

“A Handshake with a Smile”

By: Shayne Beaucage

They came with smiles.
They came with open hands.
Outstretched to receive what we give.
Or what they will take.

A sign of great respect and friendship.
They were men with materials.
They held shining objects which glistened; Reflected
The sun's gentle light
Rising from the eastern sky
Into the bright wide eyes of the nation's children
Sparkling with mischief and curiosity.
Taking it all in.
The adults and wise elders too
They could barely contain the excitement
The prophecy told by those who came and went long ago had indeed come true.

They foretold.
They warned.
Two prophets.
Who came to our people so long ago.

The story went as told..

Foretold by the first prophet:

The whites would come to these lands one day.
And others will too.
They will bring foreign technology and vast knowledge not known to any tribe.
Gifted by the Creator, they will say.
They will come with a handshake and a smile.
If that's all they bear, their words will be true.
Their technology shall be combined with the teachings of this great land.
A new people will one day be born.
A mighty nation will come to pass.
United, strong and true.

The second prophet warned:

But beware!
They will indeed arrive on your shores.
They will come with a handshake and a smile.
But they may also bear
A lie,

And they will be infected with the sickness of greed.
They will come as a disease.
Or which there will be no cure among our most powerful healers.
The waters will run red with our blood.
Poisoned waters our children will drink.
They will thirst for more.
Beware of the shining object in hand.
For it is a weapon.
To be used against the people.

Hidden behind a handshake and a smile.