OUR WONDERFUL GIFTS

OOOOh how wonderful! I love the Beauty of this Fall season when the Earth Mother shares Her gifts with us. It brings back memories of my ride with my friend whom I had a large crush on, Jason Lamb, as we rode through the woods of Connecticut. Being invited to his home on the Schaghticoke Reservation near Kent Connecticut made my heart beat faster. Few know about this Reservation. As a matter of fact, many people don’t know very much about Native peoples or what they have contributed to this Nation called the United States, Our home.

Many consider this a great land but they have forgotten or never knew about two groups of people; those who owned the land and those who were brought here to work the land. African People and Native Indigenous People, the Originals. Africans were chained and brought thousands of miles across Oceans, horribly mistreated peoples turned into Slaves, causing many to die then, throwing the dead overboard for sharks to eat. These two groups are the foundation of this country called the United States. Without them, there would have been very little progress because their knowledge is what built this country!

Many of the gifts which these two groups have contributed were stolen by those from Europe. Many Europeans were shipped here from the prisons and mental institutions of their Nations to Our coasts. Their so-called Royalty emptied these institutions, jails and gathered scum from the streets, to free themselves of these negative uneducated peoples. Even the Pilgrims are not the fairytale we’ve been taught, burning alive Pequot women, children and Elders, then creating a feast, happy for what they had done. It’s now called Thanksgiving! If it were not for these selfish acts, this side of the world would have developed with much better ways, fairness, and conditions.

Did you know the Constitution was created after Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson visited and consulted with the Iroquois People? Both of these men used the Iroquois’s method of government for the present Constitution. Did you learn this in school? I doubt it. Also, the Native women weren’t included in Franklin and Jefferson’s model either! There was no statement about Native women having the power to remove a Chief if he wasn’t fulfilling his duties. Franklin and Jefferson’s women, sad to say, were not highly valued and are not much better off today!! Consider “the New Women’s Health Plan!”

The United States has been trying to keep Native people and Black people apart  since the early days with the help of Black codes in the South and Miscegenation laws in the West before and after the Civil War. These laws could put a person in jail if the laws were not followed correctly. Keeping these two groups apart was of the upmost importance, even though some of the Five Tribes here were on the side of the Confederacy! An example was Cow Tom, a slave that worked for The Creek Tribe. The Tribe had several slaves but were not using Racial Supremacy. The chief at the time was Yargee. Instead of money, land was the glory and Cow Tom was a prize as he spoke English. His Chief Yargee, refused to learn English since he greatly disliked the whites. Let it be known that the Creek were known at one point as “the most powerful Indian Nation known” especially in the era of the Revolutionary War.

After the Civil War, the Settlers wanted to take the lands from Natives by any means necessary. Two against one, the Settlers, as they called themselves, didn’t want any partnership between these two factions to last. These people were used to lying, cheating, and stealing. Black Codes or Black Laws were created to keep Blacks from learning to read and write, assemble together or bear arms. These were especially aimed at the Free Blacks, but all Blacks were included. Few escaped this. Also having one drop of Black blood, assigned you to being a Negro no matter what you thought or said. And as far as I know it still goes on. We are divided like horses or dogs into sections: one half this, one eight that and some, one sixteenth! We are not Horses or dogs, but true Human Beings, children of The Great Creator!

Cow Tom is an excellent Creek story to read. His methods opened the doors for Black slaves and those who intermarried with the Tribe. Look for articles starting in 2017 about the Cherokee Tribe expelling the Freemen from the Nation. The Black Caucus of the U.S. government came to the Freemen’s relief, refusing to release necessary monies to the Cherokee Tribe unless Freemen were reinstated. The Freemen lost their lands, but they were slowly reinstated. Their land is yet to be returned to them, but Hope is in the future.

Let it be known, The Seminole People never lost the War with the United States. They were not defeated! In the past, I’ve seen license plates from Florida saying such. It was called the bloodiest Native War of all! This War cost the U.S. Army $40 million and the lives of over fifteen hundred soldiers. Many of The Seminole Tribe refused to move West because of their relationship with their runaway slaves who many had married and lived with. Moving would have caused their wives and husbands, who were former runaway slaves, to be imprisoned. Their malaria infested swamps and guerilla warfare helped keep their enemy at bay. But the numbers of the Seminoles who moved west diminished from the home sickness of leaving Florida and the developed malaria. Many called this The Road to Disappearance. Today, in Florida they are living a different phrase of life.

Whaling was a good part of the life of Native and Black men. It was hard work so many men only worked once. Whales are huge and are good fighters. As the story goes, many men became victims of drunk drinking and gambling debts. It was either pay your debts, go to jail or become a Whaler! Of course, many White captains knew this, taking advantage of both Races. Few men had money to pay for these huge debts, so off to the Seas they went! The prices for the work weren’t always good but slavery was no picnic! Some men favored the East Coast because many of these Nations were expert swimmers, fishermen and they saw pretty ladies! The book Moby Dick is the most famous of Whale books. It also had a Narragansett Native on board. Narragansetts are now living in Rhode Island. From my point of view, it’s a sad story with great symbolism. I love Whales. Once near Shinnecock on Long Island, I was able to touch the tail of a whale that had been killed in the Long Island area by two men on their boat spree. It washed up on shore. My heart sank. It was a young one, I’d say it was in the teenager range. I wanted to know more, so I touched its tail. It seemed like very hard rubber, which let me know how they could swim in cold waters and depths below with ease. We said prayers for the Whale and parts of its body were given to the Tribe for Ceremonies. I also learned in The Shinnecock pass, they had lost a large number of their relatives in a Whaling event known as the Circassian. It was an English boat bound for New York Harbor from England in 1872. They lost many men, 28 men died and ten of them were Shinnecock! Three men named Bunns, three named Cuffee, One Lee and One Kellis. A tragedy that almost wiped out the tribe, it took some time for them to rebuild.

Today, most people don’t realize lots of our Pharmacy systems were created because of Native peoples’ excellent knowledge of the Earth Mother and Her ways. She is most important and so we are still learning Her ways! My grandmother taught me many things that I still use today, and I wish I had learned more! Many of the necessary ingredients from trees and bushes were planted in our backyard. Today, many people need to return to this Pathway but generations of Medicine people, who had the knowledge have passed on. The sick are dying because few know the ways to better health. Medical bills are very expensive and few hospitals have quarantines. I’m amazed and sad at points, but I still move forward exercising what I know.

In dealing with Blacks, the first Blacks emancipated in North America were 11 men freed during the Dutch and Indian War. This happened in 1644. Their emancipation took place at Fort Amsterdam near Bowling Green Kentucky. It’s amazing the inventions Blacks made moving into the 17th and 18th century. Many free Blacks were inventors. Without them this world would be very different. In medicine, Onesimus was a Black man who at the time inoculated people during the 1721 epidemic but was met with resistance with his life-giving technique. In 1777 it was finally generally accepted.

Benjamin Banneker was born free in Maryland and helped with the surveying of Washington D.C. I’m not sure how much he was involved but I was taught he designed the city. He was also the first Black man to issue an Almanac.

In 1781, Los Angeles was the first major city founded with a majority of Blacks. There were also two Whites and the rest were Natives. Also In 1781, Peter Hill was the first known clockmaker. He was also one of the few Black people who opened a small business. And let’s not forget “The Real Elijah McCoy!” He patented the first version of a lubricator for steam engines. He made 42 patents of his inventions mostly for lubrication, thus the Real McCoy was the necessary deal!

The first Black medical educator, physician and hospital administrator, Charles Burleigh Purvis was a Black surgeon-in-chief at Freedmen’s Hospital in Washington D.C. in 1881. And In 1890 Ida Gray Nelson Rollins became the first Black woman with a Dental surgery degree in the U.S.

There are thousands of inventions Black people are noted for and yes are still going strong. Inventions and Patents, Science and Medicines moving onward and up. Have you seen the movie Hidden Figures? Definitely wonderful. See it when you get a chance. And the first Airplane was not made by the Wright Brothers but a Black man named Charles Frederick Page. An Airship! He wasn’t allowed a patent at that time, so the Wright Brothers claimed The Airplane as theirs. Many Blacks lost their inventions to Whites who wouldn’t allow them to patent their incredible works. Many of their ideas were stolen. Many Blacks were killed for these prizes if they protested.

Concerning transportation, Native trails are what our roads, highways and bridges are now, these trails being formed long ago. The street Broadway goes from the North to the South end of Manhattan, a great Native trail. There are many wonderful Rivers, Lakes and Streams that are very powerful and have been worshiped over time. The Great Lakes are such. To me, Lake Erie looked like an Ocean and I was told by my friend the storms on it were very powerful! The Mississippi and the Potomac Rivers are indeed wonderful too.

More inventors? Yes! Black people also invented “Potato Chips” my favorite, The Almanac, The Elevator, The Gas Mask, The Guitar, The Electric Lamp, The Traffic Light, The Mailbox, The Cellular Car Phone, The Baby Buggy, The Blood Plasma Bag, and the list goes on! You can try to find information in several bookstores or online about both Cultures. Believe me, I’m a bibliomaniac and I search many places.

I’m the Host and Producer of Pathways to the Dream Lodge Café, basically a Native show but it has a couple of episodes dealing with the Arts. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and look for Pathways to the Dream Lodge Café if you’d like to watch. There are now ten shows, and I will be adding more shows soon. Also, my website is www.candecevtarpley.com

I hope this makes you hungry for more knowledge! This is just a little taste hoping you will spin around with Joy! Please keep studying and digging for the gold knowledge of the past, pushing all those lies away!

There is so much to learn and know, opening your spiritual world while enjoying this path too! Keep moving forward and study when you can the ways of both Wonderful Realities. Wado (thank you in Cherokee), Anushiik (thank you in Lenape). Yes, thank you for your time. All the best.

Candece Tarpley

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