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by S W

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Perspective

The document presents a speech that was written by a devoted spiritual leader who had established his doctrine among two conflicting religions of the whites and the Indians. However, the religious leader seems categorical for having sided with the Indians and shunned the doctrine of the whites. The intended audience is someone prominent than the religious leader to whom both the author of the speech and the orator describes his religious teachings. While the speech presents much of the speaker's standpoint, the perspective of the audience, whom the religious leader refers to as Father is left out. This is because the speech depicts single person prose without a rejoinder or response from the audience or the addressee. It is after a long while of about three years that the religious leader and his prominent territorial leader (Father) have met. It is this one occasion encounter that the religious leader vividly describes his religion to the territorial leader justifying why he chose his course of religion.

In the document, the author who doubles as the orator of the speech articulates the period he has been loyal to the current religion he is practicing. He recalls the prior days when he was new to his faith, and how both the white people and those of Indian descent were against his religious conviction. However, since he had chosen to side with the Indians, he introduced some of the good teachings professed by the whites to his Indian folks. The latter action saw the speaker jeered by the whites who talked down on him for thinking that he was misleading the Indians. Nonetheless, the author maintained his cause and continued to teach. Although the orator is not certain, he assertively tells his audience that air of secrecy had reached him that he (the Father) had intended to kill him by hanging. Concerning the latter, he had no one to relate the truth to, but his father.

The speaker goes on to describe to the prominent leader, addressing him as Father, how he admonished his Indian folks to consider their evil ways and revert. For that was the wish of the Great Spirit which had sent him to them. In essence, they could cease taking Whiskey but maintain their discrete mode of life rooted in their customs as the whites. He admonishes the Indians that whiskey was not meant for them but the whites who alone knew how to use it. Also, they should not take the British tomahawk but express profound reverence toward the Great Spirit's ways. Moreover, the religious leader encourages his people to work with their own hands practicing husbandry to feed their wives and children besides minding their own business. Finally, he pleads with his influential leader, the Father, to use the power in his capacity to help them by barring liquor from reaching them.

Purpose

The primary aim of the author to compose this speech was to express with certainty that he was a messenger whose teachings and doctrine was not self-imposed but from a powerful deity that had sent him to his Indian people. ¹ "The Great Spirit told me to tell the Indians that he had made them and made the world – that he had placed them on it to do good, and not evil. I told all the red skins, that the way they were in was not good, and that they ought to abandon it."

Context

During the same period when this document was being created, the red Indians were divided and everyone acted as lone wolves among the white people. They lacked the unity that could have made them stronger. The author is responding to the historical mischief the red Indians suffered from the whites in North America after the latter supplied them with liquor, especially whiskey. According to the author, the red Indians had not known alcohol before. Hence, he uses this reason to fortify his claim that Whiskey was the cause of their suffering since

before it, they were fine and went about their farming businesses as expected. Based on the author's warning to the red Indians not to interfere with anything that is not theirs, this primary source informs me for the first time that in the past, it was the British people that supplied the tomahawk to the Indians in North America.

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