

2017 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Hold on to what is good, even if it is a handful of earth.

(Original)

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Man by his nature is good, and he would like to live in peace and harmony with others. Harmony is the phenomenon we all appreciate! History has shown us many great civilizations, however, over the generations, harmony with nature has been lost. So what do we do about this? The solution lies beyond action in spirituality. That is very difficult for people with modern mentality to except that the solution is different. At the depth of our being lies the field of infinite harmony.

I have been always interested in the idea of Indians lifestyle. . And some years ago I met a Native American Indian.it was like meeting Chingochook from my favorite book by James Fenimore Cooper. He was casual clothes but was different from other people. He told me the history of his tribe and he changed my view on our modern lifestyle. Ancient people knew the secret of this harmony.

The spirituality of Indians was legendary. They were environmentally friendly and wise. They respected animals as equal. They hunted animals, but only for food. Hunters firstly asked permission of the Great Spirit. Many Indians appreciated the beauty of nature. Their wisdom came from the way of life. If we have the same lifestyle, we will live in harmony with nature and ourselves. It is very difficult to persuade all people to follow this idea. But I think each person can persuade a few people to make a difference. I think the solution has been already created, but unfortunately it isn't very popular with people. It's camping. Camp is a creative, educational and cooperative outdoor living experience. Many children go camping every year, spending their days physically active, trying new things and developing life-long skills. If we spend more time close to nature, we will develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world at camp. Strong personal values and character are shaped as children are encouraged to live by laws similar to Indian's. This way we can take a part in decisions that impact others, contemplate relationship with God, reflect on personal values, with this we can develop duty to nature. At camp and in future we will have time to consider and reflect on life in whole.

Can you imagine a picture of a man, strong and proud like an Indian Chief, breathing fresh,

unpolluted air and drinking the pristine drops of mountain water.

We deserve to have a nice life in harmony with nature. But we need to value what we have as Ancient Native Americans said: «Hold on to what is good, even if it is a handful of earth. »