

We commented on many things
And then she had her say:
'Aboriginal people are coming out of
Stone age' she finally said to me.
Her mis-perceptions white man's view
Now let's take a look and see.
Why is it that
WHITE MAN'S VIEW IS ALWAYS TAKEN AS TRUTH?!!!
Who are they to label 'stone age'
When they've forgotten God's Laws
Forsooth!
Before 200 years ago
We had an affluent society
We knew our place in the scheme of things
We enjoyed the many varieties.
We knew and know the geography of our land
Our soul identity
Animals, Birds, Trees and Flowers
With whom we live
In total Harmony.
And then 'they' came to this fair land
To rape, pillage and plunder
They tore the sacred land apart
And made the stock exchange instead
Their sacred site and wonder.
They used only the intellect
And in their rapacious greed
They pitted science against religion
And knew not their lack or need.
They change the laws every year
For some new fancy whim

Is it Tom, Dick or Harry

Or Mary Joe or Jim?

So who is 'stone age'

Now, my friend

Or is white man pre-historic?

He doesn't know the answers yet

Because he lives only in RHETORIC.

In labelling Aboriginal people as 'stone age' and 'heathen', by what academic standards of 'measurement' are those conclusions reached? Non-Aboriginal Scientists and Physicists are realising the wisdom and scholarship of Indigenous peoples. As Bahá'u'lláh's new world order of Justice and Creativity comes into being, the old world order of exploitation and wrongful 'labelling' of various cultures also needs to die.

In conclusion, scholarship can be demonstrated in our daily lives, through how we interact with each other, and put Bahá'u'lláh's admonitions into action. Scholarship therefore, is not limited to the written word. To have meaning for Aboriginal Australians, it needs to include Experiential Learning.

Notes:

[1] Hassall, K., "Notes from the talk by Dr. Peter Khan on Bahá'í Scholarship 16 September 1995", in Association for Bahá'í Studies - Australia, "Newsletter", No.33, Oct/Nov, 1995.

[2] This is reinforced by the 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the authorised interpreter of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings: "Thus there have been many holy Manifestations of God. One thousand years ago, two hundred thousand years ago, one million years ago the bounty of God was flowing, the radiance of God was shining, the dominion of God was existing." 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "Foundations of World Unity", Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Wilmette, Illinois, 1972, p.108.

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