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Family Tradition

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Family Tradition

Nathaniel McGuigan

To my children,

You are the product of over a thousand lineages that have culminated to your own lifetime. You are a survivor of European colonization. You may not know your full family line yet, but in my lifetime I have done all that I can to uncover the secrets of our family that have long been hidden. In my efforts, I have contributed to the revolution and as my time in this place comes to an end, so will yours. You must know that the revolution must not die, and you must carry it forward for several more generations. By the time you read this, I probably already told you of the prophecy of the 7th generation. Remember the prophecy for it will give you hope as you decolonize your mind and the land on which you stand.

Our family has always been warrior people, as far back as our family can date. They either fought the colonizer or learned something that will help in the process of decolonization. There are at least 7 revolutionaries in our family, and we have fought the empire in the following places:

1. The Spanish Colonies: Your great-great-great grandfather (indigenous) fought in the Spanish American War fighting against Spanish imperialism.
2. Nicaragua: Your great-great grandfather migrated from Italy and married a full-blooded indigenous woman from Managua, Nicaragua. In the 1930s the Nicaraguan Civil War was taking place and the U.S. government was financing the Nicaraguan colonial regime. Many of the revolutionaries were of indigenous descent while others came from outside the country, similar to Comrade Che Guevara in the struggle for Cuban liberation. Your great-great grandfather was one of these revolutionaries. Despite the Nicaraguan army chopping off the heads of revolutionaries, he was defiant to the struggle fighting in the frontlines, even when he became second in command in the Rebel Army.

3. Mexico: Your great-great grandmother from the indigenous tribes of Chihuahua, Mexico assisted in the Mexican Revolution. She cooked and took care of revolutionaries specifically those serving under Pancho Villa. It is assumed that she met her husband during this time period.
4. Korea: Your great-grandfather of Irish-German descent joined the U.S. marines and became a guard in Korea, thankfully he did not kill anybody. When he came back, he became a hunter hunting deer and birds. When he died, he left his guns to his descendants which you shall inherit. Treat them with care, revolution will come.
5. United States: Your great-grandfather of Italian-Cherokee descent was a member of the Italian Mafia. According to accounts, he was the last member of his lineage to be a member of the mafia. It is assumed that he descended from well-acclaimed mob bosses such as Scarface.
6. United States: Your great-aunt Barbara served in MEChA sometime after its formation and participated in radical organizing. Today she is a poet and historian among other roles she has developed while serving the community.
7. United States: I, your father, have served in MEChA throughout my undergrad in college. As the member of my chapter's vanguard I have foreseen and organized the revolutionary struggle for liberation in a white majority area stolen from the Wiyot. Under the Trump dictatorship, the revolutionary struggle continues to advance despite attempts from liberals and conservatives to co-opt our struggle. The skills and knowledge that I have gathered will be carried down to you.

Remember that our history did not start with colonization but instead our history goes back thousands of years. You must continue the struggle for liberation by agitating the conditions of our oppression until it is time for armed revolution.