

5 Tayanita's comment

Hi Jake, this is a voice message from Tayanita.

Thanks for your blog post on Columbus Day and Thanksgiving. I totally agree with you on Columbus Day. Nobody should celebrate that anymore. Not so much because he wasn't the first European to come to America but because of his treatment of Native Americans. I mean, all he wanted was slaves and gold, and when he came to America, he said that from then on it all belonged to the Spanish Crown. Just like that! I would like to make clear that Columbus and the guys that followed just wanted to conquer the natives, steal their gold and everything else they liked. In my view, they were nothing but a gang of criminals, and it's just wrong to celebrate their crimes like that if you ask me.

And honestly, in my opinion the same goes for Thanksgiving. You see, I can't agree with you that it could still be seen as a festival of togetherness, with all the family enjoying a good meal and saying thanks for the food they have.

I mean, there's all this horrible history when it comes to settlers and Native Americans. Personally, Thanksgiving reminds me a lot more of murder and slavery than of friendship and helping each other. To me the whole image of the family sitting together, enjoying a rich meal and then saying how grateful they are is wrong. When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of hungry people whose land was stolen from them and who were then forced to live on reservations under really, really bad conditions. They didn't have enough food, no education, no hope, nothing.

Being a Native American myself, on Thanksgiving I'd rather travel the 200 miles to Dakota for a powwow or just chill and enjoy the time off school.