



The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices)

By Basil Johnston

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Manitous lived in human form among the Ojibway in the early days, after Kitchi-Manitou (the Great Mystery) created all things and Muzzu-Kummik-Quae (Mother Earth) revealed the natural order of the world. With depth and humor, Johnston tells how lasting tradition was brought to the Ojibway by four half-human brothers, including Nana'b'oozoo, the beloved archetypal being who means well but often blunders. He also relates how people are helped and hindered by other entities, such as the manitous of the forests and meadows, personal manitous and totems, mermen and merwomen, Pauguk (the cursed Flying Skeleton), and the Weendigoes, famed and terrifying giant cannibals.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In this latest effort, Ojibway scholar and writer Johnston continues his fine series of writings about his people (Ojibway Tales, Univ. of Nebraska Pr., 1993) and his experiences (Indian School Days, Univ. of Toronto Pr., 1988). Manitous are spiritual beings who have aided the Ojibway people since the world was created. Working roughly chronologically according to when the various manitous appeared in Ojibway history, Johnston begins with the creators, then follows the exploits of the half-human, half-manitou spiritual helpers of the Ojibway people. Each helper was the originator of a key aspect of Ojibway culture, such as strength, dancing, and music. Other categories of manitous prey upon evil-doing humans who disrespect the natural world. While his book is readable in the manner of mythology, giving a glimpse of these important beings, Johnston warns that this is only a sampling of their activities. A preface and introduction put these stories in historical and cultural context, and a detailed glossary is handy to keep the many manitous straight. Recommended for public libraries. ?Lisa A. Mitten, Univ. of Pittsburgh Lib.

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From [Booklist](#)

Ethnologist Johnston bridges several worlds in this book that is both exemplary original scholarship and a delightfully, even charmingly written set of stories that, although written for adults, can be appreciated by those of any age, for, based in oral tradition, they read as if they have voices. From his own cultural heritage, that of the Ojibway (who are called, by themselves, Anishiaubae, and by later American settlers, Chippewa), Johnston has gathered scores of tales of manitous, the spirits that are both elemental forces and divinities. In these pages we encounter Kitchi-Manitou, the genderless divine force, and Muzu-Kummik-Quae, the earth-mother, as well as the fearsome cannibal Weendigo. Many of their stories are recorded here for the first time, which by itself makes this a valuable addition to collections of Native American spirituality. Meanwhile, the wit and ease with which Johnston writes make it a good selection for general reading collections, too.

Patricia Monaghan

Review

"An extraordinary glimpse into a rich and meaningful mythology."--Kirkus Reviews"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Streeter:

The feeling that you get from The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices) will be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this particular The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices) instantly.

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Exactly why? Because this *The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices)* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication is waiting for you to snap that but later it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book alongside it was a fantastic author who also wrote the book in such an amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, an entertaining approach but still conveys the meaning completely. So, it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of positive aspects than other books have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So, still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Karen Delamora:

The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices) can be one of your nice books that are a good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, but entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway (Native Voices)* however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirmed resource details that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly draw you into a completely new stage of crucial pondering.

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