

## **The Indian Police**

September 8, 2012

It looks as if we Indigenous have become more Racist than the Imperialists. Hitler would be proud. How is it we have been reduced to a condition where we constantly go at each other over who is a "real Indian"? We are greatly concerned with pedigrees, lineages and family trees.

The concern that arises is this: just WHO is setting themselves up as the Indian Police?? We don't mean here Indigenous people who join colonial police forces like the OPP, SQ or the NYS Troopers. We're talking about those who decide who is or is not Indian. Who are these people who even dictate which particular tribe or nation?

Getting kicked out of the "band" over membership criteria leads to loss of hunting rights. Families are being torn apart. People's reputations and credibility stand and fall with their IDENTITY. The stakes are high while the consequences are drastic.

According to Canadian and US census statistics, about 1-2% of the population is "Status Indian" with at least another 18% self identifying as Indigenous. Are all these people committing some sort of fraud?? Or are we at a turning point in history when fully 1 in 5 people has Indigenous consciousness and ties to the land, Onowaregeh, Turtle Island??

We have to go back in time to examine the roots of this matter. When treaties were being signed, the Indigenous signators were often signing under duress. Let us give them the benefit of the doubt, they thought they were doing the right thing. As time went on, they soon learned how they were being betrayed and used to police their own people in their roles as "band councils", ie pawns and agents of the colonial regime. The treaties contained provisions for the concept of "whites" and "Indians" being separate with the Crown running the whole show. This sowed the seeds and set the stage for the hideous struggles going on today. No one wants to admit they did anything wrong.

Some people were signed up as children or born into the system without their consent. Many conscious Indigenous refused to partake of the treaties. Quite literally, our Ancestors were left out in the cold.

There continue to be many people who refuse "Status" though they "qualify" for it. Is it necessary to carry a card to know who you are?

Though not Status, Metis or Rez Indians, NonStatus learn from an early age that we are not a part of the mainstream either. To this day, we wend our way between two camps, not accepted in either one yet growing

in numbers and awareness. We know who we are, yet every day, a big part of our struggle is our identity.

We have to prove who we are all the time. Sometimes, if we're not careful, we defer to people with the pedigrees and the hats, those recognized by the Crown. Then, when these leaders are corrupted or prove to be corrupt, we are too weak to question them. We seem to have no voice. This is the big struggle of the present times.

It is not our way to "follow the leader" just because he/she is a leader. Leaders must prove themselves to maintain leadership roles. If they fail in their responsibilities, they are replaced.

Indigenous people have always been self reliant, free thinking and analytical. Our communities have always had several factions who work together to balance each other. The colonial "divide & conquer" strategy has worked relentlessly to destroy this fabric of our society.

We used to respect our Mothers and thus Women and ourselves. If we did anything, we always wondered what our mothers would think. Then when the colonial adventurers arrived, they told us that the male was the ultimate authority. They raped our mothers before our very eyes to prove their point.

Their religion tried to teach us that God was a man and that Mother Earth was just a rock. We were hungry and overwhelmed so we got confused. Many of our people bought into their bad ways.

The colonial entities brag about their greatness and their concern for us. If they were the great guys they claim to be, then wouldn't things be so much better in the world?? Wouldn't people be more happy instead of running around like chickens with their heads cut off?? We live with constant calamity or impending threat of. Peace and justice are elusive.

"Real Indians" don't need the government to give them "Status" and a piece of pie or coffee and donuts. For so long, we've hated the Indian Act. Now, when the colonial entities threaten to get rid of it, some Indigenous cling to it as if our IDENTITY rests with the authority of the Crown.

At one time, "Indian affairs" was largely about controlling the lucrative Indian trade. Today, it is about administering welfare "stans" and preventing any resurgence of our Sovereignty.

Now, we have a big struggle to find our way back to our Original Good Ways so we can go forward into the Great Future. Many of the teachings are so corrupted that we don't recognize ourselves in the Cosmic Order.

If we mourn the loss of our traditions and teachings, then we have to

ask, how did our Ancestors get to know what we have lost? While much came from experience and careful observation, some inspiration came to us during Vision Quests or Dreamtime. If we want to regain lost knowledge, we need to strengthen ourselves, prepare and cleanse ourselves to be the receptacles of this Knowledge. If, for example, we can't skip a meal without dire stress, then we have a long way to go. Or if we're scared of the dark or being alone, then we have to look within for answers. If we can't get through the day without telling lies, then how can we see the Truth??

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