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Pete W. Cole,
Investigator,
March 10, 1938.

An Interview with Rev. Abner Johnson,
A Choctaw Minister,
Miller, Oklahoma.

SUPREME BEING OF THE BELIEF OF THE INDIANS.

Being a Choctaw Indian, born and raised in the Choctaw Nation, my attention is very often called to the question whether or not the noted famous tribes of Indians, especially the Choctaw Race of which I am a member, were really ignorant or had not the least idea what there was such a thing as the Great Spirit. In my young days, I was raised by people who were good members of the church and when I was old enough to attend school I was brought to Atoka and was placed in the Murrow Orphan Home, a Baptist Institution where I attended school for a few terms. While there I was taught of the existence of a God and Supreme Being, the Great Spirit. Before I came to this school, I was taught about the Great Spirit in our Sunday School class among my own tribe of Choctaws who were in the extreme eastern part of Pushmataha County at that time. When I attended Jones Male Academy, a Government Indian School, I was taught of the

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Living Being. It was through the teaching at these different schools that I learned more of the Great Spirit when I joined the church and have been a member to the present time.

During my school days, I was taught and have read histories about the Indians as wild savages, cruel and treacherous, knowing nothing about the existence of a Living Being, yet we remember of the old traditions of the aged when they sat around the camp fires, how they related incidents from the scenes of active life, the war path, the chase and the character and kind of enemies whom they had defeated and by whom they had been defeated and their mighty deeds were told them by these chief's famous warriors and a talk on the Great Spirit was no exception which was handed down from generation to generation.

The Indians from their earliest known history down to the present universally believed in the existence of a God and Supreme Being, universally known among all Indians as the Great Spirit and with whose attributes were associated all the various manifestations of natural phenomena; and the Indians gave due respect and true devotion to their

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acknowledged God. They as a whole excel and ever have excelled the white race of people. There has not yet an Indian been known to deny the existence of his God. It is unknown for an Indian to deny the wisdom and power of the Great Spirit as manifested in the creation of an intellectual and immortal being, nor do they believe in Darwinism about being descendants of monkeys. A true motto "As a man thinketh so is he" is so well versed by them that they do not take time to worry about whether they are men or monkeys.

To them all Nature ever spoke in language most potential and their immortality and future existence in another world they never doubted, though their ideas of future rewards and punishments beyond the tomb were feeble and confused.