

I have in my field notes a full account of this, with the names of the chiefs as given to me by Red Fish, whose ancestry is given by Mrs. McLaughlin for seven generations back, an honorable ancestry, (but I have not this ancestry) This account as given me by Red Fish is, likely, the only account of the matter in existence.

2. These Western Sioux fully realized that gaining victories in battles was not sufficient guaranty of future safety. Though they were the imperial nation of the Northwest, and so regarded by all, including the Omahas, and even by the Chippeways as regards the plains country, yet there was a terrific obsession of fear regarding the oncoming avalanche of whites. And like all other peoples in such crucial danger with impending disaster (We see this even in the British when in May, 1918, the Germans came within an ace of winning), their emotions, passions and hopes were tensely looking for some sort of divine help and aid; some sort of more-than-human guidance. Even the best leaders in wars (which were, in some ways quite continuous) were looking for the same. Such actual physical, and psychic conditions would most certainly, with such peoples as Indians (Not uncommonly with any other peoples) give rise to a sort of prophet (See the arising of Gandhi in India, just in our own time).

3. These Western Sioux already had (from long time back), a sort of "Ruling Class, few in number; one half males and the other females. This Class constituted a sort of Court, the male half attending to certain kinds of cases, & the female half attending to other kinds of cases (Though if a man was tried for rape---the only act that was always and under all circumstances a crime (I mean rape by force)---each Court, in a separate trial must convict, to make a valid conviction. And while a man did occasionally become a member of this Ruling Class (a sort of Class behind the scene, and not visible to those studying Indians, generally) by reason of his great achievements in battles, yet it was settled common creed that the best ones were those who, in some way, were recognized as fitten for this Class in Childhood; or, occasionally, in mere infancy--- by certain manifestations in the child or infant, rather than by external "portents" (See our Bible in this matter). Now with this background basis, plus the times (If one can thrillingly sense the times as I have sensed them hearing Indians talk) it was not difficult for SB to arise to prominence, as he did arise. We may say that if there had been ~~no~~ no person SB, then the background & the times would have given rise to some other such person---though it is difficult to actually conclude that any other could have filled the bill as SB did.

This may aid you in getting into the mood of displaying the way in which SB's rather unsought, on his part, influence ~~that~~^{such} as took hold of the very heart-strings of his people; and adjacent peoples, took its rise

Sincerely

A. McG. Beede
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