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SPEECH

Your fathers that went before you have walked many roads to make this earth, not what it is today but what it was yesterday. And by their ways you try to keep alive the history they made. The treaties they signed were typed up in Ottawa to be destroyed, mocked and broken today by those same bureaucratic heads who agreed that this land will be ours as long as the sun shines. You try to follow in our forefathers' footsteps but are sidetracked by the liquor and narcotics that are being passed around today. You try to teach the younger children the language of your tribe to carry it on through generations. And those same children might not even have a streak of Indian in them. You sing the songs so strange to you, you don't know what they mean. You sing the religious songs stolen out of the lodge and say you made it. You speak to the Great Spirit in steam baths asking for help and guidance, then turn around like a bloody hypocrite and criticize your neighbor without walking a mile in his moccasins to understand and help him.

All the arguments against what you believe in to others who say different are the same. It all boils down to the same thing. You try to give an argument and still it's the same as what other leaders say but only in different words.

Our neighboring fellow Indians fight for land. Ottawa

listens, sure, but they string you along until they can embezzle it back and you end up with nothing. Then that's when you bring in your guns and sling shots. As if that's the answer to the problem.

When will it be time for us to get off our easy chairs and do something about what we're trying to fight for. When will the day come for us to understand what we're trying to fight for. And how will we fight for it, our rights, our land, our children, our people. But how can we give a fight against those who put us down for everything we do when we're really fighting against ourselves, arguing against each other with the same argument.

You are savagely fighting a war you will never win only because you don't know your road. Sit back for a while as I have done and listen to those who speak fire through promises

which will never be verified. Then you will understand you are wasting your time and energy by giving the same argument. We are a dying race and we will keep on dying merely because we're too stupid and blind to realize we are losing. You fight for land and some of you may win but that doesn't give us back the rights to be a full-blooded Indian.

I say to you, be not an Indian for others, be an Indian for yourself. Know that the sun still shines in our eyes. And everyone is saying nowadays, "We will get back what the white man took away."

Don't stress being an Indian or of Indian blood. We know who we are and what we are. Maybe in the very end we shall over-run...

(Author Unknown)