



bloodline network newsletter

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ARROWS IN THE HAND OF A WARRIOR

By Peet vander Westhuizen

“As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man: so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate”

The skilled fingers reaches to the leather quiver mounted on his back and he slides a feathered shaft with a bladed point slowly out. He grips the roundness of the well balanced arrow and rests the arrow within the anchor point of the old recurve bow. The crafty hunter flexes his back muscles as he creates tension on the string like so many times before. He feels his thumb sliding in at the old familiar, hairy cheek bone. The archer slows down his breathing, expand his eye line and unite him for a moment with the purpose of the arrow. Eyes fixed on the target, knowing the unique moment about to present itself. Then, at the precise moment still fixed on the target he releases his grip on the string and feel the back draft of the wings of the arrow as it guts throw the wind. Finally this arrow was launched as it was predestined to do. With an expression of content the archer grins, knowing that this arrow is on target and will hit the mark that it has been created for. Esau launched the arrow perfectly and saw how the beast kneeled down to become his father’s dinner. Back at home the old dying Isaac awaited his son’s return. Today he will bless his son...

In our post-modern age many people are not familiar with the use of a quiver, arrow or bow. The bow has actually been a part of the history of man. The bow and arrow was essential for the survival and protection of mankind. Esau was a skilled hunter with a bow. So were many of the armies of the different tribes in the bible. The American Indian people lived with their bow and arrows. It is therefore necessary to revive our understanding and concept of the use of a quiver.

A quiver is a container for arrows, crossbow bolts or darts, such as those shot from a bow, crossbow or blowgun. Quivers have different forms depending on their use: quivers may hang from an archer's belt, from a horse saddle, or be worn on the back. Sometimes, particularly in those that hang on a saddle, the quiver has a compartment for holding the bow itself. Many quivers have lids to protect the arrows from rain, which can ruin the arrows' glue attaching the fletching.

Quivers have been traditionally made of leather, bark, wood, furs and other natural materials. Although the bow and arrow has come a long way in design and use of modern materials, many still prefer the traditional materials and designs such as the recurve bow. Quivers hold your arrows when you are shooting. The style of quiver you choose will depend on the type of archery you shoot. *Belt quivers* attach to your belt and allows you to reach arrows easily. Styles include vertical, diagonal, hip, pocket, and holster. *Ground quivers* stick in the ground. They may have a rack to hold your bow as well as a container to keep your arrows upright. *Back quivers* sling over either shoulder.

One drawback to these quivers is that you must reach high to withdraw an arrow, a problem if you are trying to sneak up on game or you are target shooting in a forested area. *Bow quivers* attach to the bow, giving the hunters the convenience of carrying only one piece of equipment through the brush.

History of archery

We find archery from the modern day Boy Scouts of America to the 4th century BC with the Scythian bowmen, in Crimea.

Classical civilizations fielded large numbers of archers in their armies; archery was an important military and hunting skill before the use of gunpowder. Arrows were especially destructive against un-armored masses and the use of archers often proved decisive. Mounted archers combined range with speed and mobility. Archery also figured prominently in the mythologies of many cultures.

Origins

The bow seems to have been invented by the late Paleolithic or early Mesolithic. The oldest indication for its use in Europe comes from the Stellmoor in the Ahrensburg valley north of Hamburg, Germany and date from the late Paleolithic Hamburgian culture (9000-8000 BC). The arrows were made of pine and consisted of a mainshaft and a 15-20 centimetre (6-8 inches) long foreshaft with a flint point. There are no known definite earlier bows.

The oldest bows known so far come from the Holmegård swamp in Denmark. In the 1940s, two bows were found there. They are made of elm and have flat arms and a D-shaped midsection. The center section is biconvex. The complete bow is 1.50 m (5 ft) long.

Mesolithic pointed shafts have been found in England, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden. They were often rather long (up to 120 cm [4 ft]) and made of European hazel (*Corylus avellana*), wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*) and other small woody shoots. Some still have flint arrow-heads preserved; others have blunt wooden ends for hunting birds and small game. The ends show traces of fletching, which was fastened on with birch-tar.

The ancient Egyptian people took to archery as early as 5000 years ago. Archery was widespread by the time of the earliest pharaohs and was practiced both for hunting and use in warfare.

The Assyrians and Babylonians extensively used the bow and arrow; the Old Testament has multiple references to archery as a skill identified with the ancient Hebrews. The Chariot warriors of the Kassites relied heavily on the bow.

Archery was widely known among the indigenous peoples of North America, from pre-Columbian times.

An archery game was widely practiced among the tribes north of Mexico which involved shooting at a hoop rolled with a forked stick. Points were scored based on how the arrow landed. The competition was popularly related to notions of fertility. Tribesmen of the Great Plains became extremely adept at archery on horseback.

The people of Crete practiced archery and Cretan mercenary archers were in great demand. Crete was known for its unbroken tradition of archery from father to son.

The early Romans had very few archers, if any. As their empire grew, they recruited auxiliary archers from other nations.

The advent of firearms eventually rendered bows obsolete in warfare. Despite the high social status, ongoing utility, and widespread pleasure of archery in England, it became obsolete on the battlefield.

The Comanches of North America's, archery was more effective than muzzle-loading guns. Bows remained effective hunting weapons for skilled horse archers, used to some extent by all Native Americans on the Great Plains to hunt buffalo as long as there were buffalo to hunt. The last Comanche hunt was in 1878, and it failed for lack of buffalo.

The last recorded use of bows, in an English battle, seems to have been a skirmish at Bridgnorth, in October 1642, during the English Civil War.

In our day God fills the quiver of His anointed so that every arrow might glorify the Great Archer.

Modern primitive archery

After the American Civil War, two Confederate veterans, Will and Maurice Thompson, revived archery in America. The two brothers and Thomas Williams (a former slave) lived in the wild in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. As ex-Confederate soldiers they were not allowed to own guns, so they needed other ways to hunt for food. Thomas Williams knew something about English-style Archery (using a longbow, though it is unclear where he gained this knowledge) and showed Maurice and Will. Later, Maurice wrote a book, "The Witchery of Archery", which became a best seller and enthused people about the sport of archery. In 1879 the National Archery Association was formed. However, public interest in archery soon subsided.

Will and Maurice found an ancient means of protection and survival in their state of being cast out in the wild. The wild can produce skillful archers if only instructed and guided by someone with a former skill as Thomas William did. It is not what people kept them from that disabled them but their disconnection of ancient traditions

and skill. God has set eternity in your heart. Like Abraham, Moses, Gideon, David and many other great warriors you have to find the truth of eternity within you. Fathers direct you from generation to generation to those truths in God.

The subsiding of archery all changed when Ishi came out of hiding in California in 1911. Ishi was the last of the Yahi Indian tribe. He lived for his last five years at the University of California at Berkeley Anthropology Museum. His doctor, Saxton Pope, was an instructor of surgery at the medical school. Dr. Pope was very interested in Ishi and his culture, especially archery. Ishi willingly taught Dr. Pope about his culture, how to make tools the way the Yahi did, and how to hunt using a bow and arrow. Soon, Dr. Pope was joined by archery-enthusiast Arthur Young.

Ishi died in 1916 of tuberculosis. Dr. Pope and Mr. Young did not lose interest in archery, and set about proving that archery could be used to bag large game.

Because Dr. Pope and Mr. Young demonstrated to Western society that archery was effective on not only small game, but large game as well, archery did not lose public interest so easily.

As with the hidden Ishi from the Yahi tribe, God revives our fathers in faith that has been hidden in the House of God up to this moment. Although Ishi died he left a legendary and ancient skill with the people of his day. The Ishi of our day, are not hidden from the world any more. The relationship between fathers and sons has not lost spiritual interest. There are still some out there desiring that voice that once existed between Elijah and Elisa. There is some longing to hear the father saying:” You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” As with Dr. Pope the ancient words follow the tracks of generational inheritance into our day of truth. As fathers and sons we demonstrate the lost truth to our generation.

It is within the loading of the arrow that the father can speak with the enemies in the gate. God spoke and entered the gates of hell in His Son. There is a measure of authority when the father shoots an arrow. The arrow determines life and death depending on the course the father sets it to.

A Full Quiver

“And He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword: in the shadow of His hand hath He hid me and made me a polished shaft: in His quiver hath He hid me” Isa.49v2

It is the longing in the heart of a true son to be a polished shaft in the quiver of his father. It is also the heart of a true father to prepare his son with precision for what God has called him unto. The full quiver of a father speaks of generational preparation and a connection to God’s order. Sons on the other hand who are willing to be mentored and fathered experience the privilege to be safely hid in the quiver of a father.

At the right pre-destined moment the father launches the Son. The son fulfills the vision of the father. It is the now moment in time determined by the father, that will finally position the son for his preset course. It takes a skillful archer to prepare and maintain all his arrows. He knows the strength and ability of the bow. He is well

aware of the ability and capability of each arrow. In the quiver of one archer you might find different arrows for multifaceted purpose. Patiently the arrow awaits the touch of the father's hand. It is only when a branch is plucked, dried, cut away, smoothened, shaped and then polished that it can be accurate and set to reach the target.

In the time of war you fill your quiver and load it with weapons that are able to purposefully, silently and remarkably defend attack or submit. The Kingdom of God has fathers whose quivers are filled with young arrows that are willing to be instructed. It is in the turning of the hearts that the unique relationship between archer and arrow is established. The quiver is always close to the father. Sons are close at heart.

Girded with a bow, a quiver, filled with arrows and a determined spirit, the warriors in God's Kingdom are marching on. Silently each marksman directs their arrows, destroy the work of the enemy and provide for their own household.

The archers in the Kingdom of God are preparing their arrows for the final stages. These mighty warriors are skilled, experienced and appointed by the King to serve in His Knighthood. These mighty warriors are defenders of honor and protectors of the Kingdom. The only freedom of the arrow is that moment of truth when it slides out of its fathers quiver into the wooden edges of the bow. Both, Archer and arrow are set on the same vision. The arrow submits when it is selected among the others within the quiver. Willingly the arrow yields to the course that the archer sets for it. Waiting in the quiver, patiently, energized yet controlled might be the very means to test the submission of the arrow. Each arrow specially designed for a unique destiny. The only one knowing the potential of the arrow is the warrior who filled his quiver for battle. The now moment might be the strengthening of the shaft for you. Fletches are being attached. You might already be in a quiver or you might be in the tense string of a bow ready to be launched. Like the clay in the hand of the potter so the arrow in the hand of a mighty warrior.....

Each arrow is strait or possesses the flexibility and spiritual agility. In medieval times a skill archer could place an arrow on the mark at 150 yards but the deadliest barrage was from archers side by side who used the flight of their arrows as artillery. It wasn't the aiming as much as the concentration of force that had its devastating effect. Sometimes the flight of the arrow required the steadying of the archers hand and a unit commander - who himself fired no arrow - but who was keen at tactics and fearless in the onslaught. Sometimes technology - like in the armour piercing arrow head - shifted the balance of power. In these cases for a time the weapon became more powerful than the person who wielded it.

God is perhaps shifting the perception of all mankind. People always need someone to believe in and a god to whom they can sacrifice. Religion in the formal sense, is dying and being replaced worldwide with a secular religion. The god of this religion is the environment, the sacrifice being offered is the future prosperity of our children and all who dare reject the tenants of this faith are ridiculed and belittled in an effort to silence any truth that may bring light. Yet even in this God's hand is mightily in witness. As God adjusts our perception our need will cause us to see through the eyes of God rather than through the clouded eyes of Islam, Christianity, Hinduism etc.

We can't hit a mark that we cannot see. It was said that William Tell, this semi-mythical archer was able to hit a mark blindfolded as long as someone gave him the distance and coordinates to the mark. The Spirit, I think is looking to do that for us. Though we think we are blind yet we are only adapting to a different and more powerful way of recognizing what most people don't see. What's happening with Mark Hanby, Roger and Karen Roth and many others is a cessation from religious activity to acquire life and spiritual evolution. These warriors of faith are on the precipice of a great spiritual transformation where death is swallowed up by life.

As the body firmly connects and joins to one another the particulars of this transformation becomes more evident and unfolds in clarity. The force of our power is within the gathering of the sons. Side by side, concentrated on the battlefield, fathers direct their sons while the patriarch directs the fathers.

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

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