

Post face to Tobacco Use: A Growing Dilemma

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Pay Back for a Lifted Gift

Once upon a time, there was in the far west of the world, a redskin Indian who had a "tobacco" (meaning a tube), through which he smoked rolls of dried leaves of a plant (much later named: "herba nicotiana". By the term "herbal" one understands that the plant has medicinal qualities, which were known to the Indian long before the advent of terminologies. So he smoked when he had coughs or when he felt pain in the limbs. More than that, he owned a special tube named: (pipe of peace), an elegantly decorated one, which served when a conflict occurred between tribes.

A Spaniard grabbed the seeds of the plant and took them to Lisbon, whence an ambassador Nicot sent them to Paris. This was the beginning of another story, that of tragedy and catastrophe.

The herbal medicine converted to a "poison" (in the body of consumer), and peace pipe, metamorphosed to a machine gun (in the hands of the trafficker).

An effigy is seated in the middle of the main Hall of anthropological museum, that of Indian, his dead pipe in hand, contemplating from afar the miseries of the white man.

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