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Interview whith the Din Katchongva of Hotevilla,
Independent Hopi Nation, Arizona.
David Monongye as Interpreter. Evening of May 8,1963
At the home of David Monongye, No other persons
present.

Rock writings found in many places are our monuments of authority over the land. We, the Hopis, hold the key to salvation. We cannot fail. The day of Purification is now very near at hand. We do not want to rule over other people, but want to be as brothers to all other people. We want to adhere always to our traditions handed down to us from the time we were shown the way to this land, to keep and to hold according to the instructions given to us in the beginning by the Great Spirit. But contrary to our authority over this land and our way of life, the White Man and the U.S. government have maligned us, intimidated, robbed, cheated us and even flayed our bodies in the most criminal, malicious and humiliating ways. Nevertheless we have not lost our faith and trust in the Great Spirit, nor have we desired evil or retaliation to our oppressors.

The White Man brought the bible, which he has tried to force us to accept in place of our own heritage and Traditions given us by the Great Spirit. He tried to persuade and force us to believe the bible to be superior to our own teachings. The White Man made a very bad example of that bible, since he has not kept true even to the alleged teachings in his bible. He has used every evil device to destroy us because we could not accept his dictates, his rule, and his law, that were designed to dominate us and make us pawns and subject to his aggressive and forceful rule.

Now we-- a simple and humble people-- we pray in our way of life, and our life is one of continuous and diligent prayer. We never lose faith, despite the extremely hard life of the harsh desert, made manyfold more difficult by the appression and interference of the White Man. Being human too, we err and stumble as we struggle, especially because of the White Man's uncompromising pressures. We humbly ask for justice, and for the good White People to help us restore our legitimate independence as a Hopi People and a Hopi Nation as before the pillage, plunder and encroachment of the U.S. government which, despite its agreements, treaties and promises has never kept its word at any time on any point, very much out of keeping with its profession of freedom, justice and democracy. Like the bible missionaries it has not practiced what it promised or preached. We ask and pray for adequate opportunity to explain and present our just grievances to all people of goodwill everywhere.

We have had many prophesies handed down to us and they have unfolded true as given. Our people knew before the advent of the White Man that he was to come from accross the waters to escape oppressions they objected to, and they in turn inflicted greater indignities upon us. Our prophesies told of all this and warned us not to lose our faith and trust in the Great Spirit, or deviate from the Hopi way of life as given to us in the beginning. But the White Man has not been satisfied to take posession of most of the land, its waters and vast mineral resources. He has forced, tricked and decieved us at every turn to satisfy his never satiated greed and is never content but to force his own ways and religion upon all other peoples.

Before the encroachment of the White Man, our way of life was beautiful, simple and true, because we adhered strictly to the Way of the Great Spirit, without interference. We practiced our faith diligently and the people were hardy, industrious and happy. We were enjoying a good life, and we held true to our faith, our traditions and 'culture. This is our way and our choice; we cannot take the White Man's way or be like him and we were warned by our prophesies that if we did not hold true then we would lose the promise of safety and fulfillment in the day of Purification, which, we were told, would come following a time of many trials and tribulations.

Now all indians originated in one place upon this earth, and the first people then spread out and went in every direction to take possession of the land and live upon it in keeping with the original instructions given to us. In the different places the conditions were different and the people developed different ways of speaking and all the traditions were committed to memory, so that the Spirit of them would become permanent in the mind, heart and soul of the people. This explains in part why I am holding fast to the great responsibility I have been entrusted with as a traditional Chief, expected by his people and the Great Spirit never to yield or waver from the True Path.

We know the White Man was to come from across the waters, and we welcomed him, and shared our good things with him, but in a short time he turned against us and used every device and deciet wanting only to take away everything, and destroy us, and failing in this, to destroy our spirit, our culture and our traditions, which the U.S. Government is doing relentlessly to this day. The White Man has never done these things -- and much more—with our consent. Washington has not been consulting the legitimate leaders, who are the true Chiefs, and their helpers, for their decisions for the good of the people in keeping with their own culture, traditions and way of life which is natural for them. From the first coming of the White Man he has dealt with the native inhabitants of this land with deceit, hypocricy, indignity, force and violence.

Violence is little used now, but all the rest of the White Man's ways are still very much in use. Little can the average U.S. citizen realize what trickery and fraud its Government is perpretrating on the native inhabitants even today. We want the world to know what is being done and has been done to us and hope that the evil deeds can be back-tracked and stopped. We cannot turn our backs to our ways, we promised to keep them until the day of Purification. Then, we were told, a new way would be given to us, if we remained true up until then. We were also told that if we did not remain true, we, too, would be destroyed in the last days.

We, the true governing leaders of our people, have never consented to all the inroads the U.S. Government has made upon us. The signatures and consent they did get were from "puppet councils" set up by the intriguing Indian Bureau Agents. They do not, and never did, represent the true and legitimate governing bodies of our people. The Indian Bureau never had the right to change our own form of governing bodies, which we have held to our traditions from the very beginning. We kived successfully under them and suffered much less difficulties or troubles than we do now. Yes-- we were told about the coming of the White Man, who would give us sweet talk but would speak with the forked tongue, and would keep none of his promises. But we were warned not to yield or to concede to his wiles, deceits or even violence, nor permit our hearts to turn to hate, in spite of all this.

We were told that we must remain true to our prayers to the Great Spirit, and that if even one of us did this to the very end, then our people would be spared and all the things given to us to cherish and to hold from the very beginning would be given back to us, and a new way of life given by the Great White Brother who is to come to conduct the Day of Purification.

The Government set up schools against our consent and the children were forced into ways contrary to our own culture. It insists on determining for us what is good for us according to the ways of the White Man. But what is good for them is not sure to be good for us. The Government gives us no choice, but forces upon us its own dictums. Even where it meant well it has made some horrible mistakes and we have suffered. We are not stubborn but we must hold true to our promises to the Great Spirit and cannot let ourselves be forced into other ways. Those who do force us will have to answer for their indignities. And the day is not far off. It is wrong for one people to force their ways on another people of another nature, tradition and culture. Where is there freedom and justice in this?

We are a native people of this land and we have been squeezed into an area of confinement called a "reservation." What right did this government have to do this? Is this not our very own land? Were we not sent down here by the Creator, who gave us instructions with genuine sanction and authority? We are in fact an Independent Nation with Sovereign rights, and responsibilities as such. Does the U.S. dictate terms and conditions and take whatever land it wants from Mexico or Canada? We, too, are likewise a sovereig. Independent Nation, just as many other tribes are also Independent Nations. Now the world is faced with another war, but we are not at war or hostile with any other country. We are a people of peace. "Hopi" means "peace." The U.S. Government is criminal when it is at war and comes upon our land and by police force takes our boys to wage war against other men, against whom they have no hate or quarrel. It did this during the second world war. It kidnapped and highjacked our young men with force and violence when the boys did not fall for the fraudulant deceits of the agents who came for them. I will not permit our boys to be conscripted and the U.S. has no legal right even under international law, to conscript men from another nation. Our land is our country and we have our own form of Government which we follow in our own way, according to our promises to the Great Spirit. Why can't the White Man understand this? Is it not simple enough? We are a peaceful people. That is the way the Great Spirit made us and we do not want to go contrary to the Great Spirit.

The White Man's way of being and thinking is indeed different then ours. His way is the way of duplicity, deceit, fraud, vanity, greed, force and violence. The record of the White Man prooves that. Our way is the way of much humbleness, truth, peace and natural simplicity. With prayer we live, and our lives are in prayer. The White Man simply does not understand us, nor does he put out much effort to try to understand us and it seems he does not want to bother to try to understand us, since he finds it more convenient to his own designs to force his demands upon others by every trick, deceit and device, even war if need be. To him his own ends justify the means. But the World is facing a great crisis and it is said that this will up the minds of the peoples to the simple truth. In the deeper recesses of the conscience is the Spirit which which will come out when there is no other way to turn in evil. The righteous ones will be saved when

the Great White Brother returns on the Day of Purification. Armies, weapons, police force, fixed and fraudulent courts of law and diplomacy will not save the unrighteous then. The True Inner Conscience will strike every man. No man can escape it. That is why I am making my points strong, but I have yet to make still stronger points as we get nearer to that Day of Purification. This is my sacred duty, which I cannot, dare not shirk. We are threatened by a "gourd of ashes" that hangs in the sky, if we fail, and by floods and other calamities.

We want the opportunity to explain our words to all people. We must do this. It is our duty. We have to contradict those who serve motivations not those of the Great Spirit. All people must turn from their wrong ways of vanity, selfishness and greed, and be led by the voice of the Great Spirit. He will show the way and put good in the hearts and minds of the people who turn to Him. Those who trust more in their own powers, strength and cunning will learn how false and untrue they are when it is too late. Such people will make mockery of these warnings but they will remember these words.

The effects of evil are sharpening now and coming to a frightful focus and all people tremble in fear and confusion. All people
know this is the time of the end, but they prefer to turn their
minds from it, because it is too painful to admit what they
see. I was told that at this time someone who speaks English would
come to help us convey this message. I cannot speak English, and
the is why Thomas Banyakya and David Monongye would be prepared
to be my ear and tongue and they have my authority to listen and
speak for me and they will convey all messages to me in turn.
They have my authority to represent me and those who wish to talk
with me can talk with them to inform or get information. It would
be ill for anyone for whatever motive to try to deceive
these two men. They have my authority to serve and represent me.

It is our sacred duty to linform all people of the things that have been kept from them. They must be told of what is going on so they will not be innocent of error. They may not think that what is happening to us at the hands of the U.S. Government through the agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has any bearing Zon them. But indirectly it really does. We were told that step by step the government would encreach upon our sovereign rights, by fraud, deceit and force, whichever served it best. We were told that when the time came when the goverment appropriated our lands as theirs, and took away our culture and traditions, and made us citizens against our wishes, _ then we would fall under their system of taxation and the full extent of their police and laws. We are a free, independant sovereign people by sacred law. We have our own culture, traditions, ways of life, governing bodies through the system of Chiefs, and our own ways of educating our you ths, fitting into our culture rightly and naturally as provided by the instructions handed down to us by the Great Spirit from the very beginning. We do not want the White Man's ways forced upon us because they are not made for us and they do not fit us. We want to keep to the promises of our prophecies, which if we keep them, we will be given a new set of instructions on the day of Purification. We await the coming of the Great White Brother we were promised would come in the last days. It is our duty to warn of these things to avert needless hardship and violence and make the day of Purification one of great joy and happiness for all good men. We all know that we are all Brothers under the skin and the Great Spirit is the Rather of All.