

If Great Eagle were to become a published book and as such the author was asked to be at the book signing what appears to be an empty chair would be setting there. The author of this book was God and as a member of his fan club I was asked to put the words to go with the story. I accept all errors because the author never makes mistakes and therefore, I most graciously accept them. Perhaps they were not viewed properly, perhaps they were not mentally translated correctly but regardless of the simplicity of the situation the story is not fiction in the mind of the author, only in the mind of the reader.

The names were not changed and are actual people living at that time and told by the author and retold with this publication. This is the first time of allowing history to be told while it is happening and published over two hundred years later. Hopefully the reader will find the true humor and accounting told in these pages. With permission from the author, I will go out on a limb and foretell of several more years of this history however I must educate you in the fact this is my first attempt at publishing a story and at eighty years old I may have eyesight, hindsight, or laziness to contend with.

Along with the author I whole heartily hope you find the reading of this story to be as fulfilling as I did telling it.

Verl K.

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Note: A ground cloth was used under blankets and usually large enough to be folded over bedding and was waterproof. It was held behind the saddle while traveling and held by leather strips called piggin strings.

CHAPTER ONE

ON A MOUNTAIN TOP

One thing is for certain, I have time to think over how I came to be on top of this of mountain around twelve thousand feet with a canvas ground cloth, bedding, piggin strings, and a few other essentials necessary while climbing this mountain such as water, and a little Elk jerky, ropes, and my trusty riffle which is a part of me. Just in case I gather a few small limbs about as big as my arm for firewood on the way up.

Looking over the edge when I get to the top, I can see past hell it is far straight down. Surrounding me is only jagged rock in an area of about twenty feet each way. I have pulled my ground cloth over me to try and keep the wind and cold away and allow me a little warmth and what sleep is possible. It's been a long day and the travel has been hard and I am completely worn out. The ground is bare, not a bush or shrub to protect me from the harsh winds. Looking around there is nothing but a solid rock outcropping. With the ground cloth pulled over me it allows me to be free of the cold and wind, but the wind is trying to lift the ground cloth and blow it away. I can barely raise my head and all I want to do is lay it down and get a little sleep.

Not sure if it is 1842, I think I just turned 18 years old but what year this is I am not sure, but it is summer, and I just passed through a little burg called Denver and was wanting to see what the Pacific Ocean looked like and figured I had nothing but time and money which is what caused those trying to hang back and follow me. My trusty horse Shadow is the only friend I have, and we have been on the trail for several months and have had to fight strangers that had nothing on earth of their own and wanted what was mine.

One thing pa had taught us young eons was how to shoot and not waste any ammo. When we went into the woods for supper meat, we were expected to bring back something to eat for every bullet we took. Dad never could figure out why we should take more than three or four bullets with us as we could not carry that much big game back. All this is going through my mind as I try to get below the edge of a sharp crevice just to get out of the wind.

Anyway, those guys had followed me, and they just would not give up even after my cutting their numbers down. They figured that with ten men they could do what they wanted but I figured with twenty-five bullets they were short fifteen men. Some people could not catch a possum with four dogs and two sacks.

I had allowed them to chase me up onto the top of this mountain I did not want to kill any more of them than I had, and the wind was starting to annoy me

something terrible. I could not keep the edges of my ground cover down and over me so I pulled a few branches I had carried up for a fire if and tied them along the edge of my ground cloth using my pigging string I figuring by putting a foot against the edge I could hold the bottom while getting a little rest. Then it felt so much better I continued to tie the edge of the canvas all the way around with these branches for better wind protection. Taking my hiking stick, I tied it from side to side over me so it would hold the canvas off my face. After a little thought I tied my rope from the top by my head to the to bottom below my feet allowing me to lay my bed cloth on it and hold everything down. It felt better so I ran it three times giving me more width to lay on. I had put my few possessions under the tarp and placed them on the bedding over the rope for added weight which allowed me a little rest without any effort. What this amounted to was a low tent or covering, and it laid on me and the ropes held it down for me. I had not put the canvas under me for fear I would need all the covering possible during any possible storm.

Before I go to sleep, I should say a little prayer which could not hurt in this situation. Dear God, the only time you hear from me is when I am in trouble but this time, I sure could use some help. I am on top of a mountain the enemy is closing in on me and without a doubt they figure on killing me. I have done all I can think of to avoid killing more of them but looks like I need some imagination here that is way beyond me. If you could see your way clear to help me out once again, I would mention your name next time I run into a real honest to goodness sinner I will place myself in your hands and sleep knowing you are my strength and guardian and following that I remember nothing having gone to sleep.

The wind came up in the night something horrible and I dreamed after coming half-awake that I was sleeping on a cloud it was so comfortable. About half awake I reached up to get my hat and it fell from my bag and when I reached for it, I could not find it. I turned over to look and I was not on the mountain, I was somewhere above nothing. The wind had picked up so strong that it had picked me up and took me with it and I felt like a rag in a windstorm floating out over the wild blue yonder. I was like a squirrel chased up a tree and somebody stole the tree. The ground cloth had become a kite and I was hanging below it because I had tied the rope from front to back to hold cover down now it was a place to lay on below the kite. Thank God, I tied it three times to be wide enough to hold my bedding now it is my seat for this kite. And the walking stick gave me something over my head to hang onto.

This can't be happening; what is going on? There is nothing between me and the ground but God and Saint Marry. If I live through this there is no one on earth

going to believe this one sober or not. What kind of a fix have I gotten myself into this time? Just blowing and floating from one place to another and no idea what to do to change anything. Dear God, you must truly have a great imagination to place me in heaven without being dead, yet. I know I am not to fear any evil, but this is way past anything I have ever imagined or wanted. Watching the sun come up from the same side of the mountain as the sun was never one of my great desires.

It is a good thing I left my old friend Shadow where she could get water and plenty to eat if I live through this one, I will be a long time finding her again. The only thing I ever had I could call my own and say I am the boss now I may have lost her forever. Sure, is way up here though, God, are you watching me up here do you know where I am? I Have sat around many campfires and heard some wild stories but if I get that chance again would I dare tell this one? Heard stories of lakes way up in the tops of the mountains but never meet a man who could stretch the truth this far. If the wind stops, will I drop all at once or will I float till I run out of beef jerky and just starve to death? Maybe pass and eagle and get a shot but then how would I get to him? I wanted to see the ocean badly but would like to stand on the bank not drop in from above.

I have noticed that when I lean over to look down from the right side I drift to the right and when I lean to the left, I move that way. Makes me wonder how I can lean to go lower. Wouldn't it be something if I could control this thing and fly over those guys who were looking to cook my goose? Bet it would not take over one shot and rather I hit them or not they would run all directions if only to get away from the smell of each other when they leave that mess in their pants. If it weren't for the fear of how I am going to end this day I would think this is exciting and beautiful up here.

Wonder if I am closer to God up here, I bet I have got his attention on top of this mountain. Dare not think any swear words up here he hears me, and I could be in real trouble. For now, I think I will see if I can go around and around this mountain till, I see those crooks looking for me. Get them on top of that mountain and would be real fun to scare them right off the edge of that cliff. If I had known that I would have been up here floating around I would have taken more time in preparing things. Sure, would be nice if I had taken a rocking chair or even a swing would be good. I could have talked Myrtle into a tumble if I had offered her a ride. Oh! Sorry God, I got carried away there.

Leaning toward the mountain seems to be carrying me closer to it... WOOPS what is this I am going straight up. Might have had something to do with being

next to that mountain. Maybe on the other side I will go up again will be interesting to see. But not sure if I can handle the excitement again. Well, I am to the back side OH damn! We are going down. Sure, was a ruff stop. Glad it did it before we hit the ground. This makes me think of watching those birds when they seem to just glide around and not flap their wings. I can go up again then next time around the mountain I will rise and then not come back to the downside. That happens how much time could I stay up here? Really, beats what I am afraid is going to happen in the end of this trip.

Just laying here on my bedroll gives me time to think back to how I came to be here. After studying how a picture was taken and developed, I sold a few cows and bought a small building in downtown Boston and opened a picture/photographic studio. I was making more money taking pictures than raising cows and with a little profit I bought more stuff and not many understood the process, so I did not have much competing on how the photos worked to force the prices up. Friends came into the shop one day and after a few howdy dos and a cup of coffee were offering to buy the studio for more money than I had ever seen. Took ten seconds to decide I wanted to travel anyway, and this offered the excuse.

Finally deciding to travel west and see the ocean, I had went to the bank to deposit the money and after a friendly greeting the banker Mr. Smith pulled me into his office. And then setting down and waiting to see what an important man who owned the bank had in mind even closing the door before speaking. Dan, he said I have had several wanting to buy a small farm just like yours and I could offer you a very good price. I can only imagine, after losing your father last month and seeing your mother passed away last year you may want to take it easy for a while, perhaps do something different for a change.

I had gotten the farm from my father who had gotten it from his father, so the family had owned it for years and made it into a right profitable and pretty healthy-looking property. After obtaining a top dollar for the farm, I took enough cash to buy a mule and a few other camping items and had some cash to travel. So, with Shadow the horse I had raised from a colt and a powerful mule they had told me was named Buster which seemed to fit him. It didn't take me only a couple of days and I was on the road heading West. No sense waiting around just as well get on the way no excuses left, and no one to explain my leaving to.

I guess by today's standards I would be called a rich man but only if I didn't try to buy or do something stupid such as buying a bigger farm. Any way the gun smith that sold me the new saddle holster for the Henry repeating rifle I had bought

with five boxes of shells recommended practicing till I was able to put six holes in a plate at six hundred yards. I was always a good shot and great at hunting but was told to keep practicing and with the friends help and good eyes I learned to take wind age into account and now don't bend over in front of me any closer than a thousand yards and not expect to have to wipe two holes. I did buy a new pistol, but I had been using that sense I was knee high to a grasshopper so I could get it out and banging right along with the very best of them.

I had not paid much attention to those fellers that were watching when buying all those groceries and getting ready to light out. When the first guy stepped up beside me and offered to take all of my stuff off my hands, I didn't have to strain himself. I turned and took ahold of that man like a sack of spuds, and he went down the town well like a rock searching for a hidey hole. Probably would not have drowned if these others had wanted to stop the fight and turn him around and heading the other way. They had decided to help bring him out of the well of course after those two with broken arms, and one with busted nose and all that blood helped make up their minds of course; that new pistol pointing at your nose would have an influence also. I heard the one guys say something like undoing a pocket watch and having the spring come lose when they started in on me. I must admit when someone calls the dance, I'm always ready to play the music and name the tune.

Turned out by the time the guy got out of the well his pants were dry but didn't matter in a casket. So, they felt they needed to teach me a lesson drowning their friend, so they waited for me to cross the bridge leaving town and with seven or eight men on horses one would expect they had the upper hand. Not sure, rather that is what made me mad and vicious, or the nasty words used when telling me my options to continue across the bridge. Once I get excited ever body gets excited and being in my way takes more than a few people to slow things down. Putting a spur into ole Shadows flanks after not being used to that she knocked two horses over the edge before you could say I'll be skinned alive. While they were looking at their friends trying to learn how to fly, I went through the bunch like the clap in a roadhouse Buster following right behind. I did not know for a few days the bridge was eighty feet over the water and it was low water that year so the sudden stop at the bottom is why two more of that lot meet their maker. Next time I see those guys I'll remind them to change their diets because what they were eating was not good for their health.

I started West that day figuring on making twenty miles before setting up camp, but Buster had different ideas. He was tied to my saddle horn and came

along behind us like a no wheeled wagon. Busters back legs just seemed to be hooked to the ground he found every reason to slow me down he could. I think we may be made five miles and they were hard earned miles. After unloading Shadow and Buster, both had me tired as a 90-year-old man. Just got the fire going when from behind me I heard a voice say may I come into your camp? As I turned around and looked, the smile must have shown all the way out to that stranger because he started laughing and said I guess that is a yes so here I come.

The guy stepped down from the biggest dog I had ever seen. I later found out it was a Great Dane and it stood almost three feet high and when he stood beside it, he wasn't much taller than that dog. He stuck out his hand and said my name is Trainor and what name do you go by he said. I am Daniel, Adam, David, Soloman, Clark but you can call me Dan. Wow he said your mother must have been a God-fearing woman to give you all that name. Well, she hoped I would grow into one of them and didn't know which so named me after all of them.

How did you come by with the Trainor handle? Well, he said I can train anything on earth that eats food to do anything you want it to. Man, mister Trainor you came to the right fire tonight I have a mule that has a hind leg problem they lock up every time I try to make any head way. He assured me that he could train a mule as easy as a woman because they were a lot alike, and he told me he would tell me the woman first because she had a lot of the same charters as the mule stubborn and the same as an elephant never one to forget so training one was almost the same thing. Well, I told him I never had a woman but maybe if I did, I would remember the lessons.

How much is this going to cost me, I wanted to know? Well as he poured a cup of coffee out of my pot and as he sat back down and said one hundred dollars. I could hire three men for a month for that I told him. Ya, however, you're getting two for the price of one and either one is worth more than three dummies. Can I be learned then decide if it is worth the cost or not? Yes, he said I am so sure you will agree to have that mule follow you without a trailing rope you will be glad to pay.

Let's start with the women he says a real good way to start this training is to use an example if you want to have chicken dinner with apple pie for desert on Sunday afternoon and you were use to going fishing that day when she says she wants you to attend church services the training is real hard but in order for her to learn you have to bite your tongue and agree now she may come back with wanting you to wear a stiff collar and that really makes the training hard but you must learn to teach you have to be stern. You just go along with her, and she will learn that

she must have all the trimmings to go with the chicken. She'll learn that to get you to go along she must give in to your wishes. Keep this up and she will be trained.

The next real tuff lesson to be taught is even if she is so ugly, she could stop a freight train going downhill running on frozen tracks you have to learn to tell her how beautiful she is, and you must develop a tongue so smooth it will spread peanut butter on a cockle bur. By the time you have her trained you will have to go to bed expecting to lose five pounds every time. Training takes time and you may have to buy a few extra dresses and maybe a new stove, but you can train em to go along with your every wish. Just make them think that you wanted everything they needed just so they think it is their idea. Just remember everything they ever needed is exactly what you were intended on doing and they will stay trained for ever but now one thing different than the mule is it takes a harder hand, and the mule must be whipped on occasion and if you get confused and treat the woman as the mule all that training will go out the window. It's important with the woman to learn that you are doing everything possible so much so that she couldn't possibly replace you with another man.

Now with the mule it is the same only a firmer hand when they hang back you must inflect pain so that when not with you it hurts, and the reward is when they are with you, they obtain water and food but when they hang back, they are refused those good things just exactly opposite of the woman.

Once we start out in the morning I will stay back and when the mule resists to follow, I will hit his back end with the tip of my whip, and he will catch up to you like a fire on a tumble weed. Only takes a few times of correcting them and they are quick in catching on and when they learn they stay learned you will not have to attach a rope all you have to do is leave and they will follow. That's why the hundred dollars I will stick around till that mule is trained good.

We started out the next day early and had traveled ten miles by noon, so I was enjoying the little fellow with the big dog. He stayed with me for two days and had Buster two steps behind Shadow all day long. It was a real pleasure just watching that mule stay in step. I'm going to miss that little man but he wanted to pursue another trail so we separated that day, and I will always remember him.

I continued West making twenty to twenty-five miles a day and did not pass many travelers and had pretty much got into a routine and the miles and days just seemed to go by each other.

The next time I ran across those guys from back home I had completely forgotten about them, and I had pulled up to the hitching post in front of a bar in a little town in Kansas of just another name I knew not what. The sheriff's office was next to the bar and so I walked into see the sheriff who was setting with his feet up on the desk looking at me and as I entered, he stood and said, "hello young fellow what can I do for you?"

I explained I just traveled a long way and wanted to talk with somebody and have a beer to wash the dust out. Well, he said I can talk to you, but you will have to go next door to get the beer and when you go there, I would pay attention to those two leaning on the bar I think they are waiting for someone and those outside at the hitching post road into town with them so they must all be together. Never been this far West before so I doubt, they are waiting for me, but I am not one to avoid a fight if they are looking for one. You're looking healthy Sherriff so things must not be too bad in your world. Oh! We have a few drunks and a couple of problems now and again but as a whole we have a right peace full town here and I try to keep it that way. If you would care to step into the bar, I will be glad to buy you a beer. Well son I would but it is a little early for me to drink and as to leaning on the bar this stool fits my ass a lot better. All right Sherriff, it was enjoyable visiting with you.

So, as I walked into the bar those two fellows having a cold beer and leaning on the bar separated to allow me to join them with one on each side. I had noticed while coming in those out front around the railing were loafing as if they had nothing to do. As I stepped between those at the bar one of them said "we do not like the looks of you." Don't know what made me think of it but I ask them if they knew the difference between a two-dollar and a twenty-dollar gal? No, he said; and I told them it is way they dress; and you are just not use to us fifty-dollar dudes, but they should have learned by looking that I was too rich for their pallets.

Some guys never learn much the older they get because the guy on my left says, "before I rip down your shit house, I want you to know my name is John Brown" as he went for his gun. I just threw my drink into the guy on the right's face and while holding John's gun in his holster with my left while he tried to pull it out, I shot the guy my right about belly high he dropped his gun and grabbed his belly as he leaned down looking at the hole in his middle. Then as John broke free from my grip and was bringing his barrel toward me, I just turned to him and gave him two lead tickets to hell.

Turns out that while I was facing those in the bar room the others had started an argument with the sheriff who had come out to see what caused the shooting. Not stopping to count I figured perhaps five others were outside facing a gun held by the Sheriff. But with all the yelling and scuffling around I knew the Sheriff was in no danger. I just jumped on Shadow and found the road out of town before he wanted to talk about the dead ones inside. I don't doubt the local law would straightened it all out shortly and there was no danger to him. Not wanting to spend time explaining or any time in jail made my decision easy.

Meanwhile floating around up here in the sky, I did figure out that I could turn on my belly and by putting my feet on both sides of my bed roll I was able to sit up; of course, it was a little wild there for a second but after getting into position I could lean forward and the whole thing would dive or go lower depending on how forward I leaned. Reaching up and out I got a hold of the walking stick tied from side to side overhead and by pulling I could move in that direction and using the other hand I did the same thing over there and moved to the other direction. Looking down was a real mouthful of adventure but once I got over the realization of what had happened and started to really look the sun was just coming up and the sight was breath taking the bright yellows from the sun, the quietness with only the noise made of the air over the edges of my tarp. Looking down at the tops of the green pine trees at the blue waters in the streams. I could see five or ten lakes with deer, elk and even a couple of bears. The sides of the cliff had goats or mountain sheep I couldn't tell they were so far away but taking all into account was like I had been blind and just opened my eyes for the first time and see what God had created. I have no control over the sun coming up in the morning I can only watch, and marvel and I find the same thing with God, and I like to share the same with others. When I watch the sun come up, I know it will get brighter. When I watch it go down, I know it will get darker. Thus, if I only get to watch one let it be brighter.

Now I felt like I had a little control over this whole thing, and I got to wondering if I could find those old boys that were hunting for me. It was a beautiful day after the sun came up and all the clouds had disappeared during the night with only one little bitty cloud in the sky and it seemed as though it was hanging close to where I had been on top of the mountain. I leaned into the front and pulled with my left arm, and we went down and over toward the mountain. As I got close, I could see the top and it looked like five guys standing pointing a rifle at me. OH! rats I had not thought that if I could see them, they could see me. I could hear them talking just as plain as day with the still mountain air and being so close and all. One said Jim get up here and let me lay my rifle on your shoulder so

I can use you for a rest for my gun. Tim, you get around behind me so you can see where I shoot like a spotter.

I had nothing to hide behind and no way of avoiding getting shot so in my mind I just accepted the finish was here and out of my mouth I just said dear father please protect me from the lead I am about to receive. You would not believe it, and neither would I had I not seen it right there in front of my eyes. A lightning bolt from that little bitty cloud struck the top of that mountain and the gun the guy was holding the rifle became a lightning rod and must have drawn the bolt right to the gun. I don't know how many jumped, but I am sure I saw one and maybe two guys turn and just jump over the edge of that cliff. And about that same second a wind picked me up and I must have gone up for a good two thousand feet almost in the blink of an eye. There was not another cloud in the sky just that one and it just kind of disappeared so I lay-ed back down on my bed and just sucked in the wind that I had not even realized I had been holding.

Father, I have just seen a couple of miracles beyond anything I have ever heard about, and I feel the presents of the holy Ghost in my very soul and having limited knowledge and wisdom as to why this is taking place is not in my understanding. But how can I explain what just happened? No one would believe that why didn't you just run them over with a herd of turtles. I could explain fast turtles easier than that small cloud putting forth all that wind and lightning bolts.

Any doubt I had about making a safe landing has been taken away and I now feel your protection and want to thank you for stepping in and helping me when I have done nothing to bring your grace upon me. From this moment forward I will try my best to do those things that I believe you would want me to do. Amen

Well, I guess I should find a place to put this kite down and a big meadow would really look good now. I can fly past Shadow and get her to meet me there if I can get close enough for her to hear me when I fly past. It feels right when I lean forward a little and hold to the left for some reason it is almost like I just kind of float toward the ground. Sure, is fun to look at all those pine trees from up here and what a view. Wow this is beyond imagination and if I tell anyone they would not believe me anyway. I can see Shadow now and she is out in the valley next to that stream.

As I approach the meadow, I am reminded of Psalms 23 the lord is my Shepard, I shall not want, he maketh me to lie **down** in green pastures, He leadeth

me **beside** still waters. Yea, though I sail through the valley with Shadow my friend I will fear no failure, for thou art with me.

Here I am moving faster than I have ever heard anyone do I am flying like a bird about to land on the ground, and I am to have no doubt I will do it. One thing I have noticed is the wind has increased the closer I get to the ground. Even though I have no knowledge of this I am smart enough to know the wind is part of why I was up there in the first place. When I walk away from this would I do it again?

Thy wind and thy sail thus prepare a meadow before me in the presence of my doubt. Thou anoint-est my head with wisdom my faith is doubtful. Surely goodness and great landing shall follow all the way to the end, and I will dwell in the house of the lord forever and remain in the faith.

Whoa! Boy slow down here. I will try to just stay above the ground as long as I can, and it is slowing down the further I go. Should I have tried to land in the water? Too late now, don't think I can turn without upsetting the whole thing. Just keep her going and going and here we go I am about to touch the ground, and this is a little bit faster than I can run so I will try to stay up till I can go slower.

Oops she tried to take off and couldn't do it, but it sure felt like it was going to, but that sure took the speed out of things. I was so afraid that I pulled my feet up and hit on my bedding which took most of the jarring and now I am sliding on the bed. Got to try and get out from under this thing and see if all bones are still OK and if no pain, I will say I did a good job. Such luck to have found a nice soft meadow with lots of grass and a few rocks couldn't have planned it any better.

CHAPTER TWO

MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH WILD INDIANS

While Dan was landing in the meadow those on top of the mountain were piecing together just what had happened and talking together. Jim and Rabbit were roasted like a piece of bacon on an open fire. Never saw the like of it they just stood there and were cremated from that lightning and what a wild blast of noise that was. Rick was blown over the edge when the wind came up and I am sure Ed is not going to make it either, but we lost him because of a heart problem. We started out with twelve and we are down to three thanks to Dan. Now let us be honest, Tom says. He threw Pet down the well and he shot John and Sam and forced the Wilson brothers to jump off the bridge but the others up there and the lightning got the rest except for Ed, and we knew he had problems from the beginning so we cannot blame Dan. Like hell I can't he dangled that fortune in front of my banker to the point he all but told me to go get it from him. We just never expected him to up and take off that fast. If we had known in time we could have gotten together and finished it before leaving town.

So, help me. I am going to make Dan pay for every one of those brothers and cousins we lost before this is over; next time, I will not give him time to pray I will blow him to hell the first chance I get, or my name is not Dusty Dramer. Jerry, it was just as true for you, your family too, so you should feel the same way.

We have one advantage over him he does not know that we know he is heading to see the ocean and so we can find him, and we will be ready this time. Butch you are without a doubt the best shot here so we will get you in position next time and at the same time we can get all three of us to shoot at the same time. That will give us something to do while we hunt for the worthless nut, we can practice shooting together on a signal so we all fire together and five hundred yards should be far enough away we can get away from any who come after us.

After landing I had better get Shadow and get out of the middle of this meadow before those fellows find me and who knows how many eyes watched me come down? I have not ever thought about Indians I have been so worried about those already looking for me. Shadow, get over here and quit running around like a young colt in high clover. Ata Boy I was afraid of that silly thing floating down on you would scare you and I am amazed that you hung around waiting for me after I whistled.

Father, I have to say thankie to you dear lord for watching over this fool. Sure, hope I did not jump from the pan into the fire and might have wished I had stayed up on the top of that mountain. No thinking back at it those guys had me treed like a mountain lion and nowhere to go. Makes me wonder how many of

those are left and if they are wanting to get even after losing all those friends. Stand still Shadow let me get the rest of this stuff loaded so we can get out of here. Buster you will get your turn move out of the way. Lucky for me it is such a beautiful day for ending that experience.

Common Shadow let us move it and get out of this meadow and into the trees as fast as possible and get those things we hid before going up on the mountain. With Shadow and Buster following I left the meadow and went into the pine trees where I had stored extra food, guns, and cooking utilities. Close to the hollow stump where the items were hidden, I was picking up the pack saddle to start loading and as I turned back to the mule, I see three Indians down on their knees with their heads against the ground and they are all lined up shoulder to shoulder towards me. Not wishing to show that I had not seen them I tried to function as though I had seen them all the time. Something is wrong here. Why is he bringing out the wife and young girl his child with him? Most would come out and make sure it is safe first then if all is well bring them out but protect them is always the way. Advancing to greet them seems important to do but how do I show them am not a God which they obviously must think. All this flashes through my mind in a heartbeat as I approach them.

How can this be? What is going on here? OH! I think I know they must have saw me landing and figure I am a god are something close to it. How can I get them off their knees and understand that I am not a god I have to understand that in their world this is not normal. Well in mine it is not normal either, but they would not go to this effort where I am from like bowing to a God.

Can you speak English I finally ask verbally after running every possibility through my mind. The man raises his head, looks up, and shakes his head like what are you saying? Thinking it over not being able to tell him what I am thinking I turn the same direction as the Indian and get down on my knees and facing the same way they are I bowed my head to the ground and copy's what the Indian is doing. The two females have not even moved from their position.

Raising my head while kneeling I take the guy's arm above the elbow and while getting to my feet gently pull the fellow up with me as I raise. Smiling and pointing to the ladies I motion for them to stand. The guy is not as tall as my 6 foot two inches, but he is close to six feet tall with long black hair and very dark brown eyes which are looking directly into mine. The guy is very muscular and obviously in exceptionally physical shape and is about my age of 18 years. He is wearing buckskin and so are the women. I put my fist against my own chest and say,

“Dan.” The Indian pounds his chest and says Naaijawii. Smiling Dan repeats Jaw and points to the guy. Understanding that Dan cannot say Naaijawii the Indian smiles pounds his own chest and says Jaw. Then turning toward the older woman who is about the same age he says, Dia Nanisundehaine. Wow Dan thinks this is going to be tuff with names like this, so he says verbally, “Sunshine” because to his ear that is as close to what it sounded like, and he smiles at the woman. She nods her head and smiling says, “Sunshine”. She is a very pretty gal with a shape that would make one proud. Her buckskin bottoms are dress fashion with the top shoulder to arms covered and are plain with a small design but clean and she has a necklace about her shoulders with small pieces of wood and bone tied together which are attractive.

Jaw then turns to the young woman and says, Baide which later I find means Daughter, but think it is her name, so I repeat Baide and nod toward the gal who in turns smiles and nods to me. Turning toward her mother Baide says Degenoni and points to her mouth as she looks back at Dan. Shaking his head as to agreeing I reach into the hollow log and pull out a pack with food items and cooking pots and as I do, I hear Sunshine taking in her breath and jabbering away all excited. She is pointing at the steel pots and is all excited and wanting to hold them which I hand to her. Sunshine passes the first pan to her daughter and takes another one and smiles and looks at it strangely. So, Dan reaches into the pack and brings out a coffee pot with a lid and again both women are all excited and jabbering back and forth looking at the pots and pans.

Jaw is making the motion for me to follow and points to the West. So as quickly as possible I load Buster with all the stash and take ahold of Shadow allowing Buster to follow him. After thirty minutes Jaw takes us back into the forest till, we reach a small meadow with just a shallow spring of water and a small fire pit dug into the ground which has rocks surrounding it. Looking around I noticed a small shelter, it is made of an animal hide, and I can see bedding which animal skins and is laying on what looks to be a buffalo hide. Logs had been pulled up to the fire pit as places to set and several are used to hold food dishes and tree bark with meat on them sticking out from under other animal skins to keep the fly's off.

Jaw points to a log that is pulled up to the fire pit and as he sits, he points, and I set also. Pointing to his wife and again says Día Nanisundehaine what you must assume is her name and again I try to focus on what it sounds like to my ear so trying again to say it they all laugh. She turns and is getting something to eat so

I go to the pack on Shadow and get a can of peaches which they have no idea what I have. I take my knife and open the lid which is noticed by those as a big deal.

Offering it to Sunshine she reaches in with her fingers and takes out a peach and when it hits her lips the smile is a mile wide then I motion for her to lick her fingers and she does and really smiles again the taste of sugar is without a doubt a new taste for her. Turning to Jaw, she indicates to taste this and holds it toward him, and he puts his fingers into the can and takes a peach, takes a bite, turns to the daughter, and gives her a taste.

We have smiles and laughter all around and nothing is said that the other can understand but we seem to have created a friendship without words. A big question is in Jaws' eyes, and he walks over to Shadow and acts as though he is afraid of him points and says something and it is obvious, he wants to know about the horse, and he must have never seen a horse in his life, or he wants to know something. I have removed the saddle, and all the leather attachments from Shadow and have allowed him to run free but we have been together so long I have no fear he will stray no further than my voice. I didn't understand what Jaw was referring to, so I just went ahead with what I was doing.

It is clear that Jaw thinks of me as a god but without verbal communications I cannot explain to him so I just let that part slide thinking it may be an advantage later.

After a week of being together we have found a few words that have allowed us to break the communication problem, but they are able to say my words easier than I can theirs, but we are making head way after things like water, Shadow, Dan, eat and other basic words. As the newly added words are understood the faster, they seem to catch on and find other things to bring a better understanding between us. I have shown them the kite and had shown how I built it trying to make them understand that I am not a god but have learned of flying they are not aware of. I allow them to continue to look at me as a God after all we do have God in us. It has been told in the bible so accepting that is I wrong in a small way? Have I sinned by some kind of injustice?

Without outward knowledge it came to me they had been calling me Paleface not Dan, but it just seems as though it was a natural thing, so I just skipped over the name. They had become such good friends that Jaw has even offered me to sleep with Sunshine his woman and I tried to explain to him that in my world we do not do this but not sure he understands because he is hurt when I

declines his offer. We have a different culture here I am thinking and don't want to hurt his feelings but if he is offering thinking I am a god then it would be double damnation in my mind.

At first our languages were far apart and now they are coming to gather fast, and the more time spent together just laying around eating and resting the easier it becomes to do so. I had gotten to the point where I could explain that I could have some enemies following and did not want them to be in danger because of it. They in turn told me of their village and if I had understood them correctly it was two moons away, which meant two months walking. Jaw has taught me how to shoot the bow and he has developed a natural feeling for it and can hit anything I aim at. I have also learned how to throw a knife and an ax right and what help that will be in the future I have no idea, but it makes for a good sport and helps in friendly competition. I have both a pistol and rifle but with limited powder I do not use them often.

I want to continue to the ocean and find that is the direction to their village and we are preparing to leave when on the morning of departure, we cannot find Baide and yell and whistling but get no answer. With the warmer weather she has taken to sleeping beside the tent not in the tent because she says she likes to look at the stars at night. On checking her bed, we find it has been torn apart and not made up as she usually does each day, so it appears she left in a hurry and not by her choice. Looking closer I see a large boot print and it is not a moccasin as an Indian would wear so following this I point it out to Jaw who immediately tells me there were made early this morning and he turns and yells to Sunshine and together we start to follow the path and find two other boot prints which tells us there are three men and I am sure they are what is left of those that have been following me and gave the troubles.

After looking at the boot marks Jaw had learned much, and I want him to teach me how to read them like he does and to teach me all this information. He has shown me that there are four horses and Flower is on a horse being led by one of the riders. He says he can tell by the lighter weight of the horses' shoe print.

Sunshine sets on a large rock as Jaw sets on a log a few feet from her. Sunshine says if we do not find her, she is going to cut off her right arm because she is in so much hurt, she feels this is for her daughter and Jaw says he is going to cut off his man hood for the pain he feels at the loss but also, he says he will never father another into this world if they are to be taken away. These are both in such grief and misery that if I were not hurting beyond what I can express what can I

say? I have never heard of such personal destruction because of the loss of another human being. While they follow the prints I returned to camp and saddle Shadow and get my rifle and strap on my pistol which I had not been wearing lately.

Meanwhile the three that are left after the disaster on the mountain have stopped to talk and get their breaths while heading up the trail with the Indian girl. Not only will we teach Dan not to mess with us again we will enjoy the fruits of this young maiden as only a true man can. We will all enjoy her company for a while then after slitting her throat will find him and put him under a dirt blanket forever.

I have not tried to take off this way with my kite, in fact my only time was from on top of that mountain. I think that it would be faster and easier if I could find them from the air and then let both of you know where they are, is what I said to Jaw and Sunshine. If this works as I am thinking it will, this will be a day to remember and one in which many future things can be made easier.

Dropping to one knee I place my hands together and ask Father to watch over me and help with that which is new to me and especially important to the life of Flower and please allow me to both ride my kite and lead me to those that have captured her, Amen. For the first time I realized there is a wind blowing from the West and it is blowing right up the valley where we are camped. I felt or just somehow knew that if I were to go downhill, I would have the advantage of running downhill and into the wind, which should help. I will have Shadow running down the mountain and not up and the further downhill the higher I will be if I only stayed on a flat trajectory. Sunshine had been cutting deer skins and weaving me a rope which she had presented to me with immense pride and now I will have the use of it.

Tying that rope, and the one I already had together gave me over two hundred feet and hopefully it would be enough to get me into the air. This is a crazy idea but one that has been in my mind for quite some time. I tie one end of the rope to the saddle horn and place the kite as close to the trees at the top of the meadow and bring Shadow in line so she can run straight down the meadow and get as much distance as possible and hopefully not break my neck trying to get off the ground thank God I had taken the time to teach Shadow to run slow and fast because not realizing it she would have to go slow and tighten the rope and then she must really turn it on to get me into the air or be drug to death. I guess the only difference between a hero and a fool is in God's hands.

OK! Shadow move away slowly, and as she does the rope tightens and when she takes the slack out of the rope, I get the kite up on my shoulders and holding the cross bar over my head I tell Shadow to run fast and she takes off like a herd of stampeding buffalo. I took a few steps but have gained speed so fast I cannot keep up, so I just sit in the seat that I have hanging from the cross bar. The kite is swaying from side to side like it is going to hit the ground on one side then the other, but it is raising so fast I can only hold on and thinking God help me here and before I can say pop goes the weasel I am going up and looking down at the meadow. I grab hold of the end of the rope and pull on the slip knot I have tied to the bar on the front and as the rope falls away, I yell stop Shadow and even though there is plenty of room left for her to run she stops, and I continue to climb.

I am over the trees looking down at the meadow and asking myself what kind of a fool did I turn out to be? This is crazier than anything I could ever dream about, and I have never been drunk but think that may be wiser than what I was doing at this point. Wondering if I had a death wish or what but knowing I have to turn this thing around and go up the mountain which causes me to focus my pea brain to concentrate on the problem and not on the danger so leaning to the left and pulling on the overhead bar I swing my weight to the left and the kite dips to the left and turns I continue till I am looking up the mountain. I pull to the right and follow the mountain ridge creating air lift and I am gaining height way above the trees, so I follow the mountain ridge watching to see if I can see Jaw or Sunshine.

As it turns out I can see both Jaw and Sunshine and I begin to shout, and they hear me and stop and look up and both are waving to me, so I wave back, and we are tied together through a distant bonding on a joint goal. Looking up ahead I can see the four horses and as Jaw had said I can see Flower tied on the last horse following them up the mountain. There are three horses in front of Flower, and she is on the last horse following them because she is being pulled by a rope. I turn toward them and bring my rifle toward them, I am gaining fast so before they know I am there I focus on the rider pulling Flower and he is only fifty yards in front of me so putting the sights on the middle of his back I fire at a man for the first time in my life and hope God will forgive me but as I watch he leans over to his right side and falls out of the saddle. The other two heard the gun and then saw their friend get shot and without slowing down continue as fast as possible leaving Flower behind. Flower has now seen me and is scared I am a large bird about to land on her as a vulture would. I can see the fear from the way she is riding while laying low on the horse's neck and watching the sky over her shoulder. Then she finally realizes it is me and waves at me and just climbs down off the horse and

then goes to the other horse that had stopped and just stood there eating after the rider fell off.

While she is waving at me the others that were leading her have also seen me and they are expecting me to do the same to them which is exactly what I have in mind but have not prepared myself a way to hold the kite, rifle, and load at the same time. I will address this issue in the future but today I have set a milestone beyond my imagination. Flower has gotten down off her horse and has both her horse and that of the other fellow's horse in hand and I wave letting her know her mother is on her way. Thinking back on how I had taken off and flown was just because I did it without thinking about it just up and the necessity of the situation made it happen.

Watching Flower and not paying attention I took my eyes off what I was doing and when I looked up and I was about to fly into a tall pine tree. Going up the mountain had caused me to get closer to the ground faster than I had realized so at the last moment I jumped to the right and the kite tipped to the right and my left side hooked the top of the pine tree and jerked me toward the mountain and at the same time the tree top breaks and the kite breaks free and continues on and as I look up can see a rip in the outer edge of my kite. Pulling back to the middle is a lot of work because I have to hang on my hands and pull up while the kite is hanging to the right but with the adrenaline rush it happens so fast I leveled out and have turned away from the mountain and now sailing directly away from the ridge so I have gained height by just going away from the ridge and pulling to the right a little bit turn more to the right and now I am heading back down the mountain and every second I am going away from the mountain and higher and faster. The excitement of flying along with the mental downer of having shot a man leads to a melancholy sadness of which I had no experience dealing with, so I spent extra time just gliding along not really seeing anything just trying to get my mind in focus with the situation. Landing would be simpler than last time mostly because of having done it before.

I went downhill past the meadow and turning I lined up with the stream now heading uphill but had it on my left to not land in the water. I pulled myself towards the front of the kite which put my weight on the front causing it to tilt towards the ground and as I closed in on the meadow, I was going down, getting closer to the meadow. The landing was smooth this time and as I touched the ground, I just let the kite lay over on its side as I came to a stop. Thank you, Father are the first words, out of my mouth and the first awareness of having flown again and returned safely.

Back at the campsite after we had super over with, and we are enjoying a cup of coffee which they had grown to love and was new to them. Funny how we can learn to enjoy ourselves so fast and yet so slow to give up what we should not be indulged in. Flower has gone to the robes after explaining the fear she had felt when I came over her while she was on the horse. She said she was already scared and knew what was coming in the rush to get her away from her family. Then she saw the great big eagle coming over her and thought that she was about to die from it before she saw it was me. Earlier tonight Flower was trying to express her thanks to me in a way that hurts me mentally, but she is determined to thank me in the only way she knows how and that is to take me to her robes and show how much she loves what I have done. Flower, I say you are everything any man who has eyes can see but I have a great spirit overlooking me as you and your people have, and that great spirit has gave me life and guidance which allowed me to do what was necessary to accomplish our returning you safely and punishing the those that did it. The fact that I could not continue to follow the others was part of his plan, but he also has taught me not to take you to the robes for my pleasure because you are not my woman. Jaw also is trying to give me personal items he has and feels he must show his feelings also. I tell them that Flower is my friend and I love her as a father and as proud of her as can be but as Jaw would not take her to the robes I would not for the same reason, and I told her that, when she tried to show her thanks. Jaw jumped up and was just as excited as could be and declared he now had a new name for me, and it would be remembered by all forever. You are as Flower has said, Ah-Bat Kwinaa; From now on you will be known as the Great Eagle.

I have not got the coffee hot by the time Jaw, Sunshine and Flower had come to the fire with smiles that are on their faces makes anything I have done justified and we join in a mutual hugging kissing and jumping up and down dancing in friendship and joy as they spoke of when we saved Flower again they just can't stop talking about it and they loved to speak of the Great Eagle. Sunshine insists that we celebrate again tonight and all day tomorrow before leaving on our journey and before I could stop such an action preventing our leaving Jaw and Flower was overly excited and let me know that was the most important thing to celebrate, which included thanking the gods that had protected Flower and me.

Having been together continually for over a month now we packed our things, and our communications were getting so we could almost tell each other anything we wanted to, and the other would understand. The more we learned the faster and the more we laughed at what we had thought something, or another had meant. I learned the correct way of saying each of their names but by the time I

had down correctly it was almost impossible to change and use the correct ones because the ones we were using seemed to fit so well. At first, having thought Flowers name was Baide (which meant daughter) was of laughter shared by all. The party was to be for two days which turned into more, but the happiness was contagious, so we left as we lived enjoying each other and passing time as we pleased. We had the camp work down to a routine with Sunshine doing all the cooking after tasting mine we had no problem deciding I should gather wood and help take care of the animals. Jaw took care of the hunting and care of the meat.

Akaishi in our language says Jaw but in yours it would be “Sunflower”. This is humors because I say Flower now, I must say Sunflower, but I will shorten it to Flower if you don’t mind. That is permissible Kwinaa which by now I understand means a large bird and ah-bat meaning great says Jaw. This is too much information for me know I will continue to use Sunshine for her, and her daughter shall be Flower and don’t try to change it now I tell him.

We talked as if to the ones left who were our enemies would return and try to get even for all those lost friends. There was no way to answer that so we just skipped and decided we would not be concerned until they tried again. No sense in borrowing problems till they showed themselves. With three horses and a mule we talked of how we would ride and decided Sunshine and Flower should ride together because they were smaller and weighed less. We eventually agreed I would ride Shadow and Jaw would ride the extra horse and Buster would follow and then we changed to him to Bite (named for a habit he had) and he would be last was to carry our foodstuff and camping gear we had not named him yet officially and no one could find the proper name for him. I did find out that my friends were Utes and had spent most of their lifetime around a great lake further to the West of here. Jaw claimed it was full of salt and it was so strong that you could float in it without sinking. That was hard to believe but many things we talked about were strange not to mention the water that shot up out of the ground from another area and Jaw said was too hot to bathe in.

We had found traveling together was a great advantage to all of us and each night we just accepted our jobs and went right to them. I would take care of the animals and see that they were unsaddled, backs checked for bruises or sores and rub them down and hobble or tie to a rope corral which neither was necessary for Shadow. Bite would not leave Shadow and Shadow would not leave me.

Flower would help gather wood for the fire and build the fire pit and lay out places to set the food and gather around the fire pit. Sunshine would prepare the meals

and cook for us as it had been, and Jaw was busy preparing whatever was necessary to comfort us. If it were possible to rain, he built a shelter, if not he would prepare a place for our sleeping and anything else he felt would help our lives.

One of the places we had stopped to take a breather and just kind of make sure all packs on horses were in good shape and things like checking their shoes or making sure there were no rocks, pebbles or stones between the shoe and the hoof. Jaw had helped Flower in laying out the foodstuff and Flower was out gathering wood for a fire that we decided was necessary so we could have a warm meal. As I sat down by the fire Jaw looked over at me and said he had a few questions for me he would like me to answer if I would. Yes, Jaw what is on your mind? Well, he says Great Eagle you had confessed to me you had been up like a bird once before in fact that is when I first saw you. So, you knew and had the experience, but you said your god had done that for you to protect and get you out of harm's way and off the mountain top. Yes! That is a true story, Jaw. Well, when you were following those men up the trail and you stopped and said you were going to fly again how did you know you could? He went on to say that you said it like it was a sure thing and that you would wave from the air when you found flower, but how did you know for sure?

Pouring him a cup of coffee and waiting for Sunshine and Flower to join us I told him I had faith in my Father and knew he would help me and with that faith I just acted I did not have time to doubt, all that doubt was before while learning about my God when it came right down to it I said a prayer and ask him to guide and oversee my journey but it was important that I move forward in time and faith both so I just knew he would provide the same as he has shown me to love Flower and if I had doubt it was not in my love for Flower or God so I had no choice but to move forward. Does that make sense to you Jaw? Without ever having went up in this thing by yourself on a journey you had never tried and just went right out, and did it? I explained to Jaw that those of us with our God in our hearts learn to trust him in all ways and when we doubt, we have problems and I have learned to just do it and let him have control and so by doing we have Flower and all is well, can we ask for more? Great Eagle will our journey to my people be this way with no enemies to fight or animals to get in the way? No, Jaw, we have no guarantees that there will be no trials but if we just ask him to protect us, he gives us free will and wants us to learn to be strong and trust in him.

We have a long way to go, and we will be able to discuss and learn each other's ways and languages and things which will bring us together in our wisdom

and knowledge. If I could teach you this Jaw it may help in returning the wisdom you have gave to me in tracking animals, trapping them, preparing them for the hide and meals I would feel we both have gained from our friendship. Watching Flower as a young child turning into a woman is a reward alone. How old is she Jaw? 12 summers he says, and she is ready to meet her own warrior and build her own family and she has her eyes on you for a mate. Please accept my teachings and experiences as a humble friend but know that I am not at this point ready to accept a woman in my life but that I love her all though not as a wife but as a human of great beauty and friend. Ah but this will not stop Sunshine from trying to bring a woman into your lodge, she feels all men should have a woman to provide for the necessities of a man it is breed in them to do this. I know Jaw is older than I had thought.

Nightly they came to me with many questions, and we sat beside a small stream one day and Jaw wanted to know why I felt I had to tie my rope between two trees every night and walk from one end to the other several times. Then I would have the rope tied to a tree or mountain and climb the rope. I explained to him that I was building strength in my arms and climbing up a mountain with the rope I was building leg muscles allowing me to be strong. I told him when I had my kite in the air, I found I was hanging from the overhead bar a lot and needed the strength to guide me while I stayed up there. He still looked at me as a god and didn't know why I would need this but as a friend he says he was amazed at how long I could hand walk on the rope and to climb as I did was more than he could do. For me to chop wood to leave for others was acceptable to him but that I would spend hours building muscles was not a way in their world they felt we get enough exercise just doing what is necessary to survive.

I had an inner feeling that because I had gave this gift of flying it was for an intended purpose and I wanted to be as prepared for it as possible the same with my shooting I was a very good shot with my rifle, and I wanted to keep it that way and I could hit anything I could see with my pistol within a reasonable distance. I was using up most of my powder and trying to find saltpeter or niter to make gun powder was among those things I keep watching for. I know it is made of limestone and mostly found in soil and I believed I would know it when I saw it. Charcoal should be easy to find or make. Then I need to find salt peter which is the crap from a bat so finding a cave would be good. Being this far from a source of powder was almost as bad as lack of salt or coffee but then we learned to adapt to the situation.

We continue daily travailing 25 to 35 miles a day but sometimes much slower. The first days of our trip were in the high Rocky Mountains and those known trails were slow because of the high passes we had to go over, and some had snow on them even though we were traveling in the heat of the summer. Sunshine had turned into a fantastic cook and Flower did part of it still trying to get me to accept her as a mate even though she never said a thing about it. I have been wrestling with Jaw as much as possible wanting the necessary knowledge of his fighting and to build necessary muscle for that should it become necessary. He continued to tell me about his family in the large village and how we would learn many things when with others of his tribe.

We have passed some high peaks and are now travailing over roweling hills with more open and flat valleys and that has allowed us to make 50 miles a day if we wanted it would be easy, but we are sometimes stopping early and bathing in the rivers and lakes and just enjoying each other's company. Sunshine has told Jaw she thinks she is carrying his son, but it is too soon to know but she says she is sure she is with child. We have become a family in many ways and Sunshine is determined that when we reach, her people she is going to find me a woman. When I was at home the women did the same thing, so it appears they feel a necessity to be match makers rather they are Indian or white.

This morning Jaw showed me a mountain far in the distance that was named Timpanogos and he told of an old story of an Indian maiden that went up on the mountain to die and had lay-ed down with her head toward the South so when she sat up, she would be looking toward the North in the days she will raise again. When looking at that mountain you can see her hair flowing down the mountain and her head and the rise of her breast and even her feet. It will be there for eternity, and all will think of this fair maiden. Jaw says we could make it to their village in two days were we to hurry.

We have been eating antelope, snake, deer, elk, partridge, quail, dove, ducks, geese and more than I can speak of but the feast we have daily would make a king jealous. Fishing is only a matter of putting a hook in the water and the fish will fight to get to the hook. The water is so clear you can watch the fish when they hit the bait. We find the bait by turning over logs and rocks and the small things that are under them are great for fishing. Also are grass hoppers which make wonderful bait for fishing and will catch many kinds of fish.

The closer to the village the more Sunshine told me of all the friends and relations who would make me a great helper in my lodge. She painted a very pretty

picture of those young gals and all they would do to help me in my adventure to the great sea. I must admit she did have me interested in the possibilities of having a woman to look after my every need and keep my bed warm.

I like to spend a little time looking out over this big valley and the large lake we could see from the peak of the pass going into a great valley that stretched for miles and miles as far as the eye could see. The other side of the lake was so far away it was not possible to see but Jaw told me it was so this was not the great waters I was looking to see. He told me again that the salt in this lake was so strong you could float like a log on the water. He said when you get out you must go find a clear stream and wash the salt off from your skin or it will crust and hurt. All three of my family were persistent in travelling on to the village and we could come back later and look as often as we wanted but right now, they were close to home and family and wanting to see them. It is said that when you ride a horse away from the barn, he is slow but when you return, and he figures out that you are heading to the barn he is hard to slow down from running and this is so true with my friends today. We are moving faster than we have ever traveled making it obvious they are excited about returning to their home and families.

CHAPTER THREE

MY FIRST LARGE INDIAN VILLAGE

Normally we would meet outside of the village according to Jaw by several scouts protecting the people, so something is strange we are entering without these welcoming guards. As we entered the village, I noticed there were very few children playing and not much activity for the size of the village as described by Jaw. It seems kind of humble and quiet but there were several who came to us with hugs and smiling but being able to speak their language I understood as Sunshine asked where everyone was where were her nieces and nephews? Not knowing for sure, I figured something bad must have happened or she would have already introduced me to her family.

After much discussion and many tears, the head chief of the village came forward and declared a holiday for the returning party and he ask that the whole village prepare a great feast and a worthy introduction to the God that Sunshine had brought to their village. I had thought I put that notion to the side in our time together, but it appears she had only stopped saying it not stopped believing it. Now that I had a basic knowledge of their language I could speak and correct the misunderstanding.

Food was being prepared at every tepee and every woman was doing something to make ready for the great celebration this evening. The warriors were out hunting and gathering all the meat. The younger women had gone to the forest to gather berries and wild onions to add to the special meal. I counted twenty lodges but not all had family or people living in them, some were standing empty. We had been gave a big lodge that was empty with a very big fire pit inside and in front of this place for our personal use.

Being accepted and feeling safe I was allowed to wander throughout the village, and most knew who I was and were friendly and when they found I could speak their language seemed to break down any hidden worries on their part. I saw women with fingers missing and one had cut the end of her nose off showing to all her deep sorrow of a loved one. I did not understand at the time of how these people showed their loss of family by self-degradation Having lived in what I would have called a modern world or white man's world to hear them describe it. Having gained much knowledge by spending time with the Ute family's and saw the deep affection to not only the family life but their belief in a deity was astonishing to me. Back home we had preachers or minister but here they had medicine men, healers, profitters, and students in training throughout the village and all believed and

accepted it as part of life. No one would question the truth from those of command or position. Truth was a way of life and to not be the outcast by speaking an untruth. Anything of importance to the village was brought before a counsel and discussed but before any meeting what could be a prayer was a part of the meeting never passed over.

I felt kind of like the third dog in a two-dog race as everyone had something to do and all I could do was stand and stare at all the activities. Even Flower was going in and out of lodges visiting and hugging friends and family. Through all the turmoil knowing that the village had been attacked several days prior to our returning and that the Iguassu (enemy) ((this is what it sounded like to my ear)) had come in the early morning and killed many and took those young ones and other valuables with them when they left. The only ones they didn't take were papooses left in the cribs and furs inside and hidden from view because they would be hard to travel with. Many of the strongest warriors were killed and why the enemy had left when they did no one knew but they were sure they would be back.

While wondering through the village and past those with cooking fires and children playing a young girl I called Tiney because she was so young and small came up to me with a young dog in her arms and she was crying and held the small puppy up to me indicating that I was to take it which I did but upon gathering it to my bosom I saw it was not a dog but a wolf a grey timber wolf.

The puppy had just been born by the looks of it and it must be hand fed for it to live it was so small. The puppy nuzzled up to my chest and was whimpering for something to eat. Tiney's mother came to me and asked if I would be so good as to take the puppy and what I did with it was up to me, but she did not want her daughter to fall in love with something that could later be a danger to her. So, I took the puppy and found a mother who was giving milk and with her blessings agreed to give me the necessary milk.

Chief Yogi had told me he was happy that I had found favor with their people and was preparing for a great feast and would allow me to speak to the full tribe all together. Thinking it over should I try to explain I was not a god but a mortal soul just as they were? To what good would it be? If they thought of me as a god and I could give them hope would that not be better

than the truth? Is false hope a sure way to go or should I try to explain the difference to them? I had a bible which I had turned to many a time when in doubt as to my obligations to my fellow man and taking this with me I went from the village and having told the chief I would return but that I had to have time to pray to my father spirit and creator alone and I would return.

I found a small area protected by large rocks and trees with a small, secluded stream that seemed like an exceptionally good spot to allow me to address my fears and pray, asking for guidance as to what I should do. Kneeling and holding my bible to my chest I ask God to come into my heart and help me with my turmoil. My decision was very important to these people and without a doubt would determine future events. I had named my grey puppy nuzzle because of his first actions so I ask God to protect him and help him grow to maturity. He stayed at my side all the time rather I was praying, eating, or just visiting with friends.

As I spoke aloud and could hear my own words and I knew that the truth was necessary or somewhere in the future I would have to explain the lie and be accountable for it. Upon hearing my own words echo in my ears I knew I had reached the right conclusion to the problem. Now I had to decide how I would present this in such a way they could understand the truth and still feel I could be a valuable visitor to help them in this future fight. As I concentrated on the outcome, I realized that the fear I had was doubt and why should I doubt the ability of God now? What has caused me to fear he would leave me now? This is ridiculous in every way. Had he not brought me off the very pinnacle of death when on that mountain? Had he not brought lightning and death to those who threatened me? Why should I doubt him now? I know from reading the letter or bible he left to me that he said he would never leave me nor forsake me so with that I know I am in his hands so thanks for showing me the light and the way to my question. Father, hopefully the outcome that happens to this village and the part I play will be with your blessings, and I thank you in advance. Amen

Jaw, I said as we met outside of the village where he had come looking for me to let me know I was invited to speak to all the brothers and sisters of his tribe. Upon hearing of my acceptance of speaking to the village I told Jaw I would like him to be there when I spoke to translate any words that I they may not understand. Also, I told him I would like him to somehow get me an area of about five feet

long, three feet wide and at least two feet high close to the fire pit so that I could see everyone, and they would see me when I was speaking. He wanted to know if it mattered what it was made of, I told him anything that would hold me up and not come crashing down. He promised to have it ready when the time came. Also, I asked him to find someone to watch over Nuzzle while I was busy with the meeting, and he agreed and said he was surprised the puppy had been so affectionate for a wild animal which I agreed with him.

After having shared a great meal all the villagers gathered at the Chief's fire pit and after the fire was blazing higher than normal the Chief spoke to all telling them who I was and asking me to come forward, which I did.

I climbed up on these logs that Jaw had prepared for me and standing before many strangers I started by telling them my true name. My full names are Daniel, Adam, David, Solomon, Clark. But my Ute friends call me Great Eagle and I am proud of that name. I have traveled over 12 moons to get here. Most of you have never traveled over a full moon each way if that; and I have been over twelve moons just getting here and the great creator has sent me to tell you that we can overcome the Waa'e raid, and we would gather and find a strength that we had forgotten we had. Together we are going to take back our children our sons and daughters would be returned to us, and we again will be a great nation of Gods children. I have traveled many moons to lead you in this, and together we will again have health and happiness among us. I believe I have been sent to you to for added strength and wisdom as we have become family in the few days together understand that I feel my warmth in our friendship.

It has been spoken and whispered among you that I can fly like the great birds in the sky, and I am here to tell you I am not a God but a man who has the hand of God on his shoulder and I believe he has sent me to lead you to victory. This will not be easy but working together and planning out our war path will return us to this goal.

While Dan is speaking the enemy's from back home have found the location of this village and have prepared a shooting spot from which it will be 450 yards and a bit higher in elevation which will add to the drop of the bullet that will take Dan's life. Dusty along with Butch have practiced shooting at 450 yards together and are sure they can make the shot and get away before they can be caught. Together they have went over and over the path from the shooting to the river and rolled stones out of the way, cut necessary bushes that could hinder there sped in getting to the river. From the spot they will shoot they only have to cross a small

meadow and pass the narrow corridor to the river which has very tall walls on each side and the rushing river will allow them freedom from any pursuit. They will leave the horses and jump into a canoe which they have built and prepared for their escape.

As Dan is speaking Dusty is adjusting, testing the windage for the shooting and with Dans elevation there is no way they can miss. Are you ready? On the count of three shoot, one, two, three. And as performed, both guns fire and everything goes according to the plan. Picking up rifles and jumping on the waiting horses they leave and head for the river figuring on leaving the horses at the riverbank to run or do as they please.

All eyes are on Dan as those in front see blood appear on each shoulder and each near the heart but wide by a margin of less than an inch. Those in the rear of the crowd hear the shots because they are close and know where it has come from and turning immediately and running many are not stopping for a horse or weapons, they take immediate action and running to where the shots were fired from. Finding the spot takes less than two minutes to see and the horses having run full out have left a trail a child could follow.

Following the trail, they find the horsemen running back and forth trying to cross the meadow but upon entering the open area they had been overwhelmed with turtles thousands and thousands of turtles all moving and causing the horses to panic and fight any move forward. Both riders were taken without a shot being fired or harm done to either side the men are so taken by the turtles they forgot in the panic to think of the Ute behind them. Taken to the village they are immediately deprived of all their clothing and put on their backs on the ground with arms and legs spread, they are staked to the ground facing the sun and left for a future they know not what.

Dan is taken to a nearby lodge where he is laid on bear skin robes and while not awake, he is breathing, and the great spirit has blessed him to be alive. The Villagers, although just moving from a much larger village, were blessed in having one of the greatest and most experienced healers, Ata, come with them. The woman who will oversee Dan's health is a very large woman perhaps by a white man's scale would run over three hundred pounds but very educated in medicine and she rapidly finds both holes in Dan are on both sides so the bullets has gone all the way through and out the back leaving a larger hole when exiting. To stop the blood, she heated a steel blade knife over the fire until it was bright red. Then laid the red-hot knife to the wounds and burnt the skin after which she applied bear fat

to the burns. Dan moved and groaned even though he was not conscious at the time which was good because she knew he was still alive. The smell from the burning flesh was carried outside of the teepee where others spoke of it. Having stopped blood loss immediately she made Dan comfortable as possible and made sure he was warm by coving him with several blankets and has ask two young women to strip to the skin and hug Dan from both sides to make sure he is warm. A third girl sits waiting only in case one of the others needs to go for body calls or for any other reason she is to take her place Dan is not to be without any need possible.

Nuzzle had climbed onto the bed with Dan and refused to leave. He crawled below the covers and Ata drew them over to Dan and the girls but Nuzzle would growl if Ata tried to remove him from the bed. Ata could see the wolf somehow knew of Dans problem and would not be allowed to be moved away so she just accepted him and said maybe little one your extra love will help him heal.

Chief Yogi has gathered all members of the tribe's counsel and are deciding what is to happen now. All have agreed the new member Great Eagle has power and will aid the fight which is without a doubt coming. Runners are sent to other villages telling of this and asking for warriors to help in the coming fight.

Many other Chiefs have gathered to decide if they should attack the enemy or wait and prepare a fight at this place which has advantages because of lodges, water, food, and all can participate in the fight giving many more available. The worst part is having the old and injured being close to the fight and causing a concern. The tribe takes exceptional care for the elderly and injured as part of their heritage and customs.

All agree it is possible the enemy could wait to attack they had losses and would have family's morning even then it would seem impossible for them not to want to punish the Ute for the loss they had received. Many other things determine the resulting fight, mainly the ceremonies for the dead, then the rituals of those and taking care of those injured and food for the return would have to be hunted and prepared. So, it would be possible they would not return for one or two moons which could give Dan time to recover and warriors from other areas to join them.

The pounding in my head became louder and louder till I could not think of anything else. I had to force my eyes open with all the noise it was as much the darkness haunting me as the noise pounding that caused me to force my eyelids to open and the first thing, I saw was the biggest rear end I had ever saw this woman was two axe handles across the ass. Her legs were the size of small trees. I had

never seen such a Hugh rear end except on a horse it made and it me think of Shadow she was so large. She turned and saw my eyes were on her and she smiled and asked if I was going to stay with them this time. What do you mean I ask, have I been here before? She placed her hand on my forehead and said, “Yes you have been here, left and came again several times in the last days. Now that you are awake maybe that puppy will allow us to feed him and leave your side. He runs out very briefly to answer nature’s call then is back in a flash. Drinking little and eating less he has been at your side continually.”

Just how many days have I been laying here? Well, I would have to think on that but about two hands twice. What is your name, I ask? I am a healer and I answer to many names and many think of me as just family so I am called Ata or to some Ada, you can call me what you are comfortable with. I am told you are called Great Eagle in our lodges is that what you want to answer to? That would be fine Ada I am a little tired and feel like I am going back to sleep. Do you hurt anywhere awfully bad I could give you more willow tea to ease the pain she says. I am too tired to think ask me later.

The next time I came around I saw Jaw sitting to my side along with Nuzzle and he had a cup of coffee in his hand for me. That is so nice of you it seems as though I have not had a cup of coffee for days, I told him. That is true brother he says you have not had much in many days, and we have been pounding the drums bringing in the spirits to heal you. That’s what all that noise was I thought you were trying to punish me for getting shot Jaw. Oh, you knew you were shot. Yes, I said I felt the bullets tare into me just before I lost balance, and I knew nothing till I saw the largest woman ever watching over me. She is the best in all the Ute Nation and any who she helps is proud to say she did. That may be special, but everybody knows the stores of those that wake up in a teepee injured with the young woman helping is always beautiful and busty why didn’t I get one of those? You did, in fact you had the two most prized in all our tribe at the same time. For several days you had one on each side of you with nothing on and you were as you were born. Damn God is this another of your corny jokes? What a guy wishes for his whole life, and he is unable to enjoy it. Kind of like dying and coming back with many beautiful gals and being without a root.

Well, if you feel like talking this much you must be feeling good. Everyone in the village has been fasting and asking the great one for your return to us. You must not speak so badly of Ata she has saved your life. No, I said she did not save my life my God did that she made me more comfortable and gave me things that would allow my body to heal faster, and she saw to my every need but in my heart,

I know my God saved me the same way I told you about up on the mountain. Believe me Jaw if God wanted me, I would have joined him at the time of the shooting.

Jaw we must consider that the enemy can attack at any time, and we must work out a plan for our village to survive. What can you do lying in bed you can't even attack a small woman. I may not be physically able but there is nothing wrong with my head and I know things that may help our brothers in this fight. Perhaps Nuzzle will fight your fight for you. One thing I am certain of is my kite must be ready to fly as it will be a very big factor in this coming fight. That may be true Dan, but you are not a Chief and the council shall meet, and they will decide what is to be. I will tell them of your concern and that you would like to be involved in the planning process but that shall be according to Chief Yogi's and the councils wishes.

Perhaps Dan you do not understand we are a proud and very many people. I have told you of the area of the lands of our people, but you must understand we have sent out runners to other villages telling them of our loss and they will respond as to all the families they will send warriors they will send food they will not be pushed aside. The noise you hear is those of the great drums beating as our hearts beat telling our stories to the great creator. We dance to the great bear dance; the prayer dances the healing dance we dance night and day to the creator we live according to what has been forever in our lands. We are not afraid of the enemies that have come, we will bring in as many warriors as the grass in the meadow. Those of us that lost family and friends will be joined, and we will show much strength unknown to the others. As we speak the white man is wanting us to join them in a treaty and they do so because we are strong, and they fear us. They think we are dumb that we do not know, and they try to move us into one small area where they can treat us like cattle in the fields.

Our village is much larger than when you went to the robes. When you look about after being in this lodge you will be amazed at the number of lodges that have been added to our village. When the enemy returns, he will find a strong and mighty enemy to face. We hear your voice speaking of helping our brothers and thank you for it and as all wise men before us we will hear your words, but we have many voices with much experience in facing enemies of our people. We do not fear those that came in the early morning without our knowledge, but it will not happen again, we will be prepared. Tog'oiak (thank you) my brother for showing what your heart is saying to us and we hear it.

What do you have in mind that can help us fight this enemy? Well, Jaw I was thinking that if you were to help me build a kite that when looked upon in the air would look like something an enemy feared would add to our strength and cause them to be more afraid of attacking us. War cries and painted faces have been your way of inciting fear in an enemy, but can you imagine if they were to see a large black crow soaring over their heads before they were to attack? With your help we could build something that would cause panic and fear in our enemy, it would be something that would be told around the fire and many dances would tell this story. Most are afraid of the Raven because of its dark color and because of it being a scavenger so death is what others see when looking at a Raven so to make this kite appear as close to the real thing will be strong medicine.

HEAR ME WHITE MAN! Jaw became a screaming, yelling violent person who Dan did not recognize. You do not own the great one who you talk of. You do not control him he does not appear just for you. Our people have known him for generations, he has stood over us for years when we had no food, he stood by us when we fought our enemies and when you were on the edge of life near the time of walking with him. We beat drums bringing him to us for you. He heard us and we told him of your brotherhood and everyone in our village told him we needed him to help you. He did not save you just because you asked, he saved you because we also told him our need. And we do not need you to put fear into our enemy's. We put fear in all who know us. We put fear in all who hear the name of our great warriors. Our fathers, our fathers' fathers and their fathers stood tall and fought many enemies and today they remember and fear us as it should be.

Dan we would like to do as you say with the kite even our children laugh and play games knowing the power you have and the god you serve but remember we are a proud people, and we can fight together but understand we have trained and fought for generations, and we train our young ones to fight from the time they can stand to walk. You will be wise to hear the words of our leaders and learn while you can.

Jaw I am sorry that I said it the way I did, and I am also sorry that you had to put me in my place as an outsider and a new friend. Please let me know that you will not think of me less than you have. Great Eagle no more shall be spoken of this from now forward but always know we are a great nation with great warriors.

Know brother the white man came to our lands to kill our buffalo our elk, our deer our food they did not consider they had been ours for hundreds of years and we protected and hunted as we needed to eat. White man came to destroy, they

stole our yellow rock even though we did not need it they did not care that it was not there's for the taking. We protected our families and they thought of us as the ignorant the dumb, the savages, we only saw them as thieves destroying and killing anything from the earth. One day brother your lands will be stolen from you the same way you steal from us. The great spirit remembers and punishes those who tread on others. We fight for the strength and training of our young to get what others have or to protect what is ours, but the great creator favors those that have strength.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE VILLAGE PREPARES FOR WAR

What happens in the future is not ours to see Jaw, however we can make today become what we want it to be by prayer and planning. After calming down Jaw turned as Sunshine kneels to the side of Dan's head and smiling down at him says, "Perhaps my brother is well enough to drink something to nourish his body."

Looking up Dan says, "I am so hungry I could eat the South end of a North bound Skunk". That is good she says it shows that Ata has been doing the right thing and you are getting well, I am told she continues and that the muscles have no bad color, and the skin is repairing. You should be able to eat something with meat in it shortly. I will have those ladies that are lined up waiting to serve you prepare something for you before the sun goes down. I will also be lucky to get it to you to eat it with Nuzzle by my side he may take the meat in a big hurry he has been on a fast for a long time for such a young puppy. I am surprised how well he is doing with little food and no exercise he rarely leaves your side.

Ladies line up to serve me. Dan Says. Just what does that mean? Our village is in great difficulties because of you Dan part of the village does not want a white man having any say in our ways and others are wanting you to have much to say and the young ladies want to show how much love they have for you. As you know Sunshine, I will not take to my robes anyone I have not taken to be my woman and if I were to think other ways in the shape, I am in I could not even hold their hands. That will change very fast now that you are losing the spirit of the old one who has left you and gaining the young one, we know who is making a visit to our home. Perhaps you are well enough you could accept a visitor or two? Would you like me to invite a few of those who admire your spirit? No Sunshine please allow me a little more time and let me gain energy to show my thanks. Dan, I do not think I can put Mary off any longer, she will not stop asking to see you. She is special but must know of my weakness please tell her to wait for now.

After drinking the soup Dan can just remember Ata joining them and then he goes to dream land again. The next Dan knew he was setting up and Ata was handing him a bowl of meat floating in a liquid with onions and other herbs he did not recognize. Taking a chunk of meat and putting it into his mouth he looked up at Ata and says, "this is very good and how is it that it is so tender?" Those that would see you have been chewing it to make it easier for you to eat. It is our custom to break down the part of the meat that is tough and allow it to be taken by you later with pleasure. Dan thinks this over as he is taking another chunk of meat trying to decide if he really wants to eat this or not. Must have gave in to the hunger because it disappears slowly. If you can continue to devour the meat the bear in, you shall gain, and the pigeon will be gone. That is if you can get some

away from Nuzzle. Your color is getting better, and I would have it that you should start the day by getting out of this darkness and seeing the sunshine and the bright world awaiting you outside. With your wishes I will have you taken to the firepit outside and be made comfortable.

I think I would like that Ata it is so nice of you to offer, and I want to thank you for all the things you have done for me to keep me in this world and if Nuzzle could speak he would say his thank you also which brought a small bark from Nuzzle just like he knew what was said.

Having been placed facing the small fire with the sunshine in his face Dan feels the warmth of the fire and the friendship of all those joining him. He looks up into the eyes of many young boys who are all smiles and clapping. Behind them are many young ladies who are also giggling, and several have their hands together like we would do in saying a prayer. The smiles are infectious, and the warmth radiated as the sun would and Dans smile must take in a breath as he is over done with love for these people. How can one feel so much love and affection so soon after joining these people? Back home he never saw this anywhere of course he was never shot back home, and this is a new experience and a wonderful way to start the day. The children could hardly wait to hold Nuzzle and to pet him even though he showed no anger toward any of them it was obvious that he would rather be left alone.

As the day goes by Dan is joined by many warriors he had never saw before and each wanted to say something or ask questions of Dan which made him aware of the way each had felt toward his joining the village. It makes sense that everyone would have questions and want to know more about their quest. Would an Indian be accepted back home? I do not think so and outsiders would find friendship rare in the city. What makes these people so warm and friendly when only a few days or weeks ago I was a stranger and to them the word stranger means enemy. Perhaps they are not as ignorant of the ways of the world as we are. Maybe having less makes them appreciate having anything more valuable like family and friends. Could it be we have much and don't learn the things that are really important? We teach reading, writing and arithmetic but not the basic fabric of living and caring for each other perhaps that can only be taught at home.

The day ends and Dan is carried back into the teepee and as he looks around, he feels the darkness is comfortable but not just the darkness it is the loss of having those who were nearly taken away from him. Only a few weeks ago I believed I was happy and enjoying life Dan thinks but now with the ability to look deeper

into the ways of those who had taken him into their life's and shown him what really is important perhaps he must take more time to smell the roses as it has been said.

Day by day Dan is taken outside and allowed to enjoy the sunshine in the company of friends and who have grown to become a part of his life and he looks forward to each day and each meal is better and better. Dan is feed from a different bowl with markings on it to identify the owner and let him know that he may say or show favor to those that are bringing the meal. The young gals that set each meal before him make special movements that allow him to see that they are looking for championship and want his attention to be on them. It becomes harder to show more gratitude to the one and then do it added for the next one. Dan finally decides the best way is to just be yourself and not to put on any airs toward any just be honest and don't try to outdo himself each time. Mary and her brother John stopped by and hardly ever missed a day. The days go by quickly and he learns the village grew to over 200 teepees and many warriors and other Chiefs have joined what was once a small village and now is growing more daily.

As his knowledge of the Ute Indians grew so did his ability to speak their language and understand their customs that were every much a part of what made them a great nation. Dans kite was known throughout the village and much of the discussion was around it. During the conversations Dan had told of wanting to have a thin cover made that was the shape of a large bird. When one looked up from the ground it was to look like a large bird, one that brought fear and it should fly as a large bird would. As he explained to the others how it was to be constructed one of the men had suggested using bamboo for the outside edge to hold it together because it was light and strong, and he was brought some bamboo so he may see what it is. After looking at and holding it Dan found this to be a great gift, an idea of much merit.

On one of the first mornings the outside fire pit Dan was joined by Jaw and several other friends and family members and when possible, each would question the other on the ways and customs. One of Dans first questions is what happened to those that had shot him. Jaw explained in detail the fast retreat to safety they expected and the massive number of turtles that had stopped the shooters from escaping. How they had been tied to the ground, striped of all clothing, and gave to the women of the village first and they stripped the skin from the chest and sides then the men till blood ran free. Then the men made them pay with their lives and the pain been prolonged for many days.

Dan explained to those that would listen that thousands of years before the Ute had ever been on earth the ancestors of his people had found that by constructing a cross bar above the ground and putting a man upon it with his feet nailed to the standing bar and his hands nailed to the cross bar the victim could last a week or more of intensive pain and suffering. Dan also explained that his God had been placed on a cross such as this and had died there.

Many who were listening to this had questions and wanted to know more about his God and why these people would do that and why if he were a mighty God did, he allow it. The questions were on going and the crowd grew with a hunger for information and every time Dan spoke on the subject, they had a greater number of those that wanted to know more. It turned out that every morning Dan had worshiped his God the crowd grew, and they ask more questions to the point it became a ritual every morning as Dan was brought into the sunlight more and more villagers joined them for this subject to be talked about. It grew to the point that Dan decided he had to offer his teachings daily and at sunrise. Ata was still preparing his meals and bathing him daily and putting him on his fur before going to sleep at night. During the time around the fire Dan found a young gal that he just could not keep their eyes off. He had gave her the name of Mary and she had a brother he named John who had been visiting every day when he came outside. John was three or four years younger than Mary. It was clear to all that Mary had eyes for Dan but in his frail condition he would do no more than speak of it.

Dan had learned to speak the language well but found the names hard to remember so he had decided long ago to do as the others did him and just give them a name that he found matched what he might remember about them. He had named Rowena, Sally, Sharon, Roberta, and Maureen and the names were the same for the men he had James, Jim, Robert, David and many more that were his friends from years before but some thing about this person reminded him of them so he found naming them he could remember when and it also served to bring his English Language in mind so he would not forget it. The villagers were excited that he gave them these special names and stood in line hoping to be blessed with a white man's name. Part of the day was spent with those that wanted to learn how to speak his language so that was a part of his daily habit of schooling as he thought of it. Because of the schooling the time went by very fast for Dan.

It turned out that Sunshine had been encouraging the ladies to look to Dan with favoritism as to him becoming their mate. She had also confided in Dan that Alta had served Dan night and day and in return when his body would allow it, she wished to be allowed to receive a child from Dan. He had explained to Sunshine

that was not a thing his god allowed without marring her. Sunshine had then explained to Dan that this was a normal way of life for her and her people. That is how the village grew and was by the strong warriors of other tribes giving life to the young ladies of the village. Dan laughed and told Sunshine mating these young gals reminded him of Christmas and he smiled as he sang "here comes Santa Clause". He stated he would have to pray and ask for guidance on this because it was not like it was adultery to give life to those wishing to have a child.

As Dan spent more and more time at the fire and was drawn into many conversations he had not considered to think about because he had no idea such behavior even existed. One day he was told of several Chief's that wanted to speak with him on his beliefs because the subject was obviously carried far, and wide to other villages had questions and, they accepted him as a member of their village so his understanding of both sides of the treaty's being almost forced on them.

The next morning had been decided by all the Chief's to a meeting. All agreed on sunrise, and they would use the council's area to allow for more members and privacy. The word for treaty in the Utes Language was accepted as a put down or a weakness of others. If not, it was not understood why would you ask this if you were not afraid of us? The same was the word for stranger which was just another word for enemy in their minds. Had Dan not dropped in from above he would have found it hard to make friends as he had. Appearing as a God made them think of him as a friend not a stranger and allow friendship as he had.

As the meeting started, all were setting on bear, buffalo, or wild animal hides surrounding a fire pit whereby a small fire was continually feed with small dry wood to keep it burning with minimum smoke. The area was so large the women would walk behind the men to serve them. The meeting started by chief Yogi lighting a pipe with an unknown substance in it and he drew on the pipe and using the pipe as a pointer fist saying to the God of the North, then the God of the East and he addressed each God in the same respect each time by drawing smoke from the pipe then pointing to each direction. After completing this he passed the pipe to the next who was also a Chief of another village, and this ceremony was duplicated till all in attendance had shown their allegiance to the Gods of all points of the compass. Then Chief Yogi told of how Dan had been found coming to them from the sky and every detail told in every imaginable way and many Dan had completely forgotten about, but every detail was spoken and explained completely and any questions that were ask were either answered by the Chief Yogi or he would ask Dan to explain. No one spoke out of turn, and no one spoke over a normal tone. Chief Yogi had allowed time for silence as others thought of anything

that they wanted to know. Dan would not have been able to sit that long but Maureen had gave Dan a present of a special chair with “Dan” not Great Eagle on it she had hand made for him in which he was able to set long hours without getting overly tired. Where Dan had come from why he had chosen to land in the land of the Utes was ask in many ways by most but always the same thing.

The meeting had gone on for hours and hours and Dan had lost track of time, but he found it hard to hold his head up any longer and the others had noticed it and had agreed to come back the next day to continue the questions. Even with strong leadership shown among the Chief’s they continually showed reverence to Dan in several ways, and he cold plainly see they respected him as much a God as a man which surprised him. The first impression had certainly proved to be effective in this situation.

Jaw and his brother Brut (big bruiser) picked up Dan and carried him to his lodge without his ever knowing he had fallen asleep. The next morning when waking to the smell of coffee as he opened his eyes Ata was smiling and handed Dan a cup of coffee and a warm smile. You are so attentive to me Ata that I can’t express how much you have helped me and how much I have depended on you. Please sit down here for a minute and let me explain something to you.

Ata, Sunshine has told me of your wishes to have a baby by me and I want to explain something to you about that. We have gotten very close with you bathing and caring for my body sense I was shot and that is not a sin according to my God because that is necessary well let’s say most of that is necessary the personal touches not included. However as I have explained to you sense knowing you that because of you large breast and loving nature I admit to the temptation however I would have to go against everything my God has told me so you have to know that even if he did not care that I was giving you a child which would add strength to the village and allow you to use your special talent toward the child I would be doing an unjust and unkind service to that child when I left him and traveled to the great waters in the West. I would be leaving knowing I fathered a child and then did not stay to care for him. That alone would be a sin in my eyes and without a doubt my God would see it the same way. So, I want you to know I can’t give you that wish because it would destroy our fiend ship and be against all that has created me. Do you understand that Ata? Ata had been looking at the ground and raised her head showing tears running down her cheeks, but she tipped her head indicating that she knew.

After having a big breakfast and just settling back for another cup of coffee, a tap on the leather door and Dan said, "Enter" and Jaw came in with Brut and wanted to know if we were ready to go to the meeting. With one on each side, they picked Dan up and carried him to the hutch provided for this gathering and placed him at a spot that was obviously intended for him. All in attendance acknowledged Dan with a head movement toward him but no one spoke other than Chief Yogi who offered Tsao Tupuninna which to Dan was good morning. Dan had become so familiar with the Shoshoni language he had to wonder if the Chief was speaking English or Shoshoni. The Chief told him most of the questions today were regarding Dan's creator and others had wonders if the white man even felt there was a creator. They felt that the fact that White men's words were of little value to them, and they seemed to want treaties only to find if they could deceive those who agreed. The Chief went on to explain that they fought with cunning and wise ways, but the white man had no rules they would kill any way they could using any method they thought would destroy the enemy. If the white man had a God, why would they do as they do?

Dan had to explain that the white man was so many more people than the Utes every thought possible. White man has so many Chiefs there are Chiefs to the Chiefs. The white man has so many that a treaty is important to those that say it to the Indians but what they are promising may not be accepted by the Chief that followed and even those signing it agreed and expected their own Chiefs to follow that agreement, but it does not always happen, and the white man does not go to the great creator as the Indians do. Some follow a God and live by those rules, but many do not believe in a God and have no rules to follow. I personally speak to my creator at least twice a day and sometimes more. Rarely do I start my day Dan said without thanking the great one and asking him to guide me through the coming day. Each Chief gave thanks to Dan for his wisdom and answering their questions and among those were those that wanted to know what they could do to help him with his coming flight on the great kite. During the meeting it was agreed that they would do all possible to help and wanted to know how long before he could show them his wings. Dan explained the strength necessary to fly the great kite and he had to gain a lot of strength before he could do it again and could only say he would when he could and leave it at that. He also explained that many men and women were adding to the kite to make it look like a Raven so when they completed those things, he would show the kite. Also, to be noted is the feet are being made to fit his feet so when he is flying overhead it will look as the claws of a great bird.

Chief Yogi held up his hand for silence and all responded in like manor; we have brought this one called Great Eagle to be in our presence for several reasons and we have all had our say and our questions answered by him, but I have one last request before he leaves us today. Would you tell us why you are here in our land and how you chose this place to be. Turning to Dan, he held his hand out for Dan to speak. Let me explain by pointing out my travels to this place from where I started. Where the sun rises in the East if you travel for many moons you will come to a great water that called an ocean in my tongue. I was born and raised to a young man in this land, and I wanted to see the great ocean that is said to be where the sun sets in the evening so I left there with a horse and a mule and before leaving I had gave everything I owned for white man's money and when I did that others saw that I had possessed much and they wanted it. They had twelve men who gathered and agreed to take it from me. After following me for several moons they confronted me, and I killed one of them by throwing him down a well which is a deep hole dug to receive water and fighting several others I managed to get away. They tried to stop me from leaving the area and I drove two of them off a bridge with my horse. Several months later they met me in a white man's town and two of them confronted me and I managed to shoot them and again got away. After leaving a large village I found they were still following me so trying to get away I climbed the highest mountain I could see and hoping they would give up, which they did not, they continued to follow me. I was like a mountain lion pushed up a tree I was up on top of a mountain into the clouds. I had no shelter and no protection from the weather. I covered over with a ground cloth and my God brought forth the winds and while I was sleeping took me off that mountain and away from my enemies. He did this the only way possible without taking my life he floated me out in the clouds and above the trees, lakes and streams way up in the sky. Once I was off that mountain, he brought lightning and struck several of those chasing me and burnt them to ashes. Some were so frightened they jumped off the top of that mountain to their deaths. There were three left and they found me as I was traveling with my brother Jaw and his woman and daughter. They came in during the night and took Flower Jaw's daughter and ran. Not knowing where they had went, I took the same kite that my God had gave to me and went back up into the sky and could see those escaping with Flower and from the air I shot one and allowed Flower to be free while those others ran as a coward, and we were so busy taking Flower to safety we allowed the others to continue away. I did not know where I was when I ended in the meadow with Jaw and his family it was only because my God lead me to that location that I was allowed to be friends and from there to now you know all there is to the story.

Dan continued with the fact that he felt God had led him to the Utes and with his blessings he was allowed to speak and befriend each of you. I believe he allowed them to shoot me so that I could make friend with the greatest healer of all your people Ata. She has been at my side and done everything possible to bring me through being shot twice and I should have been dead. I was spared for a reason and for all I know it could be just to tell you of my all and powerful God or it could be for what is to follow I do not know but I just trust that what saved me in the past will guide me in the future. I want to thank each of you for allowing me to be a part of your life and village. With your help I hope to again fly over the enemy and put fear into their hearts to the point they leave, and we will try to lose no one of our village. My friend the wolf at my side was a gift from a woman in your village and he has been at my side sense.

Upon leaving the meeting Dan was carried to the open fire pit that was the gathering of many friends. Mary and John were both there waiting for Dan and had many questions for Dan. Ata came out and brought Dans breakfast and a large cup of coffee which she knew he would like. Ata seemed to always know exactly what Dan would need and want. It was humbling to Dan to have someone so attentive and giving in every way. Ata was a big woman and as large as she was, she was exceptionally pleasing to the eyes, and she filled out the front of her dress beyond any others in the village. Mary held Dan's attention because of her beauty and her attention to Dan was noted by Ata without any verbal words.

Others came and took control of the gathering by discussing the building of the kite and what was to be done to accomplish it. The kite had been built and was over twelve feet wide and fifteen feet long. The outside edges had been held with buck skin lacing tying the skins to the bamboo. This had all been accomplished fast because of all those that helped. From the wings to the tail were the same skins but on the underside the area between the wings and the tail had been darkened with berries or something they found and used giving it the look as like a raven. Dan had ask Jaw to teach him the call of the raven so he could imitate the sound which he readily agreed to.

Everyone in the village was excited and on high expectations as to the flight Dan was to accomplish. Dan had only been a few weeks since having been shot but he was recovering faster than one could ever imagine. He wanted to get up and walk explaining to Ata that his lower body was not damaged that he should be able to walk, and she explained it was the hole body's strength necessary to recover and waking would take part of that energy which she felt was needed to speed full recover, so she did not want him to even try to stand yet.

After the excitement of the kite was discussed, re discussed and talked about by everyone possible the subject was finally changed to what had happened in the meeting with all the Chiefs. No one in the village ever remembered having that many great Chiefs attend a meeting let alone allowing a white man to be in attendance. With that many Chiefs in the village at one time everyone wanted to know if a major fight was about to begin. Why had they not told everyone of the coming fight? Was there a great fight soon? What was going on that no one spoke of?

Dan tried to explain that part of it was the fact that he wanted to fly this kite and try to avoid any war or fighting if possible and he could not do anything until he received his strength.

While setting by the fire and most all had gone back to their homes Dan was snoozing awake and then asleep and during this slumber, he raised his eyes to see a small boy about five years old standing in front of him he had his hands inside his shirt from each side because the shirt was torn and had no pockets. The boy had his head toward the ground, his eyes on his feet and Dan noticed the boy's clothing not only was torn but extremely dirty and he had on no shoes his pants were rags and filthy.

Pehnaho Pihianneweh Dan address him as small boy and the boy looked up at Dan and never shown any expression or gave no verbal answer, so Dan asks him if he was hungry or in any pain. The boy then said that he was tired and hungry, he had nowhere to sleep and no one to help him. Dan turned his eyes to another woman standing at a little distance away and ask her if she would be so kind as to go get Ata for him. Then turning back to the boy told him he would have someone here who would find the boy some food. The boy told Dan that he had lost his mother and dad when the noise and killing happened. He told Dan he wished his mom would come back and help him he had no one that cared anymore.

You have come to me, Dan explained because you were drawn to me for a reason and that reason is because I care and even though we just meet we will become great friends and along with that friendship is caring. As he spoke Ata walked up and Dan asked her if she would return with something that a small boy would like to eat. Smiling Ata just smiled and with a nod of her head turned and returned to their teepee. Turning back to the boy, he told him that everything was going to be better and that he cared for and loved the boy. The boy looked up and smiled for the first time and Dan patted the ground next to him and asked the boy if he would please sit by him so they could speak together.

Dan explained that no one was ever alone, they always had the great creator at their side, and would do as he had just now done, he had led the small boy to Dan and that was just the start because together they could do wonders. Dan asks what his name was, and the boy responded he did not know. Well Dan said because you are the first friend today, he was going to name him Adam and from this day forward he had a name he could be proud of, and the boy smiled and held out his arms to be hugged, which Dan did. Ata came up at this moment and had a dish of something she gave to the boy and a glass of water to go with it.

Adam took the dish and began to eat, and he was stuffing it into his mouth so fast Dan told him slow down and explained no one would take it from him, and he was to enjoy what was offered to him. While the boy was eating a man waked up and said to Dan, I have been looking all over for this boy he wondered off and we could not find him. He explained to Dan that the boy was simple-minded and because he had lost his family it had made him this way. The man whose name was unclear to Dan allowed Dan to offer him a new name from Dans lips which turned out was wanted by everyone in the village. It appears that someone named with a name from Dan was regarded as very special so most tried to receive one. Well Sam, (giving him a new name) Dan says you seem to care for the boy and thank you for sharing the story and because of the problem the boy was having Dan asked that he be allowed to have him spend a few more minutes with Adam. Sam smiled knowing the boy had received this special name and Sam repeated the name saying Adam and smiling and saying it again making the boy look up as he knew that was now his name. As Adam finished his meal and set the bowl down, he stood and put his arms out for Dan to hug and with that hug Dan knew he had a friend forever. Sam took the boy by the hand and told him let's go home and the boy turned and waved to Dan and off they went. Dan turned to Ata who was still standing there and said it makes the heart warm to find a new friend and I hope it is always that way.

Ata you are a healer why did you not want to help Adam? She told him they were afraid of those who were not of a sound head. She pointed to her head and made a circle with her finger showing his mind was not good. But if you can heal the body he asks her, why can't you heal the head. No, she said it is not to be the creator created him that way, so it was to be. No, he told her that is not so he was created as all but those who destroyed his family and Adam saw it happen had caused a fear so strong in closed a widow in his head which could be opened if helped. She did not agree but Dan went on to explain that his God did healing and could make Adam right. She asks why he did not fix Adam if he knew how. He tried to explain that he knew God and he would pray for Adam.

Dan was carried back to his home and on the way, he asks Jaw if he would listen to him to make the sound of a Raven so that when he was in the air, he could make that sound to add to the effect of the kite. Jaw laughed and said when you come over like a big Raven you think that will matter? It sure can't hurt Dan said to Jaw. Jaw agreed to help him practice saying it was one of the easier sounds to do so he knew Dan would learn fast you have ask before, so I know it's important to you.

The next morning, as before, Dan was placed at the fire pit, and many joined him as happy jovial times were shared by many. Later that morning Adam showed up at the gathering all dressed up and looked like he was clean as a baby duck. Wow you look great Adam. Adam looked up at Sam his father and smiled, Sam turned to Dan and told him that when he went home Adam had told Gwaii (Sam's wife) that Dan had spoken good things about Adam and he went to bed taking to the great creator and when he got up he said that he had a dream and Daniel, Adam, David, Soloman Clark had blessed him and he was going to be happy for ever. How did he know my name, Sam Dan asks? He could have heard them at first when Dan spoke to the village before being shot but Sam didn't think he was there but that was the only way possible. But when he got out of bed Adam spoke of many things and he was a new boy and wanted to run down here to tell you how happy he was but before he did, he wanted to bath in the river after refusing many times before and put on the new clothes which he had refused to wear the day before. Whatever that dream was he would not tell but he changed overnight, and we are proud and happy for it to be.

Dan had to use a crutch and even then, had to be helped along, but was insistent he be allowed to try he felt so much better. The crutch was crude but was not expected to be used for that long so Dan didn't want others to spend a lot of work on some that would not be necessary. The pain or problem as explained by Dan was not the standing, it was the weakness in the upper body from the two shots that took place. I must build strength he said and get better fast because we don't know how much time we have before we are attacked again. Jaw said that he was not worried because the village has grown so big that many would be necessary to try to do them harm. Sense you have joined our village Dan we have grown many times in size, and we have had an abundance of meat made available and our people are healing and getting back to a normal life, and many think it is because you have joined us.

Those that have been working on the Raven are wanting to show you what has been done and wanting your approval if you would like to see it. Of course, I

would like to see it and the sooner the better. So, after giving praise to the great creator and now many were saying God. The village enthusiasm was almost thick enough to see everyone joining hands laughing dancing and some were pounding drums others beating on hollow logs and yelling for others to join the celebration. Dan was not sure why the village was so excited, but the excitement had his heart beating, and he was enthused and didn't know why.

People and cultures arrive at different times and different places. However, without knowing each other a common thread is woven through time and distance and without a doubt a supreme being is foretold in each society. Dan did not understand what was happening, but he recognized the effect the great creator was having with all in attendance tonight. It is easy to be humble when joining hands and singing together and the words are not necessary to feel the meaning. The beating of the drums, the laughter in the crowd, the pounding of the feet gave birth to a multitude of spirits not of visible beings but of spiritual awareness that went on for hours and hours. Dan was returned to his robes by new faces with big smiles and gentle hands and the actual meaning of the dance and ceremony were unknown to Dan, but he knew he had witnessed a sacred bear dance and it would remain in his memory forever.

The next morning Mary and her brother John were among the first to join Dan with his morning bible reading. Thankfully he knew the Shoshone language (the language spoken by these people) well enough to translate as he read because the crowd was so silent, he could hear the movements of the children in the arms of the mothers suckling and even those were not fussing or causing any disturbance. If those in the cities back home could see this and grasp the magnitude of these people, to say they were uncivilized would have a better understanding. The whole village had respect for the great creator, respect for each other and most of all a united effort with the laws of the village. It was common knowledge that everyone still had his personal right to many things but always they respected the rights of others. Dan grew to understand more than just the spoken words of the language, he found a profound energy generated in these people.

As time went on Dan was able to join the outside fire pit without assistance from others though Nuzzle was there to lean on if needed. He was weak and could not move without a walking crutch, he did show a marked improvement each day and others were quick to speak of it. If Dan set down his walking stick Nuzzle was quick to grab it and wait for Dan to retrieve it. Ata had gave Dan many warnings and continual support but did allow him the opportunity of building the strength necessary to overcoming his weakness. The faster he gained strength the more

others grew closer and understanding he would one day be gone had caused many to draw closer and ask for more intermit questions. Mary had shown a favoritism to Dan that was so strong Jaw had wanted to know if there were more going on between them than he knew about. No Jaw but I find her easy to my eyes and find myself thinking more and more of her. The longer I am with the village the harder it will be to continue my journey to the ocean. Even Shadow has found friends he spends much of the day with and if I don't start spending more time with her, she will forget the things I have taught her.

You have learned much, my friend Jaw told Dan one afternoon while sitting by the stream. The voice of the Raven the Magpie the Coyote and the chipmunk have become a second language for you. The kite training of Shadow to pull the kite has continued by my hand as you have instructed me to do so I think the day of flight is drawing near. Chief Yogi has allowed me to use the meadow daily and we have many braves who attend each day and offer encouragement to those helping prepare for that day. You will be remembered for generations to come after you move those enemies from our lands with fear and no deaths to our people. Jay let's just hope the flight of the kite goes as it has in the past with no problems and I am strong enough to handle the situation. Dan Mary has expressed worries and has had many dreams of your flight and John, her brother has spoken of you as if you were the great creator himself. Dan, he has replaced his father in his mind with you and he will be at a great loss when you leave the village unless you were to take him and Mary with you. What has made you say that currently Jaw? I have watched you Dan and I know you have eyes for her so why would I not see more? I have said nothing to you are anyone else. Dan there are things said with the eyes that are not heard by the ear but felt in the heart and it would certainly be good for you to have a woman to warm your blankets at night and prepare your meals and John may even teach you something if you allow it. Ata would be hurt beyond words should I do as you say Jaw. Allow the God you worship to move your heart as necessary Great Eagle.

The closer to Dan's flight the more excitement is created in the village and the news has been carried to other villages and from those to more and like a secret is has been kept by few. Dan continues to build muscles from swinging by robes tied to the trees and he has been walking daily and swimming several times a week. The more Dan works at it the more excitement is generated. Warriors have made leggings for Dan to wear when in flight to make his feet look like the legs and claws of an Eagle. Feathers to ware on his arms to hide them from below and blend into the wings of the great bird. Dan has warned all to not approach the

enemy because he will find them from above and when he does, he will circle so that all can know the location of the enemy's village.

This morning is especially bright with sunshine and blue skies. The warmth of the day is just starting to bring the birds to sing and the enthusiasm of all is gaining in momentum as the day begins. John Mary's brother runs up to Dan and is panting and breathing hard he has excitement in his very being and is so trying to tell Dan something, but his words come out so fast Dan must take him by both shoulders and looking him in the eyes he says slow down John and speak to me so that I can understand what you are saying. I went to your place of sleeping to talk to you and I found Ata lying part way out of the door and in great pain. I rolled her on to her back to speak but she was not fully aware of my presents, and I could not get any sense out of her to know what happened.

Running back Dan finds Ata as John has described and as he kneels by her side, he finds himself in a very un-familiar position and in his hurry and excitement yells in tongues to the lord and with no outwards knowledge that no one understands what he is saying. As he regains his composure, he asks for help in putting her in the robes just in the doorway and he takes her hand in his and is frantically looking for any signs of life. Ata Ata can you hear me Dan screams. Her eyes open slowly, and she looks into Dan's eyes, and she says Dan I love you so much I can't stand it seeing you leave our village and that you may be taking Mary with you has caused me to take my own life. No Dan says this must not be Ata the whole Ute nation not just this village, depends upon your blessings and healing. I cannot heal others Dan when I have such a heavy heart. Ata we are all seeds in a great wilderness and we each mature and grow for a purpose some never learn what that purpose is, but you know, and you have allowed others to learn and grow and for you to take away from those who love and admire you would be a greater loss than many could bare, and I am one of those.

What did you eat and what did you do to cause this Ata? I have eat of a plant that has the power of life and death and I have chosen death while drinking of it. I have ask my God for your life and I will pray and continually fast and pray for your return to us. Now I would ask you to drink of something else if you would please. Dan turns in the immediate area and sees a slop jar with fowl and smelly things in it and he turns to her, and she drinks it down. Immediately she starts to empty her stomach and very violently gives away her insides to the world. Thank you, Father Dan whispers to himself this should be a big step in the right direction and if you will guide me and bring her back to her health, I will be forever grateful

and, in your debt, as if I weren't already. Covering her with several robes he makes her as comfortable as possible.

Standing and looking down at Ata Jaw takes ahold of Dan's arm just above the elbow and says Dan we have a problem please come away from here. As they walk away Jaw explains to Dan that runners have brought word of the advancing enemy of great numbers that have been moving toward our village. We have many times more than we had ever thought possible and our Chief has asked that we meet now and talk about defending our village.

When Dan arrives at the council fire there are many other Chiefs gathered with Chief Yogi and they are in an excited state all wanting to speak at the same time which is very unusual. As Dan enters all heads turn to him and they ask if he can do anything to aid them. Runners have been sent all directions to and smoke signals are in the sky as we speak telling of the coming war do you think you can help us with the great kite at this time? A great gust of wind howls so loud it is hard to hear. Dan says that will be my God telling us of his presents and with that wind comes my faith in him that all will be as it should be. Please send word to those in the meadow to prepare for my flight and as soon as we are finished here, I will start our journey to our destiny.

As Chief Yogi I propose we allow the Great Eagle to show us the enemy's camp and we will rid the world of every one of them including the women and children. We will repay the damage they have done to our people so be prepared to act. Dan does not hear this because he is on his way to the meadow to prepare for the flight after leaving instructions that Ata is not to be left alone and someone is to be with her always giving her anything necessary for her recovery. Thinking it over quickly Dan tells others standing there to find Mary and have her help Ata.

Upon arriving at meadow Dan finds Shadow with a new saddle and he looks at it and asks Jaw where it came from. Jaw explains that the Utes have been building saddles for generations the white man thought they were first and the only ones. We have made saddles to allow our warriors to hang under the horse's neck and fight we have made saddles that weigh very little and does not burden the horse so this one I built personally for this flight and the rope is tied securely to a tree knot woven into the leather of the saddle giving it strength and little weight as your saddle was very heavy.

As Dan prepared to get under the kite and into position to guide it, he noticed that there were warriors on both sides with their war pony's painted and

the warriors had fierce war paint on from foot to head. Not wanting to take the time to learn why this was done at this time he didn't spend time asking but thought it was unusual in the least.

Having put on the leg trim with the Eagle claws and pulled on the arm coverings Dan signaled he was ready to go and the warriors on each side took ahold of the edge of the kite and as Dan yelled go to Shadow those on each side on horses held the kite from tipping so take off was only a matter of hanging on. Obviously, this whole thing had been studied and everything necessary to help was done. The wind was blowing, and Jaw had even lined them up so that Shadow was to run downhill into the wind which at the time Dan didn't realize how much that helped his take off.

Dan went up like he was tied to the sun and went air born so fast he was amazed it was possible. As he turned to look back over his shoulder, he could see all those below were waving and he could hear the screams and yells as he continued to climb above the meadow. Not knowing which way, the enemy camp was Dan just allowed the kite to gain altitude and he circled as he climbed. It was as if this was his destiny and he was praying and talking to God continually as he knew this would be spoken in all counsel's wherever the Ute would assemble regardless of the outcome.

The day could not have been better because there was not a cloud in the sky and the visibility was as far as you can see. He looked back at the meadow and those he could see looked like ants to him and he was thanking his father he had no fear of falling and no doubt he would have a successful flight. Just watching the hills and valleys smoke would be a tale to tell of the village he wanted to find. He had seemed to have been up for hours and had gotten so high he had problems breathing, the air was so thin. He thought of the fable of the man flying so close to the sun the wax in his wings melted.

Dan could not get Ata off his mind what would happen if she were to die? What would he do if he knew it was his fault that she wanted to take her own life? The more Dan thought of this the more questions came to mind, and he finally decided he must get his mind back on the issue facing him not behind him.

Dan guessed he could see for fifty miles or more and no sign of smoke or any villages, so he was getting depressed, and worries started off what if he never found them? What if and he caught himself as he finally determined that God would provide what ever happened so forget all the junk and stay with the present.

Watching for anything to show him a sign his eyes were beginning to water, and he was having trouble focusing on the horizon as he must. Dan was traveling from one mountain to another and wondering how they could hide a full village. Finally, just barely visible he sees a light haze in the far distance and as he glides toward it realizes that it is the smoke he has been hoping to see. It is miles away from the meadow and further than those on the ground would be able to travel in hours. Dan circled and circled as was agreed when making the plans with Chief Yogi so after many times around Dan pulled himself forward bringing the front of the kite lower and causing it to dive toward the ground.

Dan came over the village with such speed that he barely had time to give the scream of the Raven Kraah Brronk Prruk over and over Dans yells. climbing beyond the village Dan climbed and then turned and made another dive toward the center of the village where complete chaos was taking place. Dan realizes how important choosing the raven was because these people are totally petrified by it. Women were chasing children; dogs were barking men were on their knees without a doubt praying. The horses pulled free of the restraints and were running through the village knocking over teepees and kicking anything possible. Campfires were being torn apart Dan was so close to the ground and almost flew into a tall tree when he figured out, he was watching them more than he should and had to pay attention to what was happening with the kite.

Knowing he had torn the village into complete ruin he turned to the lower end of the valley and allowed his flight to gain height and was heading back to the meadow which he knew was several mountains East of where he was, but the wind was perfect and the time to return went past as the blink of an eye. Dan came over to the valley and turned just like he had done this hundreds of times over and, he really had done very few times.

When the kite came toward the meadow and was just off the ground many people were right there to take ahold of the wings and help him stop gracefully. Cheering and screaming was beyond imagination. Those who were there to help were all smiles and graduations and the children were jumping up and down, all was excited, and Dan could say nothing that could be heard above all the noise.

Dan could not walk back to the village, he was taken on the shoulders and carried by so many that he felt beholding to them. Upon getting to the village Nuzzle was first to be at his side pushing all out of the way getting to Dan and jumping into his arms. Mary and John were on each side congratulating and

pounding on his back. Mary wanted to tell of Ata but with all the noise found it impossible.

Food was everywhere and anything Dan wanted was brought to him without hesitation. It was very humbling to be treated like this and he was not sure how he should act toward it. How does one give thanks to those thanking him? After a few minutes of dwelling on it, Dan dropped to his knees and gave thanks to the one he knew allowed this to happen. It was not until the next day that he learned that when the warriors got to the village it was empty except for all that had been taken from the Utes when they were raided, many were left in cradle baskets and blankets waiting for them. No sign of another man's dog or horse, except the horses that had been stolen, all the village had been left and all had just disappeared. No slaughter happened because there was no one to challenge them, those that were left behind were put on horses that could ride and those small ones were gathered and carried home to be united with their families.

Dan's flight had scared the enemy so badly they had picked up and left everything and just scattered into the forest leaving all behind. It would be many years before the enemy would try to attack that village again. Dan had become a legend and the Great Eagle would be known far and wide after the story was told.

Ata? gained back her strength both health and mental and was thought of as a hero for her attending to Dan. His chair was left at the fire pit with his name "Dan" on the back to remind all of his presence not just his legion of Great Eagle but his personal character. Great Eagle would be told in song and dances for years to come. The flight of the Crow was unimaginable of all that had been told of the story because the crow was known to be a bird of wisdom and the black wings were told to be death so choosing the crow was a symbol of both wisdom and death. The fact that the enemy had left the village and left behind everything that had been taken from the previous raid was proof to the Utes that the great creator had granted their people much power and strength.

Every nation of Indians though out the Rocky Mountains told the story of the great flight of the crow and as the story was told the Great Eagle became a legend of such magnitude that most did indeed believed Dan to be a God on this world. Dans travels to the Pacific Ocean would be told and retold to the point that he had no fear of any enemy's because they looked at him as a true God.

CHAPTER FIVE
FINDING THE PRINCESS

As the celebrations were slowing down and the days of honor and humbling's were shared and shown to all Dan was preparing for his departure from the village and love of seeing the Pacific Ocean. He was playing with Nuzzle one morning and as always training him in one thing or another. He had his friend a growing wolf set up, staying on command, fetching things and he could hide something and later just with hand commands have Nuzzle go find it watching over his shoulder to see which way he should turn to go on the object. Dan had even tied his hands together both in front and behind him and trained him to get them undone without voice commands.

As he had been working the last few days, knowing he would be leaving, Mary showed up each morning and asked Dan this or that and if he was going to leave and not stop and say goodbye and she had a small tear in her eyes as she spoke. Turning to her, Dan said we have grown very close, and I have often thought of what it would be like if I were to ask you to join me but there are several reasons that I held back.

Please tell me why you did not want me to be your partner in your future life. Dan explained that the older he got the closer he became to his own creator, and he did not know if she would accept his ways and give up her creator because his God was a jealous God and Dan felt he needed to serve him only and was Mary willing to join that belief? Why did you not give me the chance to tell you of my own feelings on the subject Dan, I feel as though you did not want me for other reasons.

What other reasons could I possibly have to not want you to join me, Mary? Do you find me attractive? Yes of course, Dan said. Do you find me desirable to join you in the robes at night? I can hardly think of anything else that would be more pleasing to me and I dwell on that so much it is hard to full fill my obligations to myself. All the time they were speaking Nuzzle was jumping up on Mary's legs trying for the attention. Looking down Dan said even Nuzzle has lost tract of his master and turns to you for attention. Do you not care for the meals I prepare for you? Yes, you seem to know exactly what I like and how to prepare it for me. Mary said I am wondering what your God did to get your attention I have not tried to carry out. Maybe she said I should push you off a high mountain and see if the sudden stop would jar your head enough to see me Mary said.

Maybe Mary, it was just that I was afraid to ask for fear you would deny me, and I would lose your friendship. What is friendship if you are not willing to share your life with me Dan? Does your God not want you to be happy? No, Dan said

the Lord said he came to allow us to have a full life. Could you have a full life by yourself with only Nuzzle to be by your side? I think it would work out if I were to explain a few basic facts that would be necessary for us to join as one Mary.

Finally, after moons of being together and much time spent sharing memories and being together, you are prepared to not continue our speaking together. It should be a tall mountain to bring your memory to your eyes. Or all white men ruddled with false values? What do you mean Mary? Ever sense the first time I saw you I wanted to share your robes even after I felt you may pass on to the next world, I was hoping for your recovery so we could get on with our lives together. I felt the same way about you Mary, but we are from a different people with a different lifestyle, and I have nothing to offer you that a woman could want. What do you think a woman would want? Here you are just a young man who has never had a woman that you have spoken of and yet you know what is necessary to make one happy. I think Dan I could convince your God to give me a chance easier than I can you.

Mary, I have said the wrong things and have not shared my deep thoughts with you as I should have, and I am sorry I have been so slow in seeing what I really need and want out of life. Please forgive me and from this day till we pass to the other side I will promise to voice my ideas and share my thoughts. If you agree we will speak with Chief Yogi and ask if he will unite us as one before our departure. I would like us to be as one forever and ever.

Together they went to the Chiefs lodge and as they stepped in front of the opening the Chief came out and with a big smile welcomed them to his lodge. "What can I do for the two of you so that you can humble me with your presents, he asks." We would like to be joined as one Mary said. Well, it's about time that is what everyone in the village saw and hoped it would come to be. It took a tall and big mountain to fall on me to open my eyes chief. A strong horse usually takes more time to tame, the chief said. Notice he did not say a wise horse Dan said under his breath.

The chief asks when they would like this occasion to happen. Turning to each other, both spoke at the same time. Now they spoke in unity and boisterous laughter followed by all three. I will prepare for this special occasion right now if you will allow me to leave you. Great Eagle you must be prepared for this special occasion, and you must know that to join with a princess of our nation has several obligations that maybe you had not heard of.

In my mind my mate is a princess but what do you mean Chief when you talk of her being a princess? Perhaps Nadeweide has not spoken of the heritage with our people. Her father was the Chief of our Nation while I was a small boy and I learned much from him. And her mother was the daughter of a great Chief of our nation, so she is to be a great influence in our village and many other villages. She did not tell me of this. For you to join lives with her you must fast for four days and be in a sweat house for two days and spend one day praying to the great creator. So, you have seven days of preparations not counting that while you are preparing for this very special princess our leaders will have to admit you to our councils, which in your situation will be granted for sure. So, allow me to start those preparations. You must know Great Eagle that when you unite with a princess you take on obligations as a leader. It takes a strong warrior to wed such a great princess.

Dan made a great bend at the waste and throwing out his arm toward the village said continue. With smiles from all Mary and Dan left to return to Dans lodge along with Nuzzle that had not left their side all this time.

Mary, you did not tell me about your father or mother, why is that? Would that have made you want me more? No of course not. Well then why would I spend moments telling of something that was not important to our future? Our children will know, and our children's children will know, but for us we shall be as one and my past is not going to have mattered. I must find Jaw and learn of these things I am to do for I must get started as soon as possible for me to find my happiness and our future together.

Jaw why did you not tell me of the importance of Mary and her family? Dan you must know that when we came here you did not know her, and we had other things much more important and as you had eyes for her it did not seem that I should tell someone of your statue of another with great statue it just kind of fit together like the sun and warmth. You both came together like it was not of this world but created by another from above. Everyone in the village was hoping and praying that the two would become one because who else would be strong enough to ask for her? Great Eagle some things are just meant to be, and we should not question what is meant to be.

We will have to go down by the creek and build a small shelter that we can cover with mud and protect from the cold outside. I will show you how it is to be done and it will have to be big enough to hold several who will want to join you in this venture. I can have others help and you can go to the high hills and tell your

own creator and talk with him and ask for his leadership in guiding you and Mary to your future lives together. You must spend from sunrise to sunset searching for your God. That is not a problem for me as you know Jaw, I spend many hours searching and talking with my God so this will be according to your customs.

The very next morning Dan took Nuzzle who went every morning with him anyway, in fact it was a challenge to avoid taking him, so he was just a part of the daily prayers. After climbing to the top of a mountain just West of the village Dan got down on his knees and looking at the sky began his devotion to his father and told of his surprise and ask for his blessings. Dan had begun his fast this morning and would continue it as long as necessary to full fill his obligations but without a doubt would be coming back for more prayer after the cleaning in the hot house and before joining Mary for the wedding.

Let me tell of his words as they came from him: Dear Father you know all you created all you know where my bones will lay you know when I started this journey where I would end. Because you know and gave me free will to find my travels, I would like to thank you for that which you have taken from me to make me see the greater gifts that would replace those I lost. When you took my mother, I thought the hollow in my world would never be replaced. When you took my dad, I worried I could withstand the hurt never imagining you would replace those with a partner and soul mate. It was beyond my vision, but you knew and provided the void with a stronger and younger replacement. Never in all my imagination would I dream of a maiden let alone a princess. The enemies that would do me harm you protected my every move. You replaced a small family with a large village of friends and now family. My Dreams were small at best, and I was continent with little and you gave me much. I have soared with the eagles. I have dined with the Chiefs, the greatest of leaders.

Dan went on with his prayers and as requested by tradition he spent the day in prayer and returned to the village and was welcomed by a large crowd waiting for his arrival. One of the first questions asked was what did you do with Nuzzle while you prayed? Great Eagle told me that although he is still a puppy, he laid on his belly with his head on his paws and slept through it all. Just maybe he was talking to his god while I talked with mine.

The sweat lodge is completed, and the Chief would like to join us on this first morning with your acceptance. Of course, Jaw we shall enjoy the heat together and perhaps melt into one. I hope that don't happen Great Eagle or Mary will not be thrilled over that.

The next morning Dan got his firsthand knowledge of how a sweat box wore a man out. The heat was almost more than Dan could stand, had it not been for others he would have gotten out and never returned but he could not bear the ridicule of leaving so he withstood the heat and stayed. Another thing he was not sure if his climbing out of the sweat box would prevent his joining with Mary so he promised himself he would die before he would leave this heat. Maybe that was the thinking it took to allow him to continually absorb the heat, but he managed to fill that obligation and complete this cleaning of the body all the way to the bones.

Well Great Eagle it looks like your future will be with a Ute Indian Princess Jaw said as they were looking out over the village while walking with Nuzzle and taking the opportunity of being alone again. I would never have expected such a thing joining with a woman and then having her be a princess was not even in my wildest imagination. I never thought she would give up her family here to join me on my visions for travel. Well Great Eagle when a woman really cares for a man she will go or do whatever is necessary to be with him that is proven in history.

Tomorrow night at this time you will be allowed to join her in the robes and the ceremony teepee has been completed and is far enough away from others that we will not have to hear her cry because you are not capable of satisfying her. Brother judge me not by your experiences, I am sure my appetite for her will show me to be the leader of the pack. I am sure I will be able to full fill my duties even though I have never ventured on this trail before. I go to bed each night in a blanket but I wake up in a tee pee so it should be an easy task to perform.

Great Eagle your imagination is limitless, but your pleasures shall be limited, good luck my friend. Let us return to the village and I shall share you humor with our friends, and I will strive to keep Nuzzle with me and not allow him to be your excuse for failure with Mary. Jaw, you speak of my imagination when you are in a mindless dark forest. The ants have eaten your thoughts and the squirrels have buried what was left of them. When we return to your village Nuzzle will weigh 200 pounds and have two of my sons riding upon his back. If you are gone that long, I hope you can still see and are able to walk. Will you remember me, that long Great Eagle?

As the sun rise touched the village the Chief and visitors who had been called by runners of all directions to watch the Great Eagle joined with the Princess of importance to start a new life together. Decorations were abundant everywhere food was in colorful dishes everywhere you looked. The ladies wore the finest dresses and had many colorful ornaments in their hair. The warriors were lined up

shoulder to shoulder and held ornaments of war to signify the strength of the village in keeping rite secret. The children were allowed to watch at their mothers' feet and the old men were gave front seats at the foot of the many Chiefs.

Rare were the rituals of this size expressed so openly with so many in attendance. Mary's parents had been killed in the raid on the village, so she had only her relatives to share her happiness, and many had traveled several days to attend and watch this great event.

Dan's fame along with Mary's famous family leadership had created a celebration that was holy and respectful of those in attendance. The large crowd was proof of this and with the added Chiefs of many villages the magnitude of the joining was felt by all. The celebration started at sunrise with a prayer to all Gods of the North, East, South and West and included the sun Gods and Gods Dan had never heard of.

Dan did not lay eyes upon Mary the hole day through he wondered where she was and when he would be with her. Finally, when he was to be united, he stood at the head of the long line of family and friends and as he turned toward Jaw to ask where Mary was, he looked and saw her approaching from between a long line of women and she was walking with Chief Yogi.

Never in his wildest dreams was he prepared for what his eyes beheld. Mary was dressed in a pure white leather dress with tassels across the bottom which was at her knees. The tassels hung around the bottom and below were knee high boots that were also white leather with bright stones on the front and black tassels hanging from the tops of the boots. The top of the boots had a black belt surrounding the boots with a silver edge giving the boots a breathtaking beauty. The white leather dress was pulled tight across a very small set of hips with curves that drew the eyes. Across the belly of this awesome creature was a black leather belt which was mink perhaps, but the hide was short hair and jet black making the dress a deeper white. The top of the dress and across her breast were turquoise of a sky-blue color in a pattern of a sun surrounding a large bright red stone the size of the palm of your hand. Mary's hair hung down dark black as a Ravens wing. Flashing with the darkness of night and yet bright as anything ever viewed. Upon her ears were thin silver earrings shaped as the cross of Jesus which shown across the distance to me.

Mary's eyes were black as coal and her eye lashes longer than I had remembered them. It took me several moments to breathe again; how could such

an incredibly beautiful woman been kept away from others long enough for me to meet and Mary such a princess. The rest of the ceremony could have gone on for two days or two minutes I am not sure, and I cannot remember try as I will. I do know that never in the world has any woman been entitled to wear white as she did that day. Without a doubt there was not one person in the whole village that did not envy me at that moment. The memory will last forever of that bright white dress with that jet black hair and the smile of pure love.

The joining was a short part of the whole celebration which had continued all day and as the sun set that evening Dan and Mary were taken by many to their private location and with a jovial parting left to share their first time together alone.

After entering the lodge Dan pulled the flap down into the doorway and tied it to prevent anyone entering without acknowledgement. As he turned to Mary, he was suddenly aware of Nozzle's howling and yapping at the entrance. He has never been prevented from joining me and Jaw said he would keep him entertained for a few days but Nuzzle must have found a way of avoiding him and snuck out to find us and to be honest I am not sure it was me that he came looking for you seem to have a great influence on him. We'll let him in Dan, he will not tell anyone of your ambitions or expectations and if you do not, he will stay out there and tell the whole village of our pleasures.

Great one, mate, Dan, Great Eagle what do you wish me to call you from this time on? Call me by the name my mother gave me, Dan, as you have. Dan, do you know that now you are a part of this village and as such you are also a Ute Indian accepted and a part of our family? I had not thought of that, but does it matter? If you have not heard, you will be allowed to set in the healing and the other medicine counsels. When the wise ones receive voices from the ones that have gone on to another world you will be allowed to hear when they speak of those voices. To my beliefs no white man has ever been allowed to attend these counsels. Am I free to attend or is it my obligation to attend? Why do you ask me this? Because part of what you are saying I do not want to attend I believe that my God would not want me to receive this knowledge, or he would give it to me. That would be a subject we could speak of but if we are to leave would it matter?

Dan, I have agreed with all you have offered and all that you have ask now I would ask you something if I would take kindly if you were to grant me. What would that be my special Princess? I would ask that we return as often as possible to allow our friends and family to see us and that our children could unite with their past friends. I would never decline you or my children anything that would

destroy that memory. It would be good if they should be with them often to understand where they came from and always know of their beginnings.

Mary, as we grow together, I pray we will grow spiritually as well and together I truly believe our travels will take us where God has planned for us to go. Dan, you will father three sons and two daughters that will be strong and take us through many trails and adventures in the future. How can you say this Mary, how can you make such a statement? My mother had the gift, and her mother had the gift so that we could see things that had not happened, but we knew they would be. It is not easy for one who has never had the gift or been around one who has but sometimes things just appear in my head, and I know they will be. How many years have you had these dreams or whatever you call them? I have known of things to be sense I was a little girl like I knew that you were to be my man even before I saw you. I knew you were on your way and that you would be a strong father and a great leader for me and my people.

Wow! Mary, this is going to take me a little time adjusting and coming to grips with what I have learned. I will have to think I will have to pray and then perhaps I will be able to understand and accept this as part of life. Can you look into the future any time you want, or do they just appear in your sleep? I do not know how to make them happen because I have never tried to bring them or maybe I have not ask for them. I have spoken to my mother about these things, and she has told me to accept them and not question the great creator or his ability to give gifts to us.

Mary our God or creator as you call him tells us that anything we ask shall be gave to us, but I knew not of this gift, and it is amazing that one could have such an ability and to know these things could be a real problem if one thinks about it. If I knew the enemy was waiting, I would not travel in that direction and if I never met the enemy, I would not grow the strength to fight. Do you see we would avoid the conflict and that would be what gave us the strength to fight. We grow strong by problems and if we knew to avoid all problems that would be a problem. I can get dizzy trying to think of the things that I should not even be aware of. Just on the tip of the subject I think I would rather not know and be surprised than to know and worry it was coming. But then I don't have that option, so it is not something I need to worry about. Tell me Mary, will my daughters be pretty like you? No mother would say she was prettier than her daughters because she would see them through the eyes of love not as a stranger would.

Tell me, is there anything else that you see that I should know of? Well only that you are going to be used soon to find where our animals are located and where we must go to hunt. I can see where that could be a gift to your people knowing where to go and not have to hunt to find them. Also, the cold of the season is coming on and we do not want to leave before the warmth of the summer is before us. Nuzzle will grow and be a help in our adventures also.

Dan, without your knowledge your mother named your sons. They will be known by your names Adam will be the first son and he will grow strong; David will be the second son and he will not be as large a man as Adam but will be known for his strength. Last of all the sons will be Solomon and he will be wise beyond most, and he will be a leader of men.

We will travel and you will save many people and our journey will be told by many for years to come. The kite will only be a small story in your destiny, but everyone will hear and tell others which will tell others and it shall be repeated for many generations.

This is not the ending but the beginning of a great adventure.