

HENRY SMITH'S ACCOUNT OF CHIEF SEATTLE'S ORATION

The following is the oration allegedly spoken by Chief Seattle, leader of the Duwamish and Suquamish Indians of Puget Sound, to Isaac Ingalls Stevens, governor of the Washington Territory, in 1854 or 1855. Physician Henry Smith was supposedly present for Seattle's speech, and he wrote it down in 1887. However, because over three decades passed before Smith wrote out his account, it is unclear to this day whether these words should be attributed to Chief Seattle or Henry Smith. Depending on its source, the speech says different things about the meaning of manifest destiny.

Yonder sky that has wept tears of compassion upon our fathers for centuries untold. . . . The son of the White Chief says his father sends us greetings of friendship and good will. This is kind of him, for we know he has little need of our friendship in return because his people are many. They are like the grass that covers the vast prairies, while my people are few: they resemble the scattering trees of a storm-swept plain. . . . There was a time when our people covered the whole land as the waves of a wind-ruffled sea covers its shell-paved floor, but that time has long since passed away with the greatness of tribes almost forgotten. . . . When the last Red Man shall have perished, and the memory of my tribe shall have become a myth among the white man, these shores will swarm with the invisible dead of my tribe, and when your children's children think themselves alone in the field, the store, the shop, or in the silence of the pathless woods, they will not be alone. . . . The White Men will never be alone. Let him be just and deal kindly with my people, for the dead are not powerless— Dead—I say? There is no death. Only a change of worlds.

Henry A. Smith, "Chief Seattle's 1854 Oration," *Seattle Sunday Star*, Oct. 29, 1887, as quoted in T. C. McLuhan, *Touch the Earth: A Self Portrait of Indian Existence* (New York: Promontory Press, 1971).

WILLIAM CLAYTON DESCRIBES MORMON SETTLEMENT OF UTAH

The following is an excerpt from William Clayton's journal written on July 22, 1847 overlooking the Salt Lake Valley. Clayton was an English convert to Mormonism and was a part of the first group of Mormons to enter the Salt Lake Valley.

For my own part I am happily disappointed in the appearance of the valley of the Salt Lake, but if the land be as rich as it has the appearance of being, I have no fears but the Saints can live here and do well while we will do right. When I commune with my own heart and ask myself whether I would choose to dwell here in this wild looking country amongst the Saints surrounded by friends, though poor, enjoying the privileges and blessings of the everlasting priesthood, with God for our King and Father; or dwell amongst the gentiles with all their wealth and good things of the earth, to be eternally mobbed, harassed, hunted, our best men murdered and every good man's life continually in danger, the soft whisper echoes loud and reverberates back in tones of stern determination; give me the quiet wilderness and my family to associate with, surrounded by the Saints and adieu to the gentile world till God says return and avenge you of your enemies.

William Clayton's Journal, as quoted in William Mulder and A. Russell Mortensen, eds., *Among the Mormons: Historic Accounts by Contemporary Observers* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1973), 225–26.