

and after being addressed upon the subject, one of the chiefs filled the war pipe, and all who were willing to join the party smoked the pipe, and those who were unwilling did not put it to their lips. The peace pipe, having a long stem decorated with eagles' feathers, was used as a flag of truce, and the bearer was safe from molestation by the enemy. The common people were not allowed to touch these sacred pipes, and, indeed, they revered them so much that they were afraid to desecrate them in any way. When the peace pipe was smoked by strangers or former enemies, it was a token of friendship; and even though a great wrong might have been done to one tribe by another, as soon as the clouds of smoke ascended from the peace pipe there was rejoicing and peace. This was the burden of the song of the peace pipe, as given by Longfellow:

“Bury your war-clubs and your weapons,
Break the red stone from this quarry,
Mould and make it into peace pipes;
Take the reeds that grow beside you,
Deck them with your brightest feathers;
Smoke the calumet together,
And as brothers live henceforward.”

¶ The pipe stem was frequently carved and decorated with feathers, the carvings sometimes denoting the fact

