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CH 203

Response Week 1

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Group 1, Question B

The Stone Mother story serves as the origin story of Pyramid Lake. The parents of a family decided to split their children up when they were creating too much conflict. They sent some to the north, some to the east. When one of the groups returned, the father was killed. The mother mourned for her children and husband. Suddenly a “large body of salt water appeared” (Hanar 12). This large body of salt water is what we now call Pyramid Lake. The Stone Mother story is therefore an etiological story as it explains how Pyramid came to be.

Group 2, Question A

The Stone Mother and the Salt stories bare similarities in that they are both origin and etiological stories. Salt is a more concise story, explaining how a simple spice was introduced to the native people and where that spice can be found. The Stone Mother story takes a more sorrowful approach to telling the story about a family. Salt is a story that could be looked at as teaching you to not turn someone away based on unsubstantiated evidence against them, or their mere appearance. Whereas the Stone Mother story could be taken as a warning to not take simple actions such as dispersing your children if they quarrel.

Group 3, Question A

Bartolomé de las Casas wrote to the king of Spain about his concerns about the immoral and overall horrific acts being done to the indigenous people of the Indies. He recounts how the natives regarded the Spaniards as “descended from heaven, from the sky” (las Casas 2). He then goes on to say that he had seen such horrible sins committed that he “[prays] that God not destroy [Castile] for the great sins committed against its faith and honour....” (las Casas 3). Las Casas believed that the Spanish people were taking advantage of these native people and lands. He begged the king to take action for the sake of the honor of Spain.

Group 4, Question A

The Alcatraz Proclamation uses satire to convey a political message by using phrases like “Alcatraz Island is more than suitable as an Indian Reservation, as determined by the white man's own standards” (Writers of the Alcatraz Proclamation), then going on to list just some of the horrible standards given to reservations such as “It has no fresh running water” and “There are no educational facilities” (Writers of the Alcatraz Proclamation). These people didn’t really want to live on a tiny prison island, they wanted to make a political statement on the treatment of Native American people by the U.S. government. They succeeded in making the statement, but to this day fight this same fight of being treated fairly. Using satire in this message is powerful because it shows just how unfair the U.S. continues to be even after essentially stealing the land from the native people.

Works Cited

Hanar, Nellie | <https://ares.library.unr.edu/ares/ares.dll?Action=10&Type=10&Value=74661>

las Casas, Bartolomé | http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text7/casas_destruction.pdf

Writers of the Alcatraz Proclamation | http://www.nativevillage.org/Inspiration-/Occupation%20of%20Alcatraz%20and%20the%20Alcatraz%20Proclamation%20alcatraz_proclamation.htm#Alcatraz%20Proclamation