

ess of morals among the Indians, the husband might not always be the father.

The religion of the Indians was a stew of ridiculous fables, of absurd superstitions and, very often, of obscure and cruel rites. Every nation had its own divinities, which it evolved from animate or inanimate things or beings in the water, in the air or in the earth.

The Algonquins worshipped the Great Hare, the sun and evil spirits, which they called Manitous. The Iroquois, the Attiwandarons and the Hurons peopled the universe with demons known as Okis. The Iroquois sacrificed human beings to their war-god, Ariskone; the Pawnees slaughtered young girls as an offering to the sun, and the Tanos and southern tribes, when in dire straits, offered young girls as a sacrifice to their tutelary demons.

The spirits of the air dwelt with thunder, lightning, the moon, eclipses, hurricanes, or in whatever was unusual and carried fear to their hearts.

Rattlesnakes and other venomous reptiles, certain animals and, with some, the bear, the coyote and the beaver, because of their superior intelligence, were regarded as divinities. Many tribes believed that the sky was inhabited by a great and powerful being, who arranged the seasons, controlled the winds and the waves and was able to help man when he was encompassed with danger. At times they offered to their divinities, particularly to the heavenly elements and the spirits dwelling in them, either to invoke their good will in some enterprise or to placate them, gifts of tobacco or weapons which they cast into water or fire.

Belief in the immortality of the soul was universal among the tribes, with the solitary exception of the Peourian Illinois, who believed that soul and body expired at the same time.

They pushed their belief in immortality to its limit, for they accorded life after death to all animals, and in some instances to inorganic things.

It is impossible to state, with any approach to accuracy, what was the population of North America, excluding