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### **The Native Americans**

This episode on The Native Americans was exciting and insightful. It brought a thorough perspective in understanding the civilization of Native Americans. I learned about their lives, culture, religion, and values. They were the original inhabitants of America before they were forced out of the land by the Europeans. The documentary showed their reverence for the gods and how it helped them travel and gave them the responsibility to take care of the Earth. Their culture is exciting and involves a lot of spirituality. Many Haitian rituals are also mentioned in Haiti when they are conjuring spirits and for protection.

There's an emphasis on Fire, Earth, Air & Water. These were the way they connected with the Earth. It's incredible to see how they were so advanced without technology. It took a lot to understand the times and the seasons. However, they developed a communication system to know the years, months, and days. As aforementioned, religion played an enormous role in Native American society. The gods commanded them to go to the ends of the Earth, which is why they ended up in America. There was writing and painting on caves in Brazil. They were ways of communicating. Native Americans were hunters and gatherers. They loved their culture and paid attention to their rituals.

We also learned about the cave built by a man in Mexico. The architecture and the precision of the measurement are astonishing. Every part of the design was purposeful. They all had meaning and represented something powerful. In the cave, they had a woman and a man who was a replica of the first man and woman. I must mention that their tradition correlates with the Christian faith. They implemented our beliefs. There was a tunnel under that bridge that led to the statues. The cave had a similar structure to the ones in America—a long line from south to north and from up and down. The emphasis on up and down was a way for them to connect to the heavens.

The grand canyon had many of its trails. They left painting and writing there. Many people come to visit there as a way to feel close to their ancestors. There were a lot of spiritual people who had high spiritual knowledge that lived on that land. The Hopi offered cornmeal and birth feathers in their ceremonies to their gods. They had ancient skyscrapers with hundreds of rooms. They build communities and places for their people to live and be part of the Hopi. They were part of different tribes. From the Choka, the researchers mentioned room 28. They discovered many tools there that were used to perform rituals. Some of the essential things were chocolate from the cocoa tree. Cocoa only grows on trees, so they had to travel thousands of miles to get them. They were poured into cups built as cocoa fruit to offer to the gods. They also traveled long miles to call birds of colored feathers.

Lastly, they mentioned that smoking was used as a form of prayer. That astonished me and gave me clarity as a Christian why smoking is wrong. We also saw how five tribes came together to end the war. The Native Americans formed the first democracy of the United States. It was recorded on a tapestry. It's sad to see how these people inhabited this country first just for

them to get kicked out of their land by Europeans, as with all the other videos. Europeans let others do the job and take credit for it.