
OLD TIME INDIAN CHARACTERS AND SCENES



COMANCHE WARRIOR



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SPEECH OF KI-CHI-KA-ROQUA (Wichita Chief)

1843

Speech Made September 29, 1843, at Treaty With Republic of Texas

"The ground on which you sit is my ground; the water of which you have drunk is my water, and the meat you have eaten was mine; and you are welcome and have been many times. Not many times have the leaves come and gone since I and my people lived near the whites; had I desired it I could have slain them all; but I did not want war. They were weak and we were strong. Soon the whites became strong; then they killed my people, took away our lands and blood was in our paths. Treaties were made then, but they were broken by bad men.

"I thank the Great Spirit that has inclined your great chief, Houston, to peace. I have long desired it. The Great Spirit made both the white and the red man. The same blood runs in our veins. I look upon myself and see the same likeness. The Great Spirit made man in his own image and knowledge next to himself. He taught man how to convert and fashion everything as he wanted it with his own hands. To convert the soil, the winds, the waters to his own use and assistance. These are great gifts.

"We should be brothers. The white flag and the tobacco before us are emblems of peace. I hope it will be kept clear that our children will see it. The white path is opening. I hope it will be kept clear so that our children may see it and all may go and come in safety.

"I have made a treaty with the United States (at Camp Holmes) and I intend to keep it sacred, so long as water runs and the earth stands. I want it to be so in Texas. I call upon the Great Spirit to witness the truth of my words. I speak no lies.

"The Great Spirit now looked upon us and was pleased when he saw that peace was made; for He sent great rains causing over-flow of all rivers, that the waters might wash away all the blood and bones from the prairies of our slain warriors, so that our children might not behold the deeds of our fathers, but that the past may be forgotten."