



Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux by Black Elk, John G. Neihardt

- **Paperback:** 298 pages
- **Publisher:** University of Nebraska Press (Aug 1988)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN:** 0803283598

About the book

This is the autobiography of Black Elk, a Lakota Indian fighting for freedom at the end of the 19th century, as told to author John G. Neihardt. While his tale glows with eyewitness accounts of historic events and Lakota Sioux customs, the heart of the book is Black Elk's soulful visions of a better future for his people and, by extension, for all humanity. He urges us to follow the "good red road" of interconnectedness and respect for all life, to honour the past without becoming mired in it, and to regard the earth as sacred. It is this emphasis on earth-centered spirituality that has made BLACK ELK SPEAKS a classic of Native American literature and the environmental movement.

Reviews

A spiritual and factual history, 12 Aug 2001

On buying this book, I was surprised that it had put in a category of 'Philosophy', as I imagined it to be simply an Indian history of the Sioux wars of Black Elks lifetime. However this book proves to be more than a history, it offers a look into the mind and beliefs of the Indian and his sorrow with the loss of his native life. One must read this book with a very open mind as, at first, it will seem far fetched etc. though the one gets into the book the more they would read into Black Elks words.

This book on a historical note is very good for a student of American West history, if paired with a modern book about the conflicts of which Black Elk speaks as one can really explore the attitudes of the Indians and Whites in an interesting detail.

A book for everyone, 7 Sep 2002

What a great man black elk was and still is through this book, john has done a great job writing this account of a great nation of people that if we followed today the world would be a better place, it is a beautiful book I loved every part of it.
Not for "wasachus".or maybe so?