

Tatonka Ehanni (Old Bull)

"While I was away on a hunting trip, the Crows attacked the camps of my people. They came fast. When they left they run off a lot of good horses. I had a sister. She had a splendid well trained buffalo horse. It was a black one. It was fast. They took that horse. They killed other horses. I found that when I got back with meat. I was mad them. I made a vow to have revenge for that thing. I would go to their camp. Then attack them. I would run off their horses. All that would I do. I would do that now. It was winter time then. It was cold. I carried the pipe to five of my warriors. They smoked. We got ready then. We carried many mocassins. We had wasna (pemmican). We left the camp. We went to the first fork of the Missouri. (Note- Where the Yellowstone empties) Then we went for eight days up the Yellowstone. (Note- He called this river Hehaka (Elk)) We found the camp of the Crows. They had many horses with herders. They were in the flat and among the timber. It was a large camp. We must be brave to attack them. We watched several days. We knew how they did then. One night we went into their camp. We were on foot. We cut several horses from the lodges. We got them going. We drove the herd. Many, many horses. We drove all night and the next day without stopping. Then we camped on the river among the trees. During the night we saw them. They were coming. We rounded up the herd. We went under a hill. We had a big fight that time. Many horses were killed. Several Crows were killed too. We got the horses again. The next day they came again. We got behind rocks and little hills. When we left our own camp a boy came with us. He wanted to be brave. So we allowed him to go with us. We did not want to turn back for that thing. This boy was wounded with arrows in the fight. He killed a Crow enemy on horseback. That made it hard for us to travel fast. We run at nighttime. We hid in the day time among trees. Sometimes behind hills. We were riding now. The boy was sick from his wounds. I made a travois for a mule animal. I placed him on that. After a long time we came home. We drove many horses. We made many gifts then. We danced. We gave the boy a new name. We called him "Brings the Arrows". He had two in his body. Then after eight days he died. This was one of my brave deeds. All the people knew about that thing. I was young then. I was strong and brave. I remember that time well. I made good my vow. The men who were with me were : Black Pheasant, Hunts the Enemy, Eagle Weasel, Takes the Horses and the boy Brings the Arrows. I am Old Bull. I am Chief here. I have much to say. You are my Brother."

I know the interpreter Miss. Densmore used and believe that the version the old man told to me, is nearer the exact truth of the expedition. Telling a story just a little bit wrong, is almost a virtue to a Sioux, especially if told to a stranger as Miss. Densmore was.