

# 1

“My young men shall never farm. Men who work the soil cannot dream, and wisdom comes to us in dreams. You ask me to plow the ground. Shall I take a knife and tear my mother’s bosom? Then when I die she will not take me to her bosom to rest. You ask me to dig for stones? Shall I dig under her skin for her bones? Then when I die I cannot enter her body to be born again. You ask me to cut grass and make hay and sell it, and be rich like white men, but how dare I cut my mother’s hair.”

On this occasion, “the sun died” (was eclipsed), and he fell asleep in the daytime and was taken up to the other world. Here he saw God, with all the people who had died long ago engaged in their old-time sports and occupations, all happy and young forever. It was a pleasant land and full of game. After showing him all, God told him he must go back and tell his people they must be good and love one another, have no quarreling, and live in peace with the whites; that they must work, and not lie or steal; that they must put away all the old practices that savored of war; that if they faithfully obeyed his instructions they would at last be reunited with their friends in this other world, where there would be no more death or sickness or old age. He was then given the dance, which he was commanded to bring back to his people.

Grandfather [a universal title of reverence among Indians and here meaning the messiah] says, when your friends die you must not cry. You must not hurt anybody or do harm to anyone. You must not fight. Do right always. It will give you satisfaction in life. This young man has a good father and mother. [Possibly this refers the young Arapaho who wrote down this message].

Do not tell the white people about this. Jesus is now upon the earth. He appears like a cloud. The dead are still alive again. I do not know when they will be here; maybe this fall or in the spring. When the time comes there will be no more sickness and everyone will be young again.

Do not refuse to work for the whites and do not make any trouble with them until you leave them. When the earth shakes [at the coming of the new world] do not be afraid. It will not hurt you.

I want you to dance every six weeks. Make a feast at the dance and have food that everybody may eat. Then bathe in the water. That is all. You will receive good words again from me some time. Do not tell lies.

## 2

Lots of beautiful things have been covered up [. . .] All you hear about is black magic and sorcery, about kahunas [tradition priests] praying people to death. [. . .] When the missionaries came, they thought that kahuna was just black art. They put the good and the evil together and lumped us with things like witchcraft in Salem. When the Christians came, they denied the spirit of understanding of the Hawaiians.”

## 3

I am talking to you, Grandfather Great Spirit, on this day.  
Pitifully, I sit here.

I am speaking for my relatives, my children,  
my grandchildren, and all my relatives – wherever they might be.  
Hear me, Grandfather, Great Spirit.

With your help, our needs are taken care of.  
You have helped us in the time of want during the past.  
And on this day we wish to thank you.  
Hear me, O Great Spirit.  
This day is a day of thanksgiving.  
The names of living things the world over –  
and we the two leggeds, along with the children and the smaller ones with them –  
come to you today to express thanks.

In the future, make us see again a red day of good.  
In the past, you have preserved us from evil  
on this road. Keep us on this road, and do not let us see anything wrong.

I, my children, and my grandchildren shall  
walk – led like children by your hand.  
You have helped us in all things.  
And Grandfather, Great Spirit, through your power  
alone we have survived.

Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have come and put us down –  
gathered together on mother earth.  
And while we continue in this world you provide  
food for all living creatures.

So we give you thanks on this day,  
Grandfather, take pity on me.

One day, we shall go and arrive at the end of the road.  
In that future, we shall be without any sin at all.  
And so it will be in the same manner for my grandchildren and relatives who will  
follow as well.  
We give you thanks, Grandfather Great Spirit.  
I am sending his prayer to you