



*Eternal Rest Grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him; May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace; Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.*

#### **Black Elks Prayer:**

*Grandfather, Great Mysterious One, You have been always and before You nothing has been. There is nothing to pray to, but You. The star nations all over the universe are Yours, and Yours are the grasses of the earth. Day in and day out You are the life of things. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer. Grandfather, all over the world the faces of the living ones are alike. In tenderness they have come up out of the ground. Look upon Your children with children in their arms, that they may face the winds, and walk the good road to the day of quiet. Teach me to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that live. Sweeten my heart and fill me with light, and give me the strength to understand and the eyes to see. Help me, for without You, I am nothing.*

#### **Black Elk Quotes:**

*"The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of the people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the Universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the Universe dwells the Great Spirit and that this center is really everywhere. It is within each one of us".*

*"It is true that many of the old ways have been lost. But just as the rains restore the earth after a drought, so the power of the Great Mystery will restore the way and give it new life. We ask that this happen, not just for the Red People, but for all people that they might all live. In ignorance and carelessness they have walked on Ina Maka, Our Mother. They did not understand that they are part of all beings: the four-legged, the winged, Grandfather rock, the tree people, and our star brothers. Now our Mother and all our Relations are crying out. They cry for the help of all people".*

*For more information about the life of Black Elk:*

[www.rapidcitydiocese.org/native](http://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/native)



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"BLACK ELK"

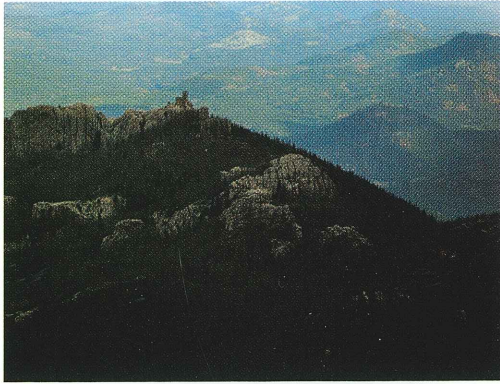
#### **He'haka Sapa**

*Photo courtesy of Marquette University*

*By his family's account, Black Elk was born in 1866 into a lineage of great medicine men. In 1872, Tunkasila blessed him with a great vision which placed him atop Black Elk Peak where he saw all people coming together as one. His vision was validated as nine years later he became a healer and powerful medicine man among the people, at a very young age. He embraced Catholicism and becoming a catechist spent his time building up the local church. He faithfully and impartially practiced both Catholicism and Lakota traditions.*

**Nicholas Black Elk**  
**Chief, Catechist and**  
**Oglala Holy Man**





### **Black Elk Peak**

*\* Named in August of 2016*

#### **Black Elk's Vision:**

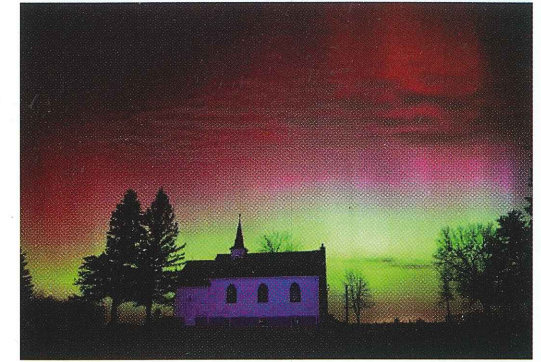
*Then they led me to the center of the circle where once more I saw the sacred tree all full of leaves and blooming....Against the tree was a man standing with arms held wide in front of him. I looked hard at him and I could not tell what people he came from. He was not a Wasichu and he was not an Indian. His hair was long and hanging loose, and on the left side of his head he wore an eagle feather. His body was strong and good to see and it was painted red...He was a fine looking man. While I was starring hard at him, his body began to change and became very beautiful with all colors of light, and around him there was light. He spoke like singing; "My life is such that all earthly beings and growing things belong to me. Your Father the Great Spirit has said this and you too must say this.*



#### **Catechist Nicholas Teaching the Children**

*"The Two Roads Model of Catechism"*

*Believing that Wakantanka, the Great Spirit, had called him to greater service, he became a Christian who intertwined Lakota and Catholic practices. He prayed regularly with his rosary and pipe and participated in mass and Lakota ceremonies. On the feast of St. Nicholas in 1904 he was baptized, and in 1907, the Jesuits appointed him a catechist because of his enthusiasm and excellent memory for learning Scripture and Church teachings. Like St Paul he travelled widely, preaching, telling stories and writing pastoral letters with Bible verses on good Christian living for Lakota People to read. Oftentimes he taught the faith by narrating a published picture chart called the "Two Roads Pictorial Ladder Catechism", which featured the "Good Red Road" and the "Black Road of Difficulties". As a catechist, he is credited with leading over 400 Native People to baptism. His books and model lifestyle continue to inspire thousands of people making their spiritual journey.*



#### **The Aurora Borealis**

*When near death in 1950, Nicholas humbly predicted, "I have a feeling that when I die, some sign will be seen. Maybe God will show something ...which will tell of His mercy." On the night of his wake service at St. Agnes Parish, in Manderson, SD the Northern Lights danced vigorously overhead with extraordinary display and unprecedented brilliance and could be seen around the world. His friend, John Lone Goose reflected, "God sent lights to shine on that beautiful man."*

#### **Significant Dates in the Life of Black Elk:**

- 1872-** His vision of the Six Grandfathers when he received his gift of healing,
- 1876-** At thirteen he fought in the Battle of the Little Big Horn,
- 1880-** A medicine man created the Horse Dance to help him follow his spiritual path,
- 1890-** He witnessed the Wounded Knee Massacre of his people,
- 1904-** He was baptized on the Feast of St. Nicholas and took the name, Nicholas,
- 1907-** Was appointed Catechist by the Jesuits.