

Daily Meditation 04/03/22

Buck Ghosthorse: A Personal Story of Indigenous Kidnapping

Good morning.

We're following up this morning to the story we told yesterday regarding the abuse of indigenous children over the centuries, often in the name of religion. And I want to share with you some more comments. Dr. Schindler's book, **Flying Horse: Stories of Healing the Soul Wound**.

Don Coyhis, of the Mohican nation, President and Founder of White Bison and the Wellbriety movement, says this:

"Trauma is passed down through the generations in indigenous communities worldwide. From the moment that conquerors from across the sea set foot on our lands hundreds of years ago, we were abused, and our native culture was stolen from us. Our African brothers and sisters were also oppressed when they were forced into slavery in North America. This hurt is still alive today in all of our communities.

"Historical trauma created a soul wound" ... a soul wound... "in our peoples. Worse, this book reveals two stories told by the people themselves from both Turtle Island and New Zealand. Healing the soul wounds of intergenerational and historical trauma is different from the psychotherapy available to mainstream society. The healer has to be trusted by the community and must also be accepted as a large part of the healing will come from the culture itself.

"Story after story, this book shares how healing is occurring today. There are heart stories about healing intergenerational trauma in native and other communities of color around the world. Healing the soul wound in native communities is about relearning, renewing, and restoring the cultures that were taken from us. With Creator's help, we are doing that."

And another testimony is from Valentin Lopez, who was chairperson of the Amah Mutsun tribal band in California.

He says:

"My tribe has suffered for hundreds of years from the soul wound resulting from colonization. In order for my tribe to heal, the perpetrator needs to heal as well."

Notice: healing on both sides.

"In this important book, Dr. Schindler demonstrates something that too many non-natives do not understand. She explains how the suffering endured by Native Americans and their descendants is not only cruel, but systemic."

Systemic.

"It is a system that has a devastating and shameful 500-year history, but tragically continues for the 5 million Indians who live in the United States.

"While we don't hold people alive today personally accountable for what has happened to our tribe, we do want those living on our native land to be aware of what has happened and be part of the healing process. With this goal in mind, Flying Horse should be required reading for every non-native as well as every Native American."

Again, Valentin Lopez.

And I met Valentin Lopez in the protests that preceded the canonization of Junipero Serra. The native people, and especially of California, found that profoundly offensive. And it was from Valentin Lopez that I learned about the Doctrine of Discovery. I had never heard of it in my, well, 65 years as an American Christian. I'd never been told that those documents existed.

One more thing to learn from the indigenous people.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.