

40

Louisville, Ky. Nov. 26 1928
Deer Park Ave. 1970

Dear Campbell:

For once I am completely "^mstupid" by your question about the forming of the blood brother friendship among the Sioux or any other tribe. I hardly think the Hunka ceremony was used for that purpose, though the adoption of a boy by a man who already had a son would make the two boys real brothers, yet that would not necessarily, so far as I know, constitute what is otherwise known as a brother friendship because the element of free choice is lacking.

As to Sitting Bull's standing with the Indians I knew: I never asked any Indians outright what they thought of S. B. though I have discussed him with several. I knew that Red Cloud did not participate in the Custer war of 1875, mostly because he was too closely watched by the whites who confiscated practically all the ponies of his band at that time. I saw many of those ponies as a small boy as they were driven past our house on the old Booneslick Road leading from Kansas City to St. Louis. But some of his young warriors got away (as for instance Big Road, whose son I knew) and joined the hostiles in Montana.

Short Bull, the leader of the Ghost Dance among the Ogalala, did not approve of S. B's attempt to use that movement for an armed uprising because he (Short Bull) expected the great change to come by peaceful, though miraculous means (see also Mooney's report on that movement).