

The walum olum and the navajo origin essay



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The Walum Olum and Navajo Origin Analysis The Walum Olum and the Navajo Origin are two stories about the creation of the earth in Native American culture. Both myths are similar in nature, they could almost be two versions of the same story. The Walum Olum starts out with just the Earth with no water, no life, absolutely nothing. Then, this god named Manito comes along, and he made the land, sky, water, sun, moon, stars, and just about everything else, including the first man and woman. Oh, and then all the animals, too (Brinbo).

Unfortunately, not everything was butterflies and rainbows when the evil Manito came along. All the annoying insects came along with him. The evil Manito was also a magician who brought illness, death, and quarrelling. But all the other Manitos were kind and friendly, and they took care of the people. Life went pretty well for the Navajo, too. Their origin legend started with the Earth already created, and the men and women were getting ready for a major event. The first thing the reader really notices is the use of color imagery, like white cornmeal and Black Body.

Anyway, the people are all ready, and the gods appear. They prepare for some sort of ceremony, and then the Mirage People come and walk around everything that the gods had laid down on the ground, and a man and woman appear. The gods made the original people (who were there at the beginning of the story) build a house for them, and the couple became the first husband and wife. Well, the legend doesn't really make much sense at all, because how could they be the first man and woman when there were people at the beginning? Maybe it's not supposed to make sense.

The Walum Olum and the Navajo Origin Legend are both myths that explain the creation of the Earth and the first people. The Walum Olum is the creation legend of the Delaware, a Native American people living in the northeastern United States. The Walum Olum describes the creation of the earth by the Manito, who seems to be a benevolent god in the story. A manito is actually the Delaware term for each creature's power by which it maintains itself and effects others. In the Walum Olum, this positive power created the Earth and the first man and woman.

However, a egitive form of this power also created everything bad in the world, like diasese and hatred. This part of the legend does not concur, however, with other traditional forms of Native American creation theroy. Usually, evil is brought into the world in these legends through an accident or some sort of misunderstanding(" Lenni"). This brings up one of the major contoversies surrounding the Walum Olum, its authenticity. Many people suspect that the legend was simply made up by the man who discovered it.

There is no actual proof that exists that states, without a doubt, hat the Walum Olum is true, However, we do know that the Navajo Origin Legend is authentic. The Navajo Origin Legend is the true basis of Navajo Origin Creation theroy, and it coinsides with thier culture. The theroy explains mainly how the first husband and wife came to be on Earth, and how humans and gods alike created them. What is most interesting about the story is the use of color imagery, such ans white cornmeal and black body. When reading the myth, you can get a very clear visual inside your head, unlike with the Walum Olum, where imagery is not so clear.