



FENIMORE COOPER AS A DEFENDER OF INDIANS

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses how Fenimore Cooper's novel "Pioneers", which is a part of the "Leatherstocking Tales" pentalogy, represents Indians in the work. The author portrays Indians as friends of all living things, including plants and animals, in this piece. Indians are portrayed in the work as defenders of the natural world. The loyalty and friendship of the Indian character Chingachgook to Natty Bumppo serves as an example of how vital friendship is to Indians in general. Through this work, the author assumes the role of an advocate for Native Americans, as the Native people are portrayed favorably and a positive image is established for them.

KEYWORDS

Pioneers, Chingachgook, Native people, Leatherstocking Tales, Natty Bumppo, Mohicans.

INTRODUCTION

Part of the "Leatherstocking Tales" pentalogy, Fenimore Cooper's novel "Pioneers" features Indian representation. In this work the author presents Indians as friends of all living things, plants and animals alike. In the piece, Indians are portrayed as protectors of nature. For Indians in general, friendship is very important, as

demonstrated by the loyalty and friendship of the Indian character Chingachgook to Natty Bumppo. The Native Americans are presented positively in this book, establishing a positive picture for them, and the author thus takes on the position of an advocate for Native Americans. Through his portrayal of the special bond between Natty and



Chingachgook, Cooper created a singular literary tradition in America. These figures became worthy of literary distinction because of a form of devoted friendship between a white guy and a red-skinned Indian. Given that the characters genuinely deserved to be recognized for their love of nature, these two buddies clicked. The author used these pictures as inspiration to paint American landscapes in the most exquisite and distinctive hues using a lovely pencil. These were the most exquisite and beautiful depictions of nature found in any literary work [Lawrence, 1920; 58].

Main part. In the work "Pioneers", the Indians are embodied as the protectors of the trees, animals, that is, the whole nature, and at the same time, the enemies of the people who treat nature with disdain for the flora and fauna [Philbrick, 1964; 591]. This is the root cause of disputes and quarrels between Indians and whites. The killing of innumerable birds by the white people during festivals, without hunting animals and birds in the right amount and in the proper place for their own needs, and applying the same judgment to animals, is a merciless assault on the animal world, and these things are too painful for the Indians to accept. Fighting for animals, for nature is one of the most important duties of Hindus. Chingachgook, the leader of the Indian Mohicans, also showed bravery in such battles. In Chingachgook 's view, the land, nature, animals and plants in the area inhabited by Indians are considered sacred. In this matter, the Indian Mohican often came into conflict with the whites. Such acts show that Indians are true friends of

mother nature and that true friendship is one of the most important characteristics of Indians.

The work concludes with the Indian Mohican's death, which represents the conclusion of a life full of hardships. This death should not be seen as a setback or a reason to give up the fight. Only success lies at the core of this death [Philbrick, 1964; 591]. This valiant Indian warrior's death signifies the triumphant conclusion of years of unrelenting fight. This death demonstrates how an Indian's passion for their religion, their homeland, mother nature, life, plants, animals, and birds endures until the very last and is unbreakable. This is the manner of life of the Delavers, an Indian tribe known for their bravery and valor; Chingachgook, the tribe's chief, leads a life that is quite similar to that of his fellow tribe members.

As the land's owner, Indian John asserts in "Pioneers" that Native Americans have greater rights to these lands than do White people [Buchholz, 1989; 98]. Indian John believes that the long-term residents of this area—the Indians—are more deserving of ownership of this land than the recent arrivals of white people, who are transferring authority to the local Indian population. The Indian wants his property, his land, and everything that belongs to the Indians to remain in their hands at least until his death, even though he is aware that the Mohican is the last living representative of the Indians and that his tribe would not survive after him. Conflicts, arguments, controversies cannot deter him from achieving this aim. Chingachgook uses his love and devotion for his Indian tribe, the Mohicans, as a



gauge for his hardships along the journey. He believes that the end of these conflicts betrays his fellow tribesmen. Indians are naturally loyal people; they even consider it an honor to be faithful to the end of their lives and are willing to die for it. Indians will not back down from the fight for this honor from any outside force. The Indian Chingachgook's life path and his deeds along it provide us with evidence of this. Maybe that's why Natty Bumpoo, a white man, decided to stay with John, an Indian, and became friends with him. Chingachgook's attributes must have demonstrated to him that their friendship was based on faithfulness and loyalty at all times.

As previously mentioned, Cooper discusses the Delawares in The "Pioneers"—an Indian tribe. Along with their adversarial relationship with the Delawares from the start, the members of this tribe also had confrontations with other Indian groups, particularly the Iroquois and Mingos. The Mingos and the Iroquois have long denigrated the Delaware tribe, even going so far as to refer to Delaware men as women [Wallace, 1954; 428]. The Delaware tribe became enraged and their blood began to boil as a result. The Delaware tribe's chief, Chingachgook, likewise makes a strong case for his people's animosity toward these two tribes. "The Mingos and the Delawares are natural enemies," as Indian John correctly observed, remained ingrained in his speech until his passing. Cooper believed that the Delaware tribe was right in whatever they did, so he backed them in "Pioneers". The author's compassion for this tribe, along with his numerous justifications and

endorsements of them, are evident throughout the work and form its central theme.

Notably, the literary chronology places the novel "The Pioneers" as the first in the "Leatherstocking tales" series, but the events in the novel's creation order place it as the fourth. This is why this text does not cover Indians in its entirety [Wallace, 1954; 432]. Inspired by the events he witnessed as a young man, Indian Mohican is portrayed in this work as a character living out his final moments, as well as an image of sadness and burning in the fire of retaliation. However, his valiant combat in his early years, which will feature prominently in the next books in the series.

When Fenimore Cooper depicted the appearance of the Indian Mohican in the Chingachguk Tragedy, he succeeded in creating in the readers' minds the ideal human image. The passage from the text that follows demonstrates our points quite well: His forehead, when it could be seen, appeared lofty, broad, and noble. His nose was high, and of the kind called Roman, with nostrils that expanded, in his seventieth year, with the freedom that had distinguished them in youth. His mouth was large, but compressed, and possessing a great share of expression and character; and, when opened, it discovered a perfect set of short, strong, and regular teeth. His chin was full, though not prominent; and his face bore the infallible mark of his people, in its square, high cheekbones. The eyes were not large, but their black orbs glittered in the rays of the candles, as he gazed intently down the hall, like two balls of fire. [Kuper, 2007; 83]



In this passage, Native Americans—Chingachguk in particular—appear as a literary figure that is revered by all for his perfection. While explaining each component of the exterior image, the author attempts to highlight characteristics of Indians based on each image. While his nose depicts the majesty of age and the longing for independence acquired from his youth, his broad forehead represents the dignity of the Hindu John. Noteworthy is the fact that the Indian Mohican's keen look and eyes, resembling two fireballs, convey both his fearlessness and drive. The writer used Indian John's cheekbones to symbolize the unwavering steps of the Indian community as a whole. And the purpose of doing this was to acknowledge Indian as ideal human beings and to inform

CONCLUSION

In this respect, “The Pioneers” may not be considered the best of the “Leatherstocking Tales” series, but it is the fairest and most accurate of the Indian concerns, as it has less stylistic color than the others. In this work, Indians are depicted in a realistic way. Cooper wrote “The Pioneers” to cheer himself up [Wallace, 1954; 441]. The pitiful fate of the Indians in this period, and the unjust measures aimed at their destruction, destroyed the hearts of the literati. Fenimore Cooper, one of the humanitarian artists who simply could not accept such actions, became their defender with his works. Among the American writers, Cooper was one of the first to reveal the heart of Indians and the pain of Indians in his works. By writing works about them, he tried to explain to everyone

that Indians living on American soil have their rights and freedoms as well as all other people. We can once again understand that one of the primary tasks of literature, especially artistic works, is to inculcate the sense of justice, the characteristic of equal treatment of all people, which is proven through Fenimore Cooper's work “The Pioneers” written about Indians.

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