

Dialogue: [episode 14]

Dean: Today we are going to pinpoint the focus of our presentation. Let's see what we've got. First, let's look at what Cooper has assembled here.

Cooper: This is a totem pole from the Amis people. In aboriginal cultures, totems are usually images of an animal or a plant, representing holy Mother Nature.

Nana: Is a totem an idol that people worship?

Cooper: I would say that the spirit it embodies is the meaning of the life the people are pursuing.

May: What does the 'Hundred Step Snake' from the Lu-kai tribe represent?

Cooper: The 'Hundred Step Snake' symbolizes 'peace'.

Dean: In the festival, the aboriginal people dance and sing to express the idea that they yearn for peace and want to express thanks for the harvest.

Nana: The Harvest Festival is also about giving praise for peace as well.

Dean: Aboriginals do not draw a line of difference between "yours" and "mine." And there is no difference between "yours" and "mine" in the harvest celebration either. They share everything.

Cooper: That is why people are welcome to join them at the festival to bask in the joyful moments.

May: Well, the totem is a way they worship gods. Are there any taboos about that?

Cooper: The Amis people forbid anyone in the tribe from wearing any picture or drawing of an animal on their clothing.

Dean: Anthropologists think that this taboo is because of the respect the Amis have for Mother Nature based on their life experiences from the time of their ancestors to now.

Nana: Oh, I get it! The Amis teach this taboo to their children so that their kids won't make mistakes out of ignorance and fear.

Dean: Wow, what a profound explanation.

Nana: I believe the love we have for our descendants is the same, no matter what our race, clan or tribe may be. We all want to leave a legacy for the generations to come.

May: I used to think the story and culture of the Amis tribe was quite far away from me. Now I can say it's actually very close.

