

# LAKOTA



Gad also known as the warrior tribe is the seventh son of our forefather, Jacob. Gad is composed of many different tribes that have distinct traditions and customs. There are 574 federally recognized Native American tribes in the U.S. The Lakota tribe primarily resides in what is now Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Presently a large part of the population lives on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota (18,834). Upon examining the Lakota tribe we see that the women's positions were very similar to the roles they held when they were keeping the laws of God. They were able to hold on to a small part of the heritage before becoming colonized by the Europeans.

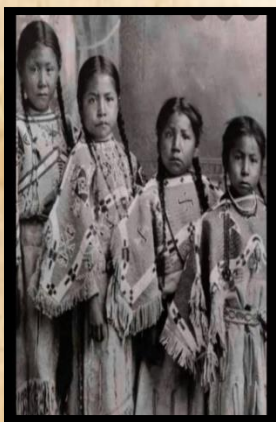
## WOMAN'S WORK

Lakota women had a lot of responsibilities. She skinned the animals, cooked, harvested, gathered firewood, preserved the meat, used buffalo parts for tools and skins, made clothes and quilts, cared for the home, tanned the hides for the shelter, set up and took down the tipi after each move, and instructed the children. The only thing the women did not do was go to war and hunt. To some, this may seem excessive, but these women put a lot of value on their purpose in life and were very proud of the work they did. The Lakota daughters were given special attention and stayed with their mothers and grandmothers until they wed. They learned how to be a wife and mother from the elder women. A young woman was not even suitable for marriage until she learned how to do what was expected of her.



Lakota child and tipi

## MARRIAGE



- By the time she reached puberty, a Lakota daughter was well trained and able to take on the responsibilities of keeping a house and caring for children. Shortly after reaching menses, the girls were married. The young men did not marry until they were 20 years or more. The men had to prove themselves through bravery to be even worthy of a wife. Lakota tribe marriage traditions are very similar to times of old.
- Marriages were commonly arranged and negotiated by the father, who had the last say. The virgin daughters did not have a voice in the matter of marriage. Fathers often looked for a man who was a warrior and an asset to the family.
- The husband paid a bride price made in the form of clothing, horses, and blankets. She became his possession.
- When the husband of Lakota woman was killed, his brother was expected to

marry her.



Divorced couples were to stay single forever. Marrying again sometimes happened but was not acceptable. This is in contrast to the Cherokee women who would change husbands an average of 4-5 times in her life. All she had to do was simply set his personal belongings outside of “her house” and it would symbolize the divorce. Lakota men however could have as many wives as long as he was able to provide for them.

### *PRESENT-DAY*

When alcohol and boarding schools were introduced to the population it tore families apart. This changed the dynamics of the family and thus the role of the Lakota women. Children instead of being raised and nurtured by their parents and tribes were sent off to boarding schools 9-12 months to be indoctrinated with European ideologies and forced to pray to and worship a white Jesus. When they came back they did not know their own culture but rather the culture and mindset of another nation. Alcohol has also played a major part in destroying not just the Lakota people but many of their Gadite brothers. Being confined to a reservation brought about hopelessness for the men who once took pride in being warriors, hunters, protectors, and providers for their families, now turn to the bottle. Alcoholism affects eight out of ten families and contributes to a death rate that is 300 percent higher than the remaining U.S. population. This leaves a lot of families fatherless. Before the women were able to stay home but now even if they are married they go to college and work because the man no longer “hunts” to provide for his family. The Lakota women are no longer at home guiding their children nor teaching them about their language and culture but now have a full-time job away from home. This is detrimental to the family structure and furthers the generational curses.

As we can see the Lakota like all twelve tribes were unable to escape the curses of Deuteronomy 28. As the truth is preached throughout the four corners of the earth the seventh son of Jacob **will** hear, rise from their low estate, and prophecy will be fulfilled.

***Genesis 49:19 Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.***





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