

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: The Ancient Hawaiian Religion

Second Subtitle: Re: The Ancient Hawaiian Religion

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This story has been passed down from generation to generation since time immemorial. It explains how Mik'Maq people came into existence in North America. The relationship between the Great Spirit Creator and Human Beings and the relationship between the Great Spirit Creator and the Earth explains a philosophical view of life which is indigenous to North America. This view is evident in the Native Languages and Cultures and in the spiritual practices of the Mik'Maq people.

The fact that the Mik'Maq people's language, culture and spiritualism are all based on the creation story. Respect for their elders has given them wisdom and strength around them. The strength of their youth has given them the will to survive. Motherhood has given them a special understanding of everyday life.

Among the Mik'Maq people, the number seven is very meaningful. The Mik'Maq territory consists of seven distinct areas which encompasses an area of land stretching from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico. It includes New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The most important ceremony is made from seven barks and roots. Seven men, representatives from each of the seven Council District sit inside a sweat-lodge smoke the pipe and burn the sweat-lodge. The Mik'Maqs will pour water over seven, fourteen and then twenty-one times to produce hot steam. A cleansing or purification takes place. A symbolic ceremony where the men give thanks to the Spirit Creator, the Sun and the Earth. They also give thanks to Glooscap, Nogami, Netaoansom, and Neganagonimgoosisgo. Listen to the

ONE

GISOOLG

Gisoolg is the Great Spirit Creator who is the one who made everything. Gisoolg means "you have been created". It also means "the one credited with the creation".

The word does not imply gender. Gisoolg is not a He or a She, it is not a He or a She. The Great Spirit is a He or a She.

The Mik'Maq people do not explain how the Great Spirit came into existence. They are responsible for everything being where it is today. Gisoolg made everything.

TWO

NISGAM

Nisgam is the sun which travels in a circle and owes its existence to the Great Spirit. It is also a giver of light and heat.

The Mik'Maq people believe that Nisgam is responsible for the creation of the world. Nisgam is Gisoolg's helper. The power of Nisgam is held with much respect by the Mik'Maq and other aboriginal peoples. Nisgam owes its existence to Gisoolg the Great.