

APACHE STRONGHOLD

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October 11, 2021

Today, we remember the ones before us, those who lived and gave us life. Others today are giving gratitude for Native People helping them survive in a world they were not accustomed to, a world that life existed in balance with the Earth, Nature's cycles and the animals who shared this world with us. We on the other hand are remembering and experiencing our losses and trying to hold onto who we are as people. Within the last 200 years we have experienced the trauma, upheaval of our lives and the destruction of the planet, our home lands taken and our Peoples colonized. Prior to the influx of these new people, we had already been challenged by Evil and many of the stories that were told to us and the prophecies carried down tell the history of the different battles with Evil and how it was slain and destroyed. But it told us it would return.

It did return, within the lives of the people who came here, it came as Greed, the ability to get something without effort or cost, "the ability to prosper, manifest destiny, land and minerals free for the taking." How were we not seen? What gave others the ability to kill and plunder and take without remorse? Rules were made which gave all who came here these abilities. Today, the Population lives as though nothing done by their ancestors were improper, immoral or illegal. And according to their laws, it allowed for this to happen.

Today, we look back and we see our destruction, they see our welcoming and helping them without the massacres that came after. They do not know their true history and if they do, they choose to ignore it. The reality of it all is that it still continues today. Our lands are the only places left to exploit and those resources are being exploited through the use of laws which allow it. We on the other hand are becoming complacent, becoming colonized, living without the balance with the Earth. We strive to keep our holy lands and sacred places safe, but they are in danger and we need to get the laws that have allowed this to happen undone and changed. These people that live here aren't going anywhere, and they do not see what we see. The lands we call ours, the Government laws that rule us do not see our lands as ours, we only have the ability to live on them, but not the ability to control them or even protect them. If we don't go back to our Holy Places, those places will be lost.

Today, the Apache Stronghold is in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals trying to stop a foreign corporation from destroying Oak Flat, which was allowed by the acts of Congress to continue to exploit the site for Copper ore. This was allowed by the government by bypassing (allowing exemptions) to laws that should protect the Earth, its resources, the consequences of contamination, the suppression of a religion in order to do so. On October 22, in San Francisco, the 9th Circuit Court will rule whether or not they will be allowed to continue with the destruction. The importance (merits) of this case, will affect the definition of "imminent harm" to sacred sites, the recognition of a Native American religion to other religions of this world, the ability of Congress to use "plenary power" to bypass their own laws. In essence the allowance of corporate money to buy and influence our Congressmen regardless of the laws set to protect religions. The Courts ruling will either see the Evil for what it is or allow the destruction because the Judges follow those same rules that have brought us to this point (the rules that have allowed them to take without remorse or consequence).

Our children are our allies today, we must teach them who they are, take them to the Sacred places, teach them the importance of the Earth and the world around us, teach them the balance that is needed to exist. The destruction and the greed for prosperity has gone beyond our world's ability to sustain itself. Mother Earth will survive, she will cleanse herself and renew again.

Today, all people are in the same situation with the Earth, Our mother, as all of us. We all together must learn that all the man-made items we use today come from the Earth, resources are being used up and we, all together, are taking from the Earth's ability to sustain our lives. We must all work together to save what is left. We need to make that move in our daily lives and follow what we preach. A balance of having the ability to live on this world and Mother Earth being able to continue to sustain us is our most precious gift that Usen, God, has given us. Have we gone beyond that balance today in any of our daily lives? We need to be aware that there is a consequence for the Earth's destruction. There are many, many, struggles happening throughout the World to save Mother Earth and Lives of People. We are included in the result of their struggles, if they lose, we do also. If they win, we keep one more gift alive. WE are all part of our Earth's Survival by what we do in a day, what we consume, what we do to restore her.

We ask for your support in our Struggle to Save Oak Flat.

Blessings from the Apache Stronghold.

Dr. Wendsler Nosie Sr.