

Appreciating Multiple Versions of Stories - Jace DeCory - OSEU 5

Many of the teachings that we have of Lakota people are from our grandparents and our great-grandparents that have been handed down. And they may be a little different than other Lakota people, which is okay. That's fine. Because the more teachings we have, I feel the better. And some of my students will say, well, isn't that in conflict with what you said? And I say, well, maybe if you look at it in a Wasicú way, an Indian way, a non-native way, then maybe it is. But for us, it's only adding to the knowledge.

It's another way of looking at whatever that is. And so I say, don't be confused, because this is the teachings of this person. This is my teaching. And they're both right. And so sometimes it's a little confusing to our young people, because they might say, well, my grandpa said this, or my grandma said this. And so the teacher should say, well, yeah, you're right. Hold that knowledge. That's good. You know, affirm that with young people. Because it is right. To them, it is right.

And then they can say, and we have another grandparent here, and this is how this grandparent looks at that. And so that's what I say to my grandkids as well, because they're learning other things in the school system, and they come back with all these different notions. And so making sense out of the world today is wonderful, I think, because it provides a whole cultural diversity, a whole bag of information, all different kinds.