

ENCORE EN MANQUE D'INSPIRATION DAVID LIVER S'ADRESSE AUX INDIENS D'AMERIQUE

On Fri, Mai 8, 2015 at 9:52 AM, david liver <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America

À : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

David,
Ian asked me if I could help you out with your project, and to be totally frank I am contacting you as personal favour to him. FYI I need to be clear on the fact that I fundamentally refuse to speak for all Native people. To be honest I don't get your point. Maybe I don't fully understand but it makes no sense to me at all.

Are you seriously asking for "Indians" to pray for the resurrection of your inspiration? I'm sorry but are you like in some 1950's Hollywood western? I find your approach weird David; it borders on insulting.

Again, I can only speak about native traditions from my own point of view, but if you want to start a study in Native culture I suggest you follow the path of actual scholarship (I'm not so sure there is good literature on the subject though). I could recommend one of favourites : *Custer died for your sins* by Deloria Jr - «Indians are like the weather. Everyone knows all about the weather, but none can change it». Nice, eh? It's more of a political essay than something about prayer - but personally I really don't see any difference between the two."

But David, if you only want to talk to an "Indian", I'm afraid I'm not your guy.
It will be a waste of your time and mine.

Best.
Duane Mòjag Bisonette

david liver <davidliver@gmail.com> 26 mai 2015 20:02
À : DUANE BISONETTE <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com>

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On Fri, mai 8, 2015 at 6:33 PM, david liver < duane.bisonette@yahoo.com > wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

David,
there is an important issue to keep in mind or to acknowledge here. Native identity and culture is perpetually projected upon and appropriated, assaulted by all kinds of fantasies. As individuals we are often asked intrusive personal questions by strangers. This is an ongoing experience.

You really need to be aware of your naivety. In my opinion white people project on us and appropriate our culture as they would with any new age or hippie fad. They think this should be free because we're natural and pure. Why do you people persist in trying to speak for us? IF you want to know, our struggle as a people is rooted in dealing with our invisibility – maybe transparency is a better word. Indian life, as it relates to the “real world” is filled with continuous attempts not to disappoint people who think they “know” us.

To be Indian in modern American society is in a very real sense to be unreal and ahistorical.

Best,
Duane Mòjag Bisonette

On Fri, mai 9, 2015 at 11:11 AM, < davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Tue, Mai 12, 2015 at 9:03 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To: <davidliver@gmail.com>

David,
I got another message from Ian and after your last email I feel more confident. I understand where this fantasy of yours is coming from and I think I get the comic side of your spiritual quest. It's still kind of grotesque to me but listen, the reason why it's impossible for a Native to pray for you and the resurrection of your inspiration (which in my opinion is the same thing as why it is impossible for a native to decently play a role in your "drama"), lies in the fact that the traditions of Native genesis and cosmogony, and the ritual of initiation into the Society of the Midē constitute what is to us a religion. This is even more powerful and impressive than the Christian religion is to the average "civilized man". There is no possible prayer without one being in touch with a certain world.
Again, and sorry if I sound rude, but if you feel like this is just a play in which get to play some kind of Lone Ranger character - this is a different thing.
In that case - I'd guess that all of the Tontos have been handsomely paid...

Best.
Duane M. Bisonette

On Wed, Mai 13, 2015 at 07:23 AM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Wed, Mai 13, 2015 at 3:14 PM, david liver <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

I can't answer that question, I mean, what's Native about Tonto?
Personally I don't know how I can be offended by a character that isn't one bit representative of Native people.
Tonto's a Hollywood invention of a Native American. His character is a joke and the show is a farce.
When it first came to TV in the early 1950s, Jay Silverheels (a

Native Canadian actor) played the role of Tonto. And while he was played by an actual Native, Tonto's character remained uni-dimensional, subordinate, and flat-out racist-painfully stereotypical.

These days, we have Tonto being played by Johnny Depp - his performance is so quirky that his character may as well be an alien from outer space. There is absolutely nothing in this character that actually connects him to the Native American psyche or persona.

BTW Depp isn't the only white guy to play an Indian in a Hollywood film. Before him we had Burt Lancaster as Apache, Victor Mature as Chief Crazy Horse and Elvis as a half-Indian in Flaming Star. You should also look up Rock Hudson, Tony Curtis, Jeff Chandler, Robert Taylor and Chuck Connors

And to encourage you (David maybe you've got a chance here), Mel Brooks took a pot-shot at white guys being cast as Indians when he played a Yiddish-speaking war chief in Blazing Saddles ;-)

Best. Duane M. Bisonette

On Wed, mai 13, 2015 at 11:32 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Wed, Mai 13, 2015 at 6:11 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America

To : «davidliver@gmail.com»

Yes I heard about that story. It raises some political issues I guess. You must know that LaDonna Harris is a Comanche activist and if she hosted a traditional ceremony to formally adopt Depp into the Comanche nation (an event that obviously made headlines btw) it was just to to subvert the Lone Ranger event and to bring attention to important questions concerning Native Amercians. Are you asking me to organize a ceremony to adopt you into the First Nations?

On Wed, Mai 13, 2015 at 6:17 PM, david liver <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com»

BTW David, your broken English gets you a point towards your "Indianization"!

On Thu, Mai 14, 2015 at 09:10 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Thu, Mai 14, 2015 at 08:55 AM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

David, everybody knows that Indians and Jews share an ability for cunning...

On Thu, Mai 14, 2015 at 4:57 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Thu, Mai 14, 2015 at 12:52 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

The rumor says that but I disagree, there is no similarity in our facial features.
We are so much more good-looking than you guys ...

On Thu, Mai 14, 2015 at 8:57 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Thu, Mai 14, 2015 at 9:02 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

This is a bit of a stretch David. But good try anyway. You say:

“I have found this: *Some nations which live at the upper end of the River St. Lawrence, do relate a pretty diverting story. They hold almost the same opinion that a woman came down from Heaven, and remained for some while fluttering in the air, not finding ground whereupon to put her foot. But that the fishes moved with compassion for her, immediately held a consultation to deliberate which of them should receive her. The tortoise very officiously offered its back on the surface of the water. The woman came to rest upon it, and fixed herself there. Afterwards the filthiness and dirt of the sea gathering together*

about the tortoise, there was formed by little and little that was tract of land, which we now call America.

(Can you re-consider the problem of place offered here in Paris? I understand that the land is the very actor of any ojibwé ceremony but after had read how earth was formed we can maybe have a larger vision of what is properly the spirit of the earth)".

David, what do you mean exactly? It's true that the rites of the Grand Medicine Society Shamans are generally still practiced but not regularly, not in the same forms, or in the same places as before. Regardless, these places must be considered sacred, which, as I told you, means that they have to be related to some supernatural or natural phenomenon. So, tell me about this place in Paris?

On Fri, Mai 15, 2015 at 11:02 AM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : <davidliver@gmail.com> <davidliver@gmail.com>

Maybe I wasn't clear enough. You need a special connection with all of the elements of the ceremony. It's a matter of cosmology, and beliefs. I feel like I have to be a bit more concrete...
Ok, take the example of the eagle. It has always been seen as the "prayer carrier" a messenger. In Anishinaabe traditions it is believed to carry the prayers of the people to the Creator. The Anishinaabeg actually picture themselves turning into eagles when they pray for another person. This animal is given great importance during healing ceremonies where it is seen as carrying the sickness up to the Creator in order to heal the sick person for example. Also whenever one sees an eagle, they should offer up a prayer with tobacco in their hand- it is a spiritually significant animal.

You're going to need an eagle David ;)

And some tobacco.

Tobacco symbolizes honesty between two people talking or talking to the spirit world. It is said to precede a request, prayer, or question - a kind of reminder that the request prayer etc. be received in a peaceful way. When making a request, tobacco is the most honorable and respectful way of presenting it. Anyhow, without this kind of sacred element we can't have what you call a prayer.

Best.
Duane M. Bisonette

On Fri, Mai 15, 2015 at 8:50 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com>

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On Fri, Mai 15, 2015 at 10:06 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : <davidliver@gmail.com> <davidliver@gmail.com>

I feel I need to mention that the use of plants and animals (for food, clothing, etc) is a constant reminder of our interconnectedness with nature. It sounds simplistic, and somehow it is expressed in these terms. Sacred objects have a power that comes from their origin - they are gifts from a supernatural spirit. Also specificity of place is very important in regard to ceremony.

Often a sacred site is linked with a natural phenomenon or even astronomical or geological phenomenon etc. Earth is an instrument that provides tools needed to create a ceremony. You should be aware that it's associated with war, massacre, treachery... government policies and of course, cultural memory. This relationship of space to something larger has to be considered as the spirit of the ceremony. The sacred is closely related to place. Sacred sites are the places where people's origins and creation stories tell them they began or where significant events and moments in the creation of the world took place. Somehow it's similar to Love, I mean, you can carry love with you without seeing or being in contact with the loved one. Right? Sometimes a sacred site is deliberately created by the people to commemorate or re-enact a sacred event. So obviously, issues of territory and conservation of sacred sites are of great concern to natives.

Hope this helps.
Best, Duane Mojadg Bisonette

On Sat, Mai 16, 2015 at 2:41 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Mon, Mai 17, 2015 at 8:16 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

David,

If it's not for spectacle or for pseudo folky purposes, (like pow wows nowadays, right?), I really can't begin to imagine how it would be possible to conceive of a healing ceremony that could give you back your inspiration.

But since your reason for wanting a traditional ceremony does not seem to be «serious» (from our correspondence I understand that it's basically a matter of fantasy for you), I would say that you just have to invent it yourself (it wouldn't be the first time no?). Create a fiction - write a play with fake fancy Parisian Indians or whatever.

It's just a suggestion David, but maybe you should take the work in this direction.

Best. Duane

On Mon, Mai 17, 2015 at 8:25 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Tue, Mai 18, 2015 at 8:03 AM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

Re-enact ? What Exactly ? The fact that we have been making monkeys of ourselves to fill the pockets of some white guy?

On Tue, Mai 18, 2015 at 10:21 PM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Tue, Mai 18, 2015 at 7:42 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

That's right! As you say, narrative plays an important role in establishing power relations, and that's the true meaning of illiteracy, when one is not in control of language one is not in control of the storytelling.
Be wary of romantic exploitation David.

Duane

PS: Thanks for the 2\$ tobacco BTW, I appreciated it.

On Wed, Mai 19, 2015 at 1:56 AM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Fri, Mai 21, 2015 at 11:58 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

Wenabozho is out walking around.
From the outset, Wenabozho is geared to begin a big adventure into the unknown.
Wenabozho receives three shots of the skunk's power.
To practice for the arrival of the Lacotas, Wenabozho turns around, bends over and lets out three big ones.
The Lacotas come but Wenabozho has wasted all of his power farting around.
(Yes, even a fart can be useful in a myth David).

Duane

On Sat, Mai 22, 2015 at 8:36 AM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Mon, Mai 24, 2015 at 9:12 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

Well, as I told you, to give you an idea of an accurate and credible ceremony - which will obviously no longer be credible since there's no chance in hell that I will turn myself into an eagle for you and since you're not going to «act like Indian» (which I'm

happy about btw) - is frustrating for me, and certainly not an easy job.

How did you lose your voice anyway?

On Wed, Mai 26, 2015 at 9:01 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

David,
generally when one is sick, he should only drink broth, and eat sparingly; and if he is lucky enough to get some sleep, he'll feel cured.
Everybody knows that sleeping and sweating can cure the most stubborn diseases in the world.
When one is so weak that he can't get out of bed, as a distraction his friends and family come to cheer him up with dance and songs etc - Ask around, you might have a willing relative ;) And to finish, (but I strongly doubt this is possible in your case David), when one gets sick, he is always visited by a shaman (Midê´wiwin) who examines him very carefully; the shaman says something along the line of «If an Evil Spirit is here, we shall quickly dislodge him!» Following this he withdraws by himself to a small tent made just for this purpose, where he dances, and sings, making sounds like an owl.

Now, let's say that this lack of inspiration is kind of a sickness, we call it boonendam or we can say that this uninspired artist is a maanendamowaapine.

In some cases, when the sick person has a deep sensation of emptiness and feels depressed, lost, or completely unmotivated towards life, he can attempt to get his voice back by starving himself in order to induce visions as medicine, mshkiki.

This is the kind of thing I could suggest for your off the Rez «healing».

This is very much an individual affair David, which is centered on the belief in power received from spirits during dreams and visions.
But still, To create the effect of healing you need to bring together healer, patient and song. You have to consider the act of singing as a force, ok?
So, from a point of view of cause and effect relationship (we are thinking White here), the amount of time exerted on force will have a proportional effect on the healing. Say if it takes 20 minutes for the force of singing to fully effect a cure.

With this logic, If the singer/healer only applies the force for 10 minutes, only ½ of the cure will be effected and the pain will have been reduced only by 50 percent.
This is not how the healing process works for the Anishinaabeg in traditional healing practice.
There is no 50 percent or 75 percent or whatever percent. Instead, if for some reason the process is interrupted once the practice has already begun, the greater likelihood is that no curing will take place and the patient will be just as ill as when the process started.

The problem is seen as such: as a living being, the medicine (or in other words, the song), was not there in his or her entirety. Since the song was not fully present, the curing could not take place. It is the process of fully bringing the patient, healer and song together that creates the possibility for healing.

Good Luck and Stay warm

Duane

On Wed, Mai 26, 2015 at 11:11 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

Miizhishin ezhi-minonendaamaan

BestGiin ga gikendaan wagonen waa ni-zhishing ga da zhewebziiyaang

apii dash niboyaanh zhaawenimishin chi'aawe'odesiinoon

(Tell me how to think good about myself. You know it, what will be beautiful in what we do. Until I die bless me for how I have not been like you.)

I found these words for you.

Best
Duane Mojaq

On Fri, Mai 27, 2015 at 8:32 AM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Fri, Mai 27, 2015 at 8:47 AM, <davidliver@gmail.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «duane.bisonette@yahoo.com»

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On Fri, Mai 27, 2015 at 9:09 PM, <duane.bisonette@yahoo.com> wrote:
Re: America
To : «davidliver@gmail.com» <davidliver@gmail.com>

Yes the poem has a title : it's track number 7 (on our CD).

Ok sick boy, now ask the drum and see what he says.
I only have two dollars, but I'm going to bingo anyway.

Talk soon, Duane

