## Dis-US- Calumet Pipes

The name Calumet is derived from the Norman word for reed, *chalumeau*. This name describes the pipe stems, which are considered to be more spiritually powerful than the pipe bowls. However, the term is now often used to describe the entire assembled pipe bowl and stem. Also knows as “Peace Pipes,” the Calumet was afforded great symbolic significance. Used to declare war or to seal a peace accord, the pipes also afforded their bearer safe passage among hostile tribes. Their use in Calumet rituals, which disseminated from the Plains to the Woodland tribes, was invoked to seal peace among warring groups. Within these rituals the principle of harmony was made manifest through a carved stone bowl vessel representing the powers of regeneration associated with the female principle, while a Calumet pipe stem represents the energetic male principle.

During certain Calumet rituals, sky and underwater spirits were honored. In ceremonial dances, Calumet stems adorned with feathers could be used to simulate birds in flight.

This Calumet stem is carved in a spiral to indicate the spiral swirling motion of the smoke from sacred tobacco as it ascends like a bird to the Great Spirit when concluding a sign of peace between neighbors.