

“ Great—is—the—man—who—walks—  
In—the—middle—of—the—Earth,—  
He—is—the—only—true—Lord.”

The word “ Lord ” is not employed in the sense of supreme master, but is rather intended to convey an idea of independence and individual power ; and is better expressed in English, as the half-breeds informed me, by the word “ gentleman.”

The conjuror occasionally came out of the tent ; and whenever the supposed Manitou or Fairy who was the alleged cause of the woman's illness approached, a little bell, suspended from the poles supporting the tent, tinkled, and gave the alarm ; the conjuror immediately seized his drum, commenced his song, and, by his incantations, succeeded in pacifying the Manitou. These proceedings continued for two nights ; and, at the close of the second night, after a prolonged ringing of the little bell, violent shaking of the tent poles, loud beating of the drum, and chaunting of the words before quoted, the conjuror announced that he had discovered the reasons of the Manitou's anger, and the means to appease it.

You had a dream, said the conjuror, and when you rose in the morning you promised to make an offering to the Manitou, you have forgotten your pledge, and you are sick.

The woman demanded what she had dreamt, and what she had promised, avowing her ignorance of both dream and promise. But the conjuror told her, that when the buffalo were around her tent last winter, and no fear of starvation before her eyes, she had dreamed that the buffalo would always surround her, that famine and sorrow were always to be strangers to her, and, in gratitude, had vowed to make a sacrifice of her best robes. The woman, wearied no doubt with the conjuror's unceasing drum and song, probably too, believing that a false confession was the lesser evil, as it might bring the promised relief, acknowledged that the conjuror was in the right. The penalty she was told to pay consisted of the sacrifice of throwing away of two robes, or double the amount of the promise she had made, after which her health was to be restored.

Scenes similar to the one just described may be witnessed whenever several families are camping together ; but the sacrifices required to be made depend upon the ability of the deluded creatures to satisfy the demands of the conjuror.

“ The Happy Hunting Grounds,” the Heaven of Indians, so often