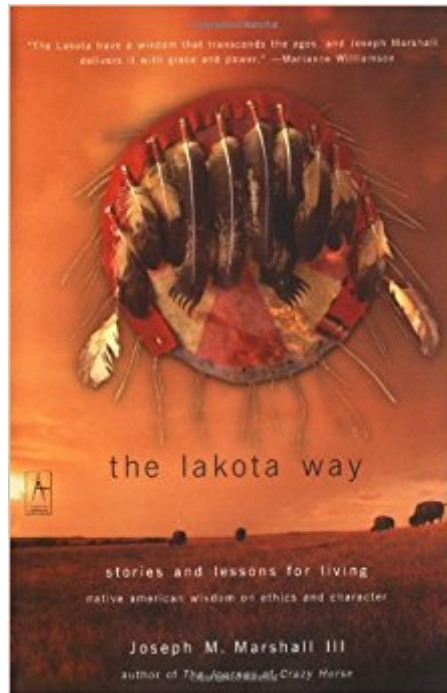


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The Lakota Way: Stories And Lessons For Living (Compass)



Synopsis

Joseph M. Marshall's thoughtful, illuminating account of how the spiritual beliefs of the Lakota people can help us all lead more meaningful, ethical lives. Rich with storytelling, history, and folklore, *The Lakota Way* expresses the heart of Native American philosophy and reveals the path to a fulfilling and meaningful life. Joseph Marshall is a member of the Sicunga Lakota Sioux and has dedicated his entire life to the wisdom he learned from his elders. Here he focuses on the twelve core qualities that are crucial to the Lakota way of life--bravery, fortitude, generosity, wisdom, respect, honor, perseverance, love, humility, sacrifice, truth, and compassion. Whether teaching a lesson on respect imparted by the mythical Deer Woman or the humility embodied by the legendary Lakota leader Crazy Horse, *The Lakota Way* offers a fresh outlook on spirituality and ethical living.

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Customer Reviews

To the Lakota Indians, virtues such as humility, sacrifice, and bravery are not just distant goals to aspire toward, they are daily expectations. "We believe we are measured by how well, or how little, we manifest virtue in our life's journey," writes Joseph Marshall, himself a Lakota. This collection of stories illustrates how generations are taught the Lakota Way of virtuous living through oral storytelling. Marshall recounts the tale of Deer Woman--a siren that lures hunters to her teepee then steals their souls. As the story goes, a grandmother warns her grandson not to be trapped by this beautiful soul-snatcher. When the grandson finally encounters Deer Woman, he is able to resist her

seduction, not because he is afraid she'll steal his soul, but because he would never disobey his grandmother. For the Lakota, respect for elders is one of the most honored virtues. After each story, Marshall offers a gracefully rendered essay on the virtue it espouses and how it's applied to daily life. We are fortunate that Marshall translated these precious stories into written English. "They are our gift to the world," he explains. "They are not guarded secrets, they are markers on the road to life--the answers soaring across the open prairies of our lives on the winds of wisdom--helping us, perhaps helping you." --Gail Hudson --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Humility, perseverance, bravery, sacrifice and love are among the 12 values of the Lakota tribe that are presented through traditional stories and personal commentary in Joseph M. Marshall III's *The Lakota Way: Stories and Lessons for Living*. The legend of White Lance and Red Willow Woman teaches the importance of love and duty, for instance, while Marshall's account of his father's battle with cancer stresses the merits of bravery. The lessons for life, which stress the proverbial attributes of common sense and moral vigor, may not be surprising, but the stories that frame them will be new and forceful to most. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

I enjoy all of Mr. Marshall's works. While I don't have his complete library, I am almost there. No, he is not related to me, though we share the same last name. His works give a tremendous insight into traditional Lakota culture. I would dearly love to meet him should our paths have a chance to cross. I was born just after most of the Elders who lived the Lakota wars (as teenagers or younger) crossed over, Black Elk for example. Mr. Marshall, to me, would be the closest to the last "free" Lakota. His works are to be cherished. Once I begin reading one of his books, I can not put it down.

Reviewing material that deals with life lessons and spiritual matters is tricky - often mere words are inadequate - even more often someone is bound to be seriously offended. That being said, this is not my first purchase of *"The Lakota Way"*. I had given my copy away - not the first time this happened. My first encounter with this material was shortly after initial publication, via the audio CD as my husband and I wandered the mountains, deserts and canyon lands of the southwest. The author's voice, re-telling the stories he first heard as a young boy may, in fact, be the best way to begin. We replayed the CD's several times as we encountered some of the most spectacular vista's on the planet. It was a deeply moving spiritual experience for both of us - and as events transpired, the last such trip we would take together before his death. In retrospect, aside from the author's

amazing voice, what struck me initially was the reference to God as the "Great Mystery". From my perspective, a "perfect" name for God - both beautiful and respectful. God is who God is and God does what God does and while two-leggeds might choose to waste time on definitions and categories and attempting to enshrine God in a place, a book, a box or a dogma such attempts seem to somehow diminish God. "Great Mystery" is dynamic, precluding definition. Buckminster Fuller reportedly said, "God is a verb." In that sense, "Great Mystery" is both a verb and a noun. What then, is to be learned from "The Lakota Way"? In the Christian tradition, we are directed to love one another as ourselves. The Lakota people believed, and continue to believe, that there are certain virtues to be practiced that enable us to be in right relationship with each other and all of creation. Each of these virtues is beautifully illustrated with stories, which may be seen as analogous (with apologies to the author) to the parables of the New Testament. Humans love to push the envelope - pushing the envelope of virtue, leads us in the direction of ever more virtuous behavior and better relationships. The logical outcome of pushing "thou shalt nots" is what we can "get away with", and ever more rules to "clarify" acceptable behavior. We seem to have arrived at a time and place in human history where the rules have become more important than the relationships, with each other as collateral damage. It seems clear that the Lakota - prior to their encounters with those from the "Old World" - had developed a way of being that came closer to creating a society that worked for everybody than those governed by the precepts of the "Three Great Religions". I guess what I find most surprising is that the emergent new growth industry of "spiritual pathfinding" is largely focused on the "old world" for answers.

A beautiful book. I read a chapter a day as a meditation. The author tells a story that illustrates a virtue in the Lakota way of life and then uses contemporary illustrations to further expand the virtue's meaning. I recommend it to anyone interested in spirituality, Sioux or otherwise. Rich resource that I will return to again.

I have owned this book 2 times. It is so nice to hear it from the Marshalls voice. And to hear how he says Lakota words. If you have never read or herd this book YOU are missing out.

I came across this book at a teachers conference this summer (thank you, Valerie Knauer), and I immediately thought I wanted my students to experience and reflect on the experience of reading this book, even though I live in Spain, a country that can only relate to Native Americans' history through old B&W westerns. Probably, that was the main reason why I was so amazed by this book,

because it gives you all the wisdom you'd expect from an old person's speech, and no matter where you're from or where you live, the stories will appeal to you, and you will be looking forward to sharing them with your young ones. I think they are the stories we should all have been told when we were little. These stories can help young people grow to be fine adults.

“The Lakota Way: Stories and Lessons for Living by Joseph M. Marshall The subtitle: “Lessons for Living” is accurate. This is sort of a “non-Christian” amalgamation of the Ten Commandments, the Book of Proverbs and Aesop’s Fables. But that is neither a disparaging nor patronizing observation. The lessons, however, are carried in the Animist contexts you would expect from any culture that has evolved in intimate communication with the natural world. Just as importantly, the lessons are like the Bible a mechanism used to guide social structure in a form of Morality: a Morality aimed at Peace on Earth and Good Will toward Men. In the course of the story-telling it illustrates how closely the Lakota belief system mirrors a Christian theology and yet clearly exhibits the critical fundamental differences between the Christian and Lakota Life views. Obviously it is thought-provoking, but also a comfortable, easy-reading treatise. If you enjoy cultural studies you’ll like this one a lot.

This is an awesome read! Inspired me to create whole teaching unit around it.

The chapters are laid out by sharing a story from the Lakota tradition that communicates one of the virtues within this culture. Marshall then discusses the virtue more and includes personal stories of how his family and community helped him to learn the virtue. The book also has interesting information about how Lakota are socialized, and more about the history of this nation. I actually plan to include some of this material in a personality theories course to show cross-cultural ideas about the development of our selves. I have also been reading the stories out loud to my husband and teenage daughter, and it has led to some interesting discussions!

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