

It was a safe bet that no liar would smoke the pipe, for the Indians believed that the smoke carried their words straight to the Great Spirit, and that He would send them to the Happy Hunting Grounds in short order if they profaned the pipe with falsehood. Sometimes two men would smoke the pipe and tell different stories, each one believing he was right. In that case the jury brought in no verdict. But in a short time one or the other claimant was sure to die, and then everyone would know that he had been lying, and the honor would go to his ~~adversary~~ ^{opponent} rival.

Even today, many old men are firm in this belief. If you argue with them and tell them that the smoke does not go to Heaven, they will answer "Well then, where does it go?"

This explains why a pipe was always used in making peace. The peace-pipe was just an ordinary pipe that had been prayed over and smoked by both the contracting parties. It clinched the bargain. And the Indian didn't stop with peace-making. He used the pipe in all sorts of ~~affairs~~ ^{affairs}. It was like ~~our~~ shaking hands ~~over~~ a bargain. There was no backing out of a deal after the pipe had been smoked.

The pipe was used in making war ~~as~~ in the same way. When a chief wanted to go on the war-path he would invite other men to his tent, and tell them his plans. Then he would light a pipe and pass it round. If ~~a man passed it on, it~~ ^{did not wish to join the war party, he passed the pipe on} ~~without smoking.~~ ^{without smoking.} ~~it~~ ^{meant that he would not join the war-party.} But every man who smoked the pipe ^{thereby} bound himself to accompany the chief. This was a solemn pledge. The custom was so general among the Indians, that in their language "to take the pipe" means to ~~go to~~ ^{declare} war.

The use of the pipe was part of every religious ceremony, and of every council, and every important man in the tribe carried a pipe as a badge of his office on state occasions. ~~In the old myths of this people~~