

Lame Deer

Lame Deer, a Sioux holy man, brings passion to the seeking for dreams, and reminds us of the connection to deep spirit that dreams provide.

CRYING FOR A VISION

CRYING FOR A VISION, that's the beginning of all religion. The thirst for a dream from above, without this you are nothing. This I believe. It is like the prophets in your Bible, like Jesus fasting in the desert, getting his visions. It's like our Sioux vision quest, the *hanblecheya*. White men have forgotten this. God no longer speaks to them from a burning bush. If he did, they wouldn't believe it, and call it science fiction.

Your old prophets went into the desert crying for a dream and the desert gave it to them. But the white men today have made a desert of their religion and a desert within themselves. The White Man's desert is a place without dreams or life. There nothing grows. But the spirit water is always way down there to make the desert green again.



FIRST VISION QUEST

Lame Deer spent four days waiting for his first vision, during which he had the support of his family (his grandmother in particular), and his community, who helped him understand his experience.

I FELT THE SPIRITS OF MY LONG DEAD FOREFATHERS entering my body, felt them stirring in my mind and in my heart. Sounds came to me through the darkness: the cries of the winds, the whisper of trees, the hooting of birds. Suddenly I felt an overwhelming presence. Down there with me in my cramped hole was a big bird. The pit was only as wide as myself and I was a skinny boy, but that huge bird was flying around me as if he had the whole sky to himself. I could hear his cries, sometimes near and sometimes far away. I felt his wings touching me. This feeling