

1060 Clay Ave., New York,

July 13, 1929.

Professor W. S. Campbell,  
University of Oklahoma.

Dear Professor Campbell,

As you correctly infer from the sources, being wounded might be one of the things a man boasted of in public assembly as evidence of bravery. From this point of view, Sitting Bull's experiences were not in themselves fatal to his prestige. The point is whether a man had been specifically promised invulnerability by a supernatural patron. In that case, being wounded would be interpreted as a loss of that patron's (not necessarily any other supernatural power's) favor. I have tried to express the Indian point of view in the Crow story of Takes-the-Pipe contributed to E.C. Parsons' (editor) AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE. See also the story of Red-Shirt's experiences in my paper on THE NORTHERN SHOSHONE.

To answer your query directly, I should not suppose an Indian to be rated higher than another simply because he had the gift of invulnerability. One man got one sort of blessing, another a different one, that is all.

Hoping that this is of some use to you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Lowie

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