

All Teachings are Correct

Ogimaawigwanebiik [Nancy Jones]

1. OK, thank you. So let's see this thing.
2. I was given tobacco to talk about something and analyze a few things, the things that I was taught as I was growing up, especially this. So as we gather and sit around somewhere we all have different, our own, teachings. I would never say I disbelieve anyone.
3. Everyone, everyone has something that they were taught as they grew up as a child; that is why I say this; I would never think to myself that person is not right. The truth, he speaks the truth; what he says, everyone speaks the truth. The things that he speaks about, such as here that which I was taught.
4. Before you start something that you are going to do, first thing you do is pick up your tobacco. It is this, this is the one that will help you to do it right, whatever you are doing, anything you want to do.
5. Whenever someone gets their game, such as a deer. It is here when you get your deer, you gut it right here and now. As you look inside the stomach, you know what you are looking for inside the stomach. The first thing to do, to work on, that is the one you should hang up, around clean ground. I can't recall the name of it. It is among the stomach part there; it is attached just like, it looks like liver but it is smaller maybe four to six inches in diameter.
6. This is why you gut it; first of all that is the one you cut off. And then you, you hang it up on a branch as high as the deer stands. That is how high you hang it. Then you put your tobacco down.
7. "Thanks for this food that will carry me through, that I will feed my relatives and my children."
8. That is the thanks you give that allows you to have this deer.
9. Some other people I see them, and I hear them too. They are taught a little differently.
10. Such as I worked with there at the time, when we were skinning the deer.
11. As we were talking, we were explaining to the students that were watching us. "This is what I hang up," I told them. And so he says, my partner, "This is what we do," he said. So he cuts a little piece of the liver. "This is what we use," he said.

12. "Oh yes," I say he is right, what he says.

13. I would never say that he is wrong. He knows his own teachings and this is, this is why I say this, that everyone is right (in their own teachings).

14. When you live in your community that is how you pass on the teachings. They all have their own stories as to how they pass on their teachings.

15. No, I would not dishonor anyone. Where you are from, where you live, where your mother is from, your grandmother, your grandfather, this is where you look. Those are your teachings, those ones that raised you, that is what I believe. When I listen to others, I don't dishonor what they say; I would never say that to anyone. (I would never say) "that is not the way" to anyone: I was always told not to disbelieve them. I was told to listen carefully, listen to someone for he may say it differently. You will help him the way he does it. This is what I was told; I would never dishonor anyone.

16. I listen carefully; I listen carefully to the way they talk. I fully understand the Anishinaabe language or the Ojibwe language; I understand also when they speak. When we gather somewhere, especially those ones that work on the Anishinaabe way of life and the Anishinaabe language, we all should listen to them carefully. We should all believe them; we should never think that they are lying to us; for sure they are telling the truth those ones that are different when they say things differently; they are fibbing because they, they were told and they were brought up that way and also some of them use their dreams and visions when they teach.

17. This is why, listen carefully and do not dishonor what they said; honor his ways; he is truthful in what he is saying.

18. Thank you, okay that is it; thank you all for listening to me.



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