

You go ahead as my messenger, and teach the people these things?

Then the old chief continued, "Whether porcupine really saw the messiah, or only had a dream or a vision, I can not tell, but I thought his words over, I got my young men together with these words, My children if this is a good, thing we should have it, for we need help, the white man is killing off our game, and taking our land from us that the Great Spirit gave us, therefore learn from Porcupine these things, so if the Messiah does come in the Spring time with the green grass he will not pass us by." B "if it is not a good thing it will fall to the earth itself."

Then turning to me the old chief remarked, "Little Beard, if the white man is not afraid that the messiah is coming, and that by his help we will be a strong people again, and the buffalo will come back, and we can recover our own on this land the Great Spirit gave us as our home in the days of our fathers, why have these soldiers come here to step the dance."

It was a hard question to answer, that old chief was my friend, in many a council he had backed me against the reactionary Chief Red Cloud in his antagonism to my attempts at the civilization of his people, had headed off Red Cloud in attempts at outbreak, and my sympathy was with him.

I turned to Gen. Brooks, remarking that in my opinion a mistake had been made in bringing in the troops, it cemented these Indians in the belief that something mysterious was coming, in fact what right had the whitman to dictate to these people whether they should dance or not, if the seventh day adventists got up on the roofs of their houses in their ascension robes to welcome the second coming of Christ, the whole U.S. Army was not put in motion.

The General remarked, "What would you do," and I replied, "Little Weund had remarked to his young men .If it is not a good thing, it will fall to the earth its self."

If I were again agent in charge, I would let them dance on through the Winter, and with the coming of Springtime, no Messiah appearing, it would fall to the earth."

The 30th, of December came, with it the Battle of Wounded, and the "Second coming" was again deferred per force.

The Indians I always found a kindly, honest, and just people, and this old reminiscence, in my eightieth year, brings on a feeling of loneliness for the days of the old frontier, for all my old acquaintances, the Indians, the army, the old scouts, the bad men, the gun men, and holy terrors, are "gone over the range".

Yours truly.

*U. S. Army*

P.S. I have a brother in law in Tulsa, if you ever run across him, Malcom Munn an oil expert.