

In their success of undertaking, they always acknowledged thanks to the Heavenly Father, with grateful offerings. Their faith in a Supreme Being was shown by their prayers. They always looked to him for help. It has always been their rule after they have been helped, to give thanks to the Creator. The feelings of these Indians toward God is one of humility and reverence. Nothing of importance was ever undertaken without prayer for help and for success. Today, we still try to carry on the same as our forefathers did years ago with prayers before any act or deed. That's what our people always did, prayers came first in anything that they did. And after it was over why, they still prayed--they always thought that there was a supreme being, someone that provide help and strength in their activities, their enjoyment and their ways of living. So that, I know from listening to the elders of other years. We know and we hear of how our people always thanked the Heavenly Father for success, in life.

USE OF THE PIPE FOR PEACE

That's--that goes into the part that we might say they always use what the white man calls the peace pipe. This pipe was someway used by our people to offer up smoke to the Creator. The ceremony that they performed is such that when they had tobacco, they filled a pipe, and before they filled a pipe, they offered this tobacco to the Creator. They use this in such a way, it was a kind of a, or sort of a sending a message to the Creator, which we'll come to that later. But before they filled a pipe, they always offered this tobacco, and raised their hand to the heavens. Then they filled the pipe up. Then they would take a stick, a burning stick, taken from the fire, where they had been used for cooking for some kind of a tribal gathering. They would light, they would have somebody, as a servant to being this lighted stick of wood and place it--and this man that was smoking, he would puff, draw the fire to the tobacco. And that way it was lighted, that way. They used no matches, they didn't use matches. They used it from nature, from the fire, they used this wood or twig, and they, the one that was performing the ceremony, he would puff and light that tobacco by puffing, pulling on the, drawing the smoke that way. So when he got through, then this man offer up this smoke to the heavens. They used it