

Letter of Black Elk, January 26 1934, to Holy Rosary Mission, professing his continued Catholic faith, after John Neihardt published *Black Elk Speaks* (1932). Marquette University Archives MUA_HRM-RCISs01-1 -05_1934-2. Eventually published in *The Crossing of Two Roads: Being Catholic and Native in the United States* (2003), pp. 138-139.

Holy Rosary Mission
Pine Ridge, S. Dak.
January 26, 1934.

BLACK ELK SPEAKS AGAIN - - - - - A LAST WORD

I shake hands with my white friends. Listen, I speak some true words. A white man made a book and told what I had spoken of olden times, but the new times he left out. So I speak again, a last word.

I am now an old man. I called my preist to pray for me and to give me holy oil and the Holy Food, the "Yutapi Wakan". Now I will tell you the truth. Listen my friend.

In the last thirty years I am different from what the white man wrote about me. I am a Christian. I was baptized thirty years ago by the Black-gown priest called Little Father (Ate-ptecela). After that time all call me Nick Black Elk. Most of the Sioux Indians know me. I am now converted to the true Faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I say in my own Sioux Lakota language; Ateunyanpi:- Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name - - - as Christ taught us to say. I say the Apostle's Creed and I believe every word of it.

I believe in seven holy Sacraments of the Catholic Church. I myself received now six of them; Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Holy Communion, Holy Marriage, and Extreme Unction.



I was for many years a regular companion of several missionaries going out campaigning for Christ among my people. I was nearly twenty years the helper of the priests and acted as Catechist in several camps. So I knew my Catholic Religion better than many white people.

For eight years I made the regular Retreat given by the priest for Catechists and I learned much of the faith in those days. I can give reasons for my faith. I know Whom I have believed and my faith is not vain.

My family is all baptized. All my children and grand-children belong to the Black-gown church and I am glad of that and I wish that all should stay in that holy way.

I know what St. Peter said about those who fall away from the holy Commandments. You white friends should read 2 Peter 2 - 20, 22. I tell my people to stay in the right way which Christ and His church have taught us. I will never fall back from the true faith in Christ.

Thirty years ago I was a real Indian and knew a little about the Great Spirit - - the Wakantanka. I was a good dancer and I danced before Queen Victoria in England. I made medicine for sick people. I was proud, perhaps I was brave, perhaps I was a good Indian; but now I am better.

St. Paul also turned better when he was converted. I now know that the prayer of the Catholic Church is better than the Sun-dance or the Ghost-

dance. Old Indians danced that kind for their own glory. They cut themselves so that the blood flowed. But Christ was nailed to the Cross for sin and he took away our sins. The old Indian prayers did not make people better. The medicine men looked for their own glory and for presents. Christ taught us to be humble and to stop sin. Indian medicine men did not stop sin. Now I hate sin. I want to be straight as the black-gown church teaches us to be straight to save my soul for heaven. This I want to do. I cheerfully shake hands with you all.

Nick Black Elk

Gacy C. Looks Twice

Joseph A. Zimmerman S.J.



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HERAKA SAPA AKE WOGLAKA † - - E'HAKE WOYE KIN

Mitakola wašicu nape ciyuzape lo. Iyapi wowicake on taku epin kte, anagoptampo. Ehanni oyate to-onyepi oblaka wan etan wašicu wan wowapi wan kage, tka lehanl o-onye kin e oyake šni. Heon ake epin kte, e'hake woye heca kte.

Wana wimacar'cala. Wicaša-wakan mitawa kin weco wacemiciciyin na islaye wakan na Yutapi Wakan maqu kte kin heon. Heon wowicake ca ociciyakapi kte. Mitakola nar'onpo.

Hekta waniyetu wikcemna yamni hehan na etan wašicu wan omayake kin le lehanl lila itogye waon. Wowicala yuha kin hemaca. Sina-sapa wicaša wakan Ate-ptecela miniamakaštan na hehantan waniyetu wikcemna yamni. Hetan tahenakiya Nick Heraka Sapa emakiyapi. Lakota kin otar'ci slolmayanpi. Hona lehanl Wowicala wowicake kin el Ateyapi Wakantanka, Cinca na Woniyan Wakan kin etkiya migluhomni waon. Lakota Sioux iyapi mitawa kin ognayan lecel epe; Ateunyanpi mar'piya ekta nake cin, nicaje wakanlapi ni - - - Christ hecel unspeonkiyapi na eye onšipi. Wahošiyapi Tawowicala kin epe na iyuha wicawala.

Sina-sapa Wocekiye kin el Wowakan šakowin hena wicawala. He etan lehanl šakpe iwacu; Miniawicakaštanpi, Wicayusutapi, Wakan-woglakapi, Yutapi-Wakan, Wakan kiciyuzapi, na Islaye Wakan.



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Oyate mitawa etkiya lila waniyetu ota wicaša wakan tona ob omawani na he Christ taozuye kin ogra hecon qonpi. Waniyetu wikcemna nupa seca wicaša wakan owicawakiye na tuktal'ktal oyanke wanjigji Wawokiya make. Hece Sina-sapa Wocekiye kin wašicu ota wicisambya slolwaya awakibleze.

Wicaša wakan kin Wawokiyapi kin hanbleceye wicakiyapi omaka šaglogan owapa na etan wowicala kin tankaya omaspe wakila. Wowicala mitawa kin on woableze epa owakihi. Wowicala kin etan Tuwa wicawala he slolwakiye ca otu-yacin wicor'an heca šni.

Tiwahe mitawa iyuha mniawicakaštanpi. Micinca mitakoja iyuha šina-sapa wocekiye opapi na he ibluškin na toke ohiniyan ocanku wakan kin ogra yapipi ni ecanmi.

Woope wakan etan wicaša eya ir'peic'iyapi ca hena St. Peter waewicakiya ca he slolwaye. Wašicu mitakolapi he lawapi wašteke 2 Peter 2 - 20, 22. Christ owacekiye tawa onspeunkiyapi kin etan oyate mitawa kin canku owotanla ogra yewicawabi. Christ tawowicala etan tohamni mahinr'payin kte šni waon.

Hekta waniyetu wikcemna yammi hena Wakantanka onkeyapi on he etan cis-cila slolwaye. Hehan waci wablupike lacaš England el unciyapi Queen Victoria itokab wawaci. Hehan kujapi hena pejuta wicawaqu. Imatan, tokaš omahitike sece, akeš Lakota wašte hemaca sece; tka lehanl owamahececa wakila.

St. Paul inšeya owahececa yuhomnipi on hehan. Sina-sapa ta-wocekiye kin wašte kin slolwaye na he Wiwanyang-wacipi kin isambya na nakon Wanagi-

wacipi kin. Ehank'ehan Lakota kin heca wacipi kin hena woitan ecela on heconpi. Waic'ihonpi na we kin imnitan kiyapi. Tka Christ Iye wowar'ta ni tantanhan on Canicipawege akanl okatanpi wowar'tani 'reyab icu kta on. Ehank'ehan Lakota towacekiyepi wicasa iyuwaste sni. Wapiya wicasa hena woitan na woreyaka ecela akitapi. Christ unsi-ic'icar'unšipi na wowar'tani kin inajin kiye unspeunkiyapi. Lakota wapiya wicasapi kin wowar'tani inajin kiyapi sni. Wana lehanyan wowar'tani kin war'tewala sni. Na owotanla bla wacin šina-sapa woowotanla unspeunkiyapi kin he ognayan na minagi kin mar'piya ekta ni ihonni kta heon. Lecel ecamon kta wacin. Carte wasteya iyuha nape ciyuzape lo.

Wai' ek R Lu M E Lk

Lucy C. Looke Twice

Joseph A. Zimmerman S.J.
(Wamblee Wankatuya)

