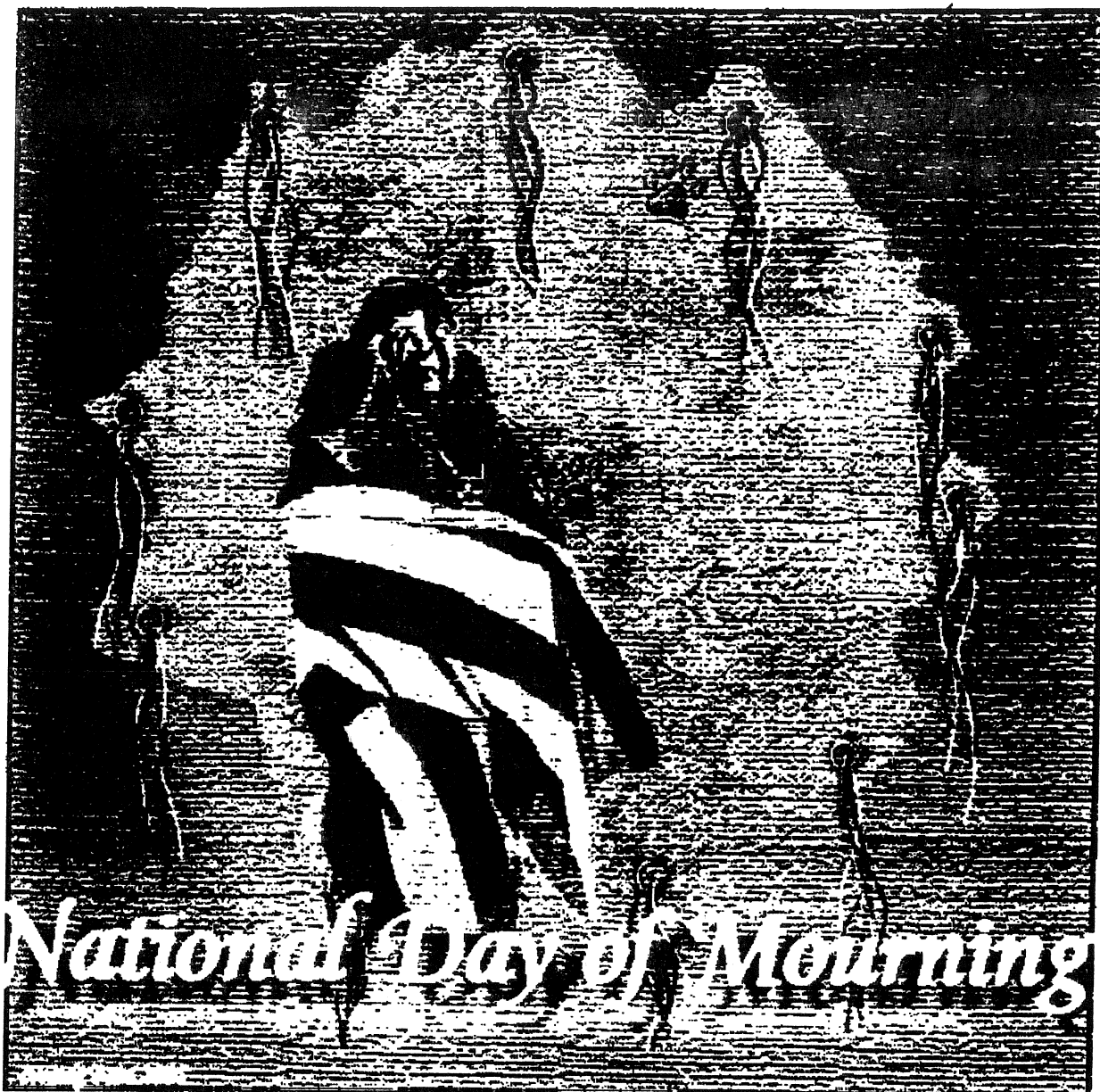
The only recorded “Thanksgiving” was Mather the Elder’s prayer of thanksgiving for the plagues transmitted to the Indians and that they afflicted “chiefly young men and children, the very seeds of increase, thus clearing the forests to make way for a better growth.” Not exactly the stuff of grade school Thanksgiving Day pageants!

There was a meeting in 1621 where the Indians agreed to cede land to the settlers. In 1622, this was written up in “Mourt’s Relation,” a propaganda piece written to encourage more settlers to come to Plymouth by glamorizing the situation. It claimed the Indians greeted the settlers with open arms.

White America has a need to put a spin on history and whitewash the character of its ancestors. The TRUTH is ugly. It is also too revealing of the continuing character of this country’s reality. The National Day of Mourning is not just a protest of the Pilgrim mythology but of the ongoing victimization of the American Indians and people all over the world by U.S. imperialism and the LIE of “white world supremacy.”

Every year it calls attention to the case of political prisoner, Leonard Peltier, and to the aggressive imperialist wars being waged around the world, to the oppression of people of color, women, gays and humanity in general. UAINE leads the nation in mourning the whole result of the impact of Euro-Colonialism and imperialism. It also offers hope of people uniting and collectively rejecting this legacy as a model for the future.





Prisoners can observe the National Day of Mourning by fasting and if possible wearing black armbands and holding prayer vigils for all of the victims of Euro-American colonialism, racism, bigotry and genocide. You can CHALLENGE the LIES and SPEAK TRUTH to POWER!

Giving thanks to Creator is part of the Native Americans' spiritual orientation and daily practice. This isn't what "Thanksgiving Day" is all about. If it was, who would object to it? As a National Holiday it is chauvinistic and racist – it insults the survivors of this holocaust that lasted FIVE CENTURIES and continues to this day!

Colonialism is no picnic; no dinner party! Slavers and bigots are not saints and heroes! God did not give this land to the white Christians! The Indians are not grateful – nor should the whites be – for this legacy. It should be criticized and repudiated. Our children should learn in school that this "history" is a lie and this lie is a racist insult. The future generations must be raised on the TRUTH and not be fed LIES!

**“Mans inhumanity to Man  
Makes countless thousands  
Mourn!” — Robert Burns, Scottish poet**

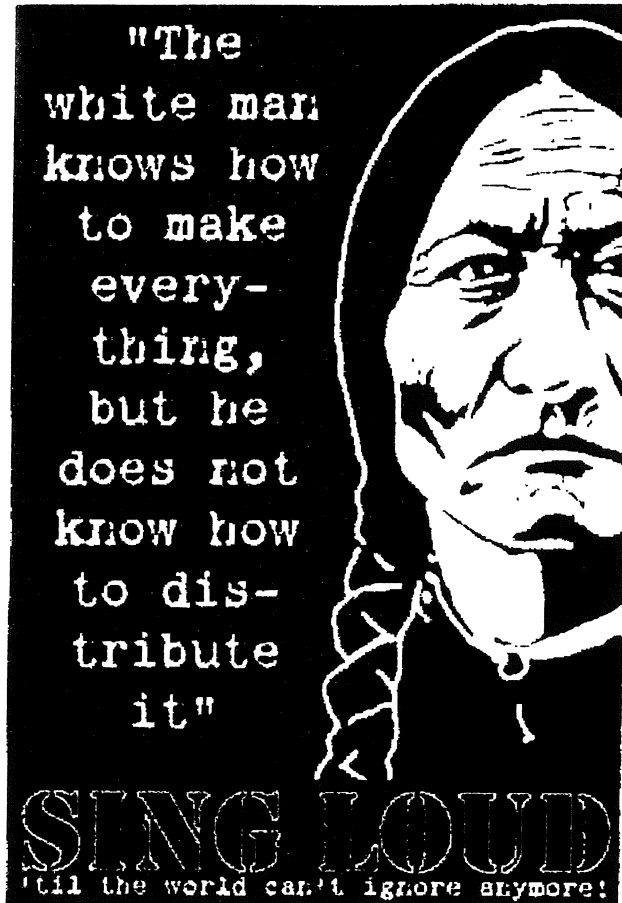
If we are to have a feast, let it be to celebrate the future we shall make when all oppression and exploitation are ended; when the dignity and equality of every culture and ethnicity is respected, and sharing the fruits of the earth and our labor are done as a matter of course and not for the profit of a few.

The TRUTH about history must be preserved and popularized – not racist LIES! The TRUTH will set us free – if we use and respect it as a weapon. The TRUTH is that exploitation and oppression can be ended – and in the upcoming rather than the distant future.

This is revolutionary and liberating TRUTH. The objective conditions are present waiting for the subjective conditions to

catch up. Moreover, the survival of humanity, (and all our relations), on this planet, demands that we make this breakthrough relatively soon. What is necessary is possible – in this case – and it is necessary that we unite to resolve this matter now.

What we need to address is the role Native Americans must play in this revolution. What can we bring to the table – to the feast – so that there will be reason for thanksgiving?



There is an old Lenape saying that "TO BE FOR SOMETHING YOU MUST BE AGAINST SOMETHING!" We must present a positive alternative while aggressively attacking the basic problem with determination. The basic problem here is capitalism – the alternative is a planned socialist economy based upon people's needs and subject to the people's will. To create people's power we must oppose the LIES of the past and counter-pose them with the TRUTH that we must unite and be our own liberators.

Moreover, to effectively bring environmental destruction under control and substitute "Green Technology," we must have a planned economy not subject to the profit motive and keep political power in the people's hands. The people must prioritize and determine how resources will be developed and allocated based upon long-term effects to create a sustainable society that preserves the natural environment while providing a comfortable standard of living for the people.

War can, and must, be eliminated along with weapons of mass destruction. To do this, the borders must come down and nation states must be abolished. A global political-economy must be instituted based upon social-justice and equality.

The indigenous nations have a cultural heritage that reflects the pre-exploitative epoch and an outlook of working with Nature and treading lightly on the land. Our traditions orient us to respect life – all living things – and personal liberty. In the "Great Circle of Life," things come around again, but not on the same plane. In the future we must be as one tribe – one nation – covering all the earth.

We must "Make the Past Serve the Future," and adapt our traditional values and orientation to new conditions. We must be "Warriors of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." We must defend and protect our Earth Mother and represent "All Our Relations." We must serve our own nations and their cultural preservation and restoration in the context of "Turning the World 'Right-Side-Up' Again."

When people would ask Chief Gray Wolf how to "be an Indian" in today's world, he would answer, "We cannot go back to making our living with a bow and a hoe,..." and he would say, "Don't worry about how to be an 'Indian.' Just strive to be the best human being you can be, and being 'Indian' will come naturally."

To be the best human beings we can be, we must strive to serve the highest interests of humanity. We must purge ourselves of all negativity and purify our hearts. We must pray Creator will stand us up tall, and we must liberate the ground under our own feet.

A warrior gives thanks for having been born to be a warrior. Each day is another opportunity to be of service to the people.

The future will be what we make it:

Dare to Struggle Dare to Win!

All Power to the People!





Massacre of Lenape Indians at Pavonia (Newark, NJ) by Dutch colonists

## Some Observations on Religion and Spirituality by Chief Big Warrior

Religion and spirituality are not the same things – in fact they tend to be opposed. Everyone who believes in a god invents his own. Religion promotes dogma and purports to represent spiritual truths.

You cannot separate religion from the class society that spawned it. Every one of the world religions reflects the inequality and oppression inherent in class societies. One could not conceive of a god in the role of a “heavenly king” in a pre-exploitative society – and the ancestors didn’t.

The European colonists came from a world dominated by earthly kings – purporting to rule by “divine right.” Their God (like their king) sat in judgment over them and was violent, jealous and vengeful. He demanded constant flattery and bribery. You could, however, beg and bargain for favors and through penance get back in his good graces.

To understand Christianity or Islam you have to see these religions in their historical context. They are part of the superstructure of societies based upon class exploitation and oppression. They arose from and in turn serve to maintain the inequality of class society.

Religion is a comfort to the oppressed – but also a shackle to that oppression. Marx called it the “opium of the masses.”

Spirituality, on the other hand, is part of our being. Atheists have their spirituality that determines how they live their lives and respond to moral choices.

The Native ancestors shared a set of spiritual beliefs, and among these was the belief that each must seek his own spiritual path and find their own “medicine.” What is right for one may not be right for another. Young braves (and sometimes older ones) went on “Vision Quests” to receive insights into their personal medicine and obtain the assistance of a “Spirit Guide.” The inward journey was seen as part of the warrior’s spiritual walk that illuminated their walk through life.

A warrior’s life was not his own. It belonged to his people, his tribe or nation. A warrior’s life is one of service to the people, and it is an honor to die for the people.

To the ancestors, death was just a transition to the spirit world. The nation consisted of the living and the dead – and those yet unborn. They had no conception of a Hell, except the isolation of cutting oneself off from the people. They believed that their spirits returned to life in new bodies. The nation lived on and was more important than the individual.





The Lenape Big House religion was based upon traditional Lenape spirituality. Everyone who had received a vision composed his "Vision Song" and sang it in the Big House at the annual Big House ceremony. The group repeated them over and over until all the individual songs became one collective vision song belonging to the Nation.

Each night they danced and sang their way through one of the twelve levels of Heaven, spiraling upwards until they reached the level where the Creator dwells, so they could give thanks collectively for their many blessings. Along the way each threw away their accumulated grudges and resentments so that when they reached the 12<sup>th</sup> Heaven they would feel only love and unity with one another. In this way the nation was restored with a common vision and perfect unity to start the New Year.

This annual harvest and hunting feast evolved over many generations going back to ancient times. It created continuity and renewal uniting the individuals and their spirituality with *He Who Creates Us*. They did not beg or bargain with Creator – They just expressed their love and gratitude and thereafter sought to emulate the 'Spirit of Hospitality' shown them by Creator in their dealings with each other and with others.

The unwritten *Law of Hospitality* was the "Highest Law of the Land." The stranger was welcomed with open arms and given the best cut of meat and a place closest to the fire to sleep. The Europeans egotistically believed that the Indians

thought they were "gods." They thought it was their white skin and weapons that awed their hosts. They still have not learned that *"it is more blessed to give than to receive."*

Hospitality is a universal concept reflected in every culture and going way back in the pre-exploitative cultures of early human societies. It reflects our true human nature. It survives in the world religions, but they are not its source. In fact religions try to convince us that human nature is selfish and rotten and that we need to be saved through their dogma and ceremonies.

To primitive people, politics, economics and spirituality are all bound together and based upon the Spirit of Hospitality. The chief does not eat until he is satisfied his people have all been fed. In trade one seeks to give just a bit better than one receives, (not so much as to embarrass or shame the other), and the purpose of life is to serve the people.

Civilization and the Epoch of Exploitation (of which capitalist-imperialism is the highest and final stage) have turned human nature upside-down. We need a revolution to turn the world right-side-up again. The Epoch of Exploitation has been long in the world, many thousands of years, but for the indigenous people of this homeland, it has not been so long. The pre-exploitative past was just a few generations ago, and the traditions of the people are not lost, but can instruct and inspire us in remaking society.

## PLANETA O MUERTE! PLANET OR DEATH!



**"Either capitalism dies  
or Mother Earth dies!"**

-- Evo Morales, April 21, 2010,

**The World People's Conference on  
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