

# I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING [MIA ÉNE GAQUAI NTAGÈTAM]

IRON THUNDERHORSE<sup>∞</sup>

*The following is a selection of prose and poetry in several Algonquin dialects.<sup>1</sup>*

KE MATTA HOM NOOWOSKHUKQUNAT  
YOU CANNOT HARM ME

*[Quiripey - English]*

Ke matta hom noowoskhukqunat  
ke matta hom woskehuwonat howan  
noh na-kemanumhewawungansh  
wutche rashauwandoak.

\* \* \* \*

You cannot harm me  
you cannot do harm to someone  
who has seen visions  
of the spirits

\* \* \* \*

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<sup>∞</sup> Iron Thunderhorse is a published author of over 20 publications and a columnist and journalist whose work has been published in over 50 forums, and included in the work of many others. His official biography is: FOLLOWING THE FOOTPRINTS OF A STONE GIANT, by Ruth Mahweeyeh Thunderhorse, © 2007 InfinityPublishing.com, ISBN 0-7414-3977-8. He speaks over a dozen languages and specializes in indigenous art, crafts, history, cultural traditions and linguistics. He serves currently as Elder-Advisor Emeritus for the Jailhouse Lawyer Initiative at NYU.

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this piece, accents and other special characters have been transcribed to the best abilities of the editors. To see a scan of the original piece, with the original accents and special characters, please go to the following link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BdsbP83ezNMsusjZHcUenoIm0rBciPtx/view?usp=drive\\_1ink](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BdsbP83ezNMsusjZHcUenoIm0rBciPtx/view?usp=drive_1ink).

KNISTÄWE  
YOU MUST LISTEN

*[Mahican - English]*

Knistäwe  
onistäwájäquà ktáhěннаak  
mamatahak  
nanáo p'maosétscheek.  
Maowe waadtschachque'tsche  
knosochqawáwa  
n'áneí  
otàwawick.  
\* \* \* \*

You must listen  
with believing hearts  
to the sound of  
the wild things.  
All good souls  
follow  
the path  
inward.

\* \* \* \*

CASTING THE BONES

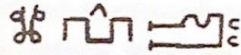
I cast the bones  
of timeless revelation  
into the mystic arch  
of Grandmother Moon

Like wind on the water  
primal images swirl  
shaping, forming  
revealing what is  
and what will be

Voices of the past  
reflections in the fire  
shadows on the sand  
shivers down the spine

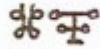
Forces moving  
to the ancient dance  
of nature's mystery  
in spirals and swirls  
whirlpools and whirlwinds

It's all reflected  
in the bones  
falling in place  
as archetypes  
cast their shadows



‘LNAPSKUK TELUWA:TIIJK  
THE INDIAN ROCKS SAY:

*[Hieroglyphs - Micmac - English]*



‘Inuwey  
The Indian Traditions



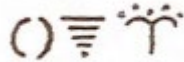
kaqma'tuasewikek  
it is well known



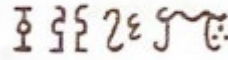
na ewi:kasik  
are written



nekla kunntal ‘Inapskuk  
on the Indian Rocks.



Mu te:s wen  
Not everyone



kisikimawey ta:n  
can read what



‘Inapskuk teluwa:tijik  
the Indian rocks say.



Na kwesiket na koqowey  
They foretold things



ta:n t'la: ‘itew  
and how it would happen,



nuji-kwsiket na.  
like a soothsayer.

\* \* \* \*

MONCHANAMUKQUSSUAU  
HE WORKS WONDER

*[Natick/Massachusetts - English]*

Sun kenâum, neemat?  
Ahquompak nun-nummâttapsh yôteg  
n'sesekwan nukkemoo ne unneu pemsquoh  
wunnonkou mohtuppeau  
Mishe-anoqs waapemoo  
m'michachunk qushkeu  
ohke-ôâas't wunnunògan  
ohkeiyeu kachémoo wonk  
kussohkóiyee wadchu-ut  
kah nemunum kesuk-ut.

\* \* \* \*

Do you see, my brother?  
when I sit by the fire  
my rattle shakes in a whirlwind  
evening vanishes  
the Dawn-Star rises  
my soul returns to  
mother earth's breast  
out then it comes again  
on the mountaintop  
and takes me to the sky.

## AMERICAN INDIAN PIDGIN ENGLISH

The English all one Speake  
The Spanish all one Aramouse  
The French all one Asookekomau  
So much Hoggery  
So Bigge Walke  
So Big Speake  
So Big Matchit Laws  
These ALL No Wunnegin  
Poison Water Make us Sneep  
We So Bigge Whipt  
Me No Stomany that  
Netop, Netop.

\* \* \* \*

K'PAUWAW  
THE SHAMAN

*[Natick/Massachusetts - English]*

K'Pauwau  
quoshodtum

paomooonk,  
ne-unnukquomuwaen

nukkonaeu,  
nukkonadchuit.

K'Monetu  
natinneham  
hamaonk...

nish kemeogish't,  
wuttahut

kah michachunk.  
K'Taupowaw...

noh wunne keketookau  
skeetomp't  
ne-annoonaen-in.

The Shaman  
he predicts  
the future,  
as a dreamer  
in the night,  
upon the mountain.  
The Diviner  
he searches for  
an answer...  
to secret things,  
in his heart  
and soul.  
The Wise Man...  
he speaks well  
to the people  
as a messenger.

## TREATY OR TREACHERY?

They said: "Put your mark here"  
and you shall have peace with us  
and a special place to live  
where your people will prosper  
as long as the sun shines  
and the waters flow.

Our people now live in urban slums  
unemployed or receiving welfare  
the only true peace they know  
comes in a brown paper bag  
oh how the poison water does flow  
blotting out the sun.

\* \* \* \*