

## **BLACK ELK'S UNIVERSAL MISSION**

Black Elk, one of the most well known Native American leaders, is in many degrees one of the least understood. Until his death he was a faithful preserver and promoter of the Lakota ways. However, the medicine man became a Roman Catholic in 1904. From then, until his death in 1950, he remained faithful to this choice too.

Black Elk preserved all the best elements of his cultural heritage in his testament of The Sacred Pipe. He also continued to bring to his people and other tribes the teachings of the historical Jesus. Truly, the elder Lakota found himself at home in both cultures and worlds, becoming a representative of a new humanity beyond races and creeds. In struggling toward a personal understanding of spiritual reality, he integrated a tradition of spiritual revelation with knowledge of the historical role of Jesus Christ.

The controversy that has endured about Black Elk's spiritual allegiances can be put to rest through the content of Black Elk's own words and biography. His life is the enactment of his Great Vision.