

Looking Beyond the Horizon



Undoing My Unknowing¹ (Part 1)

As I have said before, colonization and assimilation nearly succeeded in my family. This accounts for my unknowing—that is, my not knowing what I *should* know about my Cree and Métis families, languages, cultures, and faith. The only way I can explain this on a practical level is that I've lived the majority of my life with this hole in my being, walking through life with a great unknowing about where I come from. As a therapist, I know this as a vital part of understanding my identity and, through that, living a healthy life both psychologically and biologically.

I am a Cree man. God, or GREAT MYSTERY (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), looked at the span of human existence and intentionally made me a Cree man. Namely, they intended my part of Their image—and how I see CREATOR SETS FREE² (Jesus) through Cree eyes—to reflect Their (Gen. 1:26) image. They specifically chose me to be Cree so other people of all stripes and sizes would learn about MAKER OF LIFE through Cree ways of knowing—about Creator, Creation, and everything else. Every Indigenous person (350 million today) on this earth were made, by ONE ABOVE US ALL, to be an Indigenous person. So that every other person on earth would learn key and significant things about GIVER OF BREATH through us. Not us as Christians, but us as Indigenous Peoples.

If you are Indigenous, you are specifically who Creator made you to be. Your indigeneity is the very image of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the process They created to help others know about CREATOR SETS FREE. The same GREAT SPIRIT that hovered over the waters of an unformed earth, that led thousands to turn to ONE ABOVE US ALL at Pentecost, is the same GREAT SPIRIT that led our First Nations and Inuit ancestors for thousands of years on this continent before European contact.

If you want to undo your own unknowing and begin to understand the challenges many Indigenous believers face, think about how Light of the Morning, or Accuser (Lucifer/Satan), colonized this earth.³ He actually possessed this land as prince of this world until CREATOR SETS FREE set things right on the cross and from the outside of the tomb. All of it to destroy the relationship of ONE ABOVE US ALL with all of Their creation, including you, so Accuser would possess the land and things would be done *his* way because he claimed it was the better way. How his original lie was “Let me tell you what God is really like” and then he proceeded to take our/believers’ land, which had been given to us to steward. Then continued to set up processes and governments to convince us his way was better.

Whoever you are, let that sink in.

I will share in the next article how the Bible showed me, and teaches all of us, we must undo our unknowing if we truly want to be like CREATOR SETS FREE. ■

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1 This phrase is shared by Helen Knott in “The Great Undoing,” in *Impact: Colonialism in Canada* (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba First Nations Education Centre, 2017), 36.

2 These phrases are Indigenous versions of the original Indigenous Hebrew meaning of the different names of God reflected here. They come from the *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*, by Terry M. Wildman and the First Nations Translation Council (Downer’s Grove, IL: IVP, 2021).

3 *Āeekoo* (“Thank you”), Chi Miigwech (“Big thank you”), to Brad Dennis for shaping this idea.

