



A Pastoral Letter by Nick Black Elk in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*
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A pastoral letter by Nick Black Elk written at Manderson, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, undated; published in *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, St. Michael's Mission, Fort Totten, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, North Dakota, Vol. 13, no. 12 (July 15, 1909): 3. Translated from Lakota to English under Michael F. Steltenkamp, S.J.

I have seen a number of different people—the ordinary people living on this earth—the Arapaho, the Shoshoni, the Omaha, the tribe living in California and Florida, the Rosebud, the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, the Standing Rock, and our own, the Oglalas. The White men living in all these places—I have said prayers for their tribe. I'm really moved that I was able to travel to those places and meet people that are very friendly. What I'm going to tell you now is that at the upcoming Catholic Sioux Congress, the people will be coming and telling you what a great job you have done. In all these, good things come from God because of your faith. The United States—All the people should have faith in God. We all suffer in this land. But let me tell you, God has a special place for us when our time has come.

All of us belong to the Church that you and I are baptized into. Let us remember that we only can gain what we ask of God. The priest has the wisdom to stand before you and inform you what God can do for you. The Son of God came to this earth for us and shed his blood for us and we shouldn't waste his blood, because he created us. We must all sweat and tire for our own good—by working for ourselves and making a living. If we don't sweat and tire, then we cannot live. When God came on this earth, He sweat and He got tired, and he brought good news also.

Last March 17, Jonnie Black Elk, 4 years old*, died quietly. I have lost a good boy. May 18, Sam Big Road and his wife were baptized and were married in the Church. This is really good.

The last thing I'm going to say is that I have tried my best to do what God tells me to do. All of you are my friends and my relatives. Please pray for me, and I shake your hand from the bottom of my heart.

Nick Black Elk

Source: Marquette University, Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records (Series 14-1 General Publications, *Šinasapa Wocekine Taeyanpaha*, Box 25 Folder 19, Microfilm reel 19)

* Note: *Black Elk's son John died of tuberculosis in 1909 at age 14. The Lakota text should have been written "waniyetu aketopa" (fourteen winters) rather than "waniyetu topa" (four winters.)*

pardatonwan oyate onpi kin en koška wanjigji tanyan wašicun iapi rea onpi qeşa hena wayawa tipi wan en onpi qa etanhan wašicun iapi onspe qeşa hena śinasapa onspewicakiyapi śni; hena śinasapa wocekiye eya onspewicakiyapi śni, Unkan heon hena taoyate kin en iwašte wicakiya okihi śni qa ee tohan wašicun iapi kta eca tokaheya taku wakan oštehdapi ecee. Qeşa hena on tohinni Dakota oyate kin iwašte wicayapi kte śni; heon wicaşa qa winyan tona nicinca yuhapi kin hena tokata token onpi kta hecinhan hena niye wanna dehan idukcanpi kta, qa tokata waniyetu wikcemna yamni qa topa kin hehanyan nicinca kin hena wanji ni on kta naceca qeşa okini niye hehanyan ni yaon kte śni naceca; heon dehan nicinca kin he taku wicoran wan on tokata on iwašte kta hecinhan he dehan ecewakta yaye cinhan heon nicinca tokata tanyan un kta qa śinasapa wocekiye kin he e kta. Miš dehan Śinasapa mitawa kin etanhan waranmičida qa token ibdabda, wocekiye mitawa kin de wašte qa wakan ce epe cinhan qa tona wicamadapi kin hena nagipi kin noniwicawaye kta ecin Wanikiya maka kin de akan woyawaste sacraments wicaku kin hena owasin miye yuha token waran ičida ibdabda śni. Hecen miyecinka Wanikiya sacrament tawa kin hena bduha qa on wicatanca qa wicanagi en woyawaste kta wan koyagwaya owakihni śni; hena išeya iyececa heon nicinca kin owasin he onspewicayakiyapi kta. Hecen onkiyepi nakaha ni unqunpi kin de oyate toksape kte cin hena ota onkunspepi śni qeşa tokata nicinca kin hena wašte qa warbana onšičidapi hecapi kta Wakantanka Wookihi wicaku kta nakaš. Heon dehan tuwe cinca onšikida qa terida hecinhan śinasapa wocekiye wayawa tipi heca wanji en on kiye cinhan he cinca kin tokata pidaičiyeye kta wan onspekiya.

JOHN STRAIT.

MANDERSON, S. D.

Eyanpaha.

Ikcewicaşa maka akan onqonpi kin eciyatanhan oyate lenakiya wanwicablakin na heon etanhan Marpiyato na Susunihotanka, Omaha mašte makoce ekta oyate onpi kin. Sicangu, Horwoju, Inyanwoslaha oyata,

Oglala oyate na wašicun oyate kin lenakiya wocekiye wicoran on omawani ho heon taku wanjigji epin kta wacin. Oyate owancaya oyate congress luhapi kte el wicoiye tonakca eyapi kta hecin Wakantanka eciyatanhan hena sutaya onyuhapi kta iyececa. United States el Ikcewicaşa lila otapi kta Wakantanka okolakiciye opapi kin lila conalapi na ota rcin makoce kin el kakisya yankapi, heon wicašawakan taku onkokiya kapi kin nahan sutaya onkiconpi kta iyececa; hena Wakantanka oiye kin heon na wicaşa oonkiyapi kta iyececa. Wanikiya onkitawapi caje kin on heon. Tona wocekiye oyapapi makoce kin lel yaonpi hecin hena sutaya najinpo. Wakantanka cinhintku temni na watuka kin he kiksuyapo. Wakantanka cinca taku unqupi kin hena wicaşa akantu taku kicičupi kin heca śni kta hena owihanke wanil onyuhapi kte. Hecel makoce kin le akan iranhan onhipi na tuwa owotanla le mni kin na owotanla watuka kin wozikiye kin el yankin kte; tona Wakantanka Cinhintku we kin otuya yusotapi kin nahan otuya cin watukapi kte; na wokakije kin el yankapi kte. Mitakuyepi, he terike, lena iyukcanpo.

Hekta March 17, Johnie Black Elk, hokšila wanji eca rwaya ma kičelo, waniyetu topa.

May 18, Sam Big Road tawicu kici miniwicakaštanpi na wankankiciyuzapi.

Kola owancaya onšimalapi na wocekiye emiciyapo. Nape ciyuzapi.

NICK W. BLACK ELK.

CANNON BALL, N. D.

May 20, 1909.

Hanteşa en tipiwakan uncinpi na wamnaunyanpi kin he dena Pahayamni, St. James church etanhan dena tipiwakan okiyapi.

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