

In the Arapaho Creation-myth, the person who made our present earth carried a pipe called the Flat-Pipe (from its peculiar shape) while he wandered about over the face of the waters, trying to find a spot to rest. This ~~sacred~~ Flat-Pipe is still in the possession of the Arapahoes, and is strictly guarded by a specially appointed Keeper. He lives in a tepee made and decorated with sacred paintings especially for the Pipe, and this tent is always pitched in the ~~very~~ center of the camp. The pipe is kept wrapped in many thicknesses of buck-skin, and is only unwrapped when the faithful bring large gifts to the Keeper. Then they are allowed to see it and pray over it. In this way the Keeper is supported. When travelling, this pipe is carried on the ~~Back~~ of the Keeper in a pack. It must not be carried in a wagon or on a horse.

Only one white man has ever seen this pipe. ~~This~~ was a missionary who had done something that won the Keeper's heart. As a special favor, he was shown the pipe. Although ~~the~~ the leading ~~of the~~ museums of the country are ready to spend freely, all their money and influence cannot buy them even a glimpse of this sacred object. To the Arapaho it is as the Ark of the Covenant to the Jews.

Because of the sacredness of the pipe,

Beacause a pipe was a sacred thing, no Indian smoked one for pleasure in the old times. Young men were not allowed to smoke at all. And even today Indians prefer to roll their Bull-Durham into cigarettes and keep the pipe for state occasions. ~~As~~ As one old Pawnee Medicine-man put it, "The White Men have taught the Indians to profane the use of tobacco!"