Christopher Dier

Dier

APLAC

1/30/26

To Exist in a Vacuum

John Lame Deer argues, as the title suggests, that Native culture has become a lonely one, decimated by “White people” who deny it’s traditions and beliefs. Lame Deer repetitively inserts his beliefs into the narrative to highlight the cultural differences between Whites and Natives, to highlight the fact that Native ways are something White’s cannot understand. Granted, his recollection of his own coming of age rite and the concrete imagery he details offer a hope of preservation but the fact that Lame Deer is narrating this story to a White anthropologist, recording Native traditions for historical preservation reinforces the idea that Native culture has already been swallowed up. Only a few insignificant crumbs remain to be cleaned up by the vacuum of White assimilation.