

# The Story of Time - Duane Hollow Horn Bear - OSEU

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There was a time period when a Lakota individual could not promise where he was going to be on any particular day, at any particular time like we do today. We have technology that just guides our lives. Like Sharla sends me an email... "We chose November 17th. 9AM. Be here." We follow... it seems our lives are always guided by that clock. A Lakota person, a long time ago, wasn't guided by this. If there was something that needed to be done, they took the time to address it. They would sometimes take days... sometimes they would... particularly in the line of our ceremonies... if you chose to do a particular gathering, there was no particular hour that was set. We went by the time period of the moon. This is the time period... living by the seasons... this is the time period that the gathering was going to happen. We would come together by word of mouth. We would... people would come... and gather and camp... and stay together.

Everybody had a role... everybody had a responsibility to the doings that they contributed. And no one was pressured... saying "You gotta have that here by two o'clock. You got to be here. We've got to be done by four o'clock." No. If it took another day, then they took another day. If they took another two days... then there was no set time period. It's a way of life that our people found very fitting. A long time ago... our grandfathers... the way that life was out here... there was plenty of buffalo... a lot of elk... plenty of deer. The rivers were full of fish. A man could get up in the morning and decide whether today, "I think today, I'll go track an elk. Go hunt an elk." "Or maybe today, I'll go fishing." "Or maybe today, I'll stay home with the wife." "Or maybe I'll just kick back and relax today." "Or maybe I'll be a problem for the Crows over there today." He could decide what he wanted to do... lived out his life and... go hunting and go fishing... decide not to do anything. Then Western civilization came out here and thought they could improve upon a system like that... with their time clock. It's a strange world we live in today where we have to follow the clock. You know... rush rush rush. It gets you old too fast.

So, slow down and enjoy your youth as you are growing up. Life gets faster as you get older. Some days you're feeling your days are boring. I used to feel that way when I was

young...that there was nothing to do. Believe me, when you get older, the days are not long enough to get what you want to do in one day.