

B U R N I N G O F T O B A C C O

What started out as an open mockery, to the religion of the Indian of the America's by the Whiteman, has now become his death trap. Anyone that has some spiritual knowledge to laws or rituals, mockery will do this and even if one stops smoking and throws away the tobacco, the end result will not change.

Some church leaders are even trying to take the short-cut, hoping the judgement for this mockery will change direction.

POPE JOHN II, speaking to some Indians in Canada, September 10,1984.

"Your encounter with the Gospel has not only enriched you, it has enriched the church.....The Gospel does not destroy what is best in you. On the contrary, it enriches as it were from within the spiritual qualities and gifts that are distinctive of your cultures.In addition, your American Indian and Inuit traditions permit the development of new ways of expressing the message of salvation.An acute sense of the presence of God, love of your family, respect for the Aged, solidarity with your people, sharing, hospitality, respect for nature, the importance given silence and prayer, faith in providence.....Guard this wisdom preciously."

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL affirmed a Degree given the MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF THE CHURCH, No.22.

"Particular traditions, together with the individual patrimony of each family of nations, can be illumined by the light of the Gospel and then be taken up into Catholic Unity."

As a DAKOTA or SIOUX INDIAN, I should be jumping off chairs and maybe even try a rooftop or two, because we now have The SACRED PIPE, SWEAT LODGE, and The SWEET GRASS CEREMONIES part of civilized christian religious rituals for some Indians. But it is the SACRED PIPE that re-appears after centuries being classified as 'Witchcraft' and an object for use in all 'devil worshipping.' The church claims to have misunderstood its purpose and meaning. This misunderstanding of the SACRED PIPE has murdered more Indians in North and South America, then all the civilized wars have killed totallèd together.

Even as a small boy, I was part of beatings by State Police and National Guards for this Pipe and rituals.

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