

DAKOTA IMAGES

Ella Cara Deloria

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Lakota Translation by Alex FireThunder

Ella C. Deloria, a well-known linguistic anthropologist, dedicated her life to portraying a realistic picture of American Indians. A Yankton Sioux, she was born in Wakpala, South Dakota, on the Standing Rock Reservation on 30 January 1888. She received her early education at All Saints School in Sioux Falls, going from there to Oberlin College in Ohio, and then to Columbia University where she received her B.S. degree. After teaching for several years, she served as the national health education secretary for Indian schools and reservations for the YWCA.

In 1929 she was appointed research specialist in Indian ethnology and linguistics with the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University. With the famous anthropologist Franz Boas, she coauthored two works on the Dakota language prepared for the technical use of scholars. She also contributed many articles to *Folklore Journal* and other periodicals on Sioux Indian legends, customs, music, and beliefs.

In addition, Deloria served on survey committees of Indian communities and lectured on the social, economic, educational, and religious aspects of Indian life from first-hand knowledge. She was the only woman member and the only Indian on the Navajo Enquiry party of four experts, sponsored by the Phelps-Stokes Fund of New York in 1944. For her work with Indians she received the annual award given by the Indian Council Fire of Chicago to the American Indian whose achievements are worthy of national recognition. She was a recipient of a Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and until her death on 12 February 1971, she was doing research for the University of South Dakota (USD) under a National Science Foundation grant.

Wíjyaŋ waŋ Aŋpétu Wašté Wíŋ ečiyapi k'up hé iyápi-wapásika
na wičhóuŋ-wapásika héčha yuŋkháŋ, thóni kiŋ ópta Ikčé-
Wičháša-Wičhóuŋ kiŋ wičákheya oyákiŋ na owá égnake s'a. Hé

Iháŋktȟuŋwaŋ-Dakȟóta héčha éyaš 1888 k'uŋ héhaŋ, Wiótheȟika-Wí aŋpétu ičíwíkčemna-yámni háŋl, Íŋyaŋ Woslál Háŋl Oyáŋke ektá Wakpála, South Dakota, ektá tȟúŋpi škhé. Íŋyaŋ Okábleča Othúŋwahé ektá Owáyawa waŋ, "All Saints," eyápi čha, él wayáwa na hetáŋhaŋ makȟópašpe waŋ Ohio eyápi kiŋ ektá Oberlin Waŋkátuya Owáyawa el wayáwa na heháŋl Columbia Waŋkátuya Owáyawa él wayáwa na hétu čha, wówapisutá waŋ kamná. Waníyetu tóna waúŋspewičhakhiye kiŋ ohákab, YWCA ektá wówaši ečhúŋ na Ikčé-Wičháša-owáyawa kiŋ úŋ tháŋtanhaŋ wawókiye.

1929 k'uŋ héhaŋ, Columbia Waŋkátuya ektá Ikčé-Wičháša-Wičhóuŋ kiŋ ogná wapásika-wóphike héčha. Wičháša očháštháŋinj waŋ Franz Boas ečíyapi kiŋ, kičhí Lakȟól'iyapi-wówapi núŋm káge. Hó naháŋ Lakȟóta-wičhóoyake na wičhóh'áŋ na olówaŋ na wówičala kȟó, hená iwóglakiŋ na owá egnake s'a.

Naháŋ nakúŋ tóna-okȟólakičhiye él ópȟa na wičhóh'áŋ na wičhóuŋ na mázaska na wóuŋspe na wóčhekiye iwóglake. Hená yuhá úŋ čha itéšniyanj ištá úŋ wanýáŋkiŋ na núnjé úŋ naȟ'úŋ na átaya oslólye. 1944 háŋl, okȟólakičhiye waŋ, "Navajo Enquiry party of four experts," eyápi kiŋ ogná išnála wíŋyaŋ héčha na nakúŋ išnála ikčé-wičháša héčha. Ikčé-Wičháša ób wówaši ečhúŋ čha hé úŋ wóyuoniháŋ waŋ, "Indian Council Fire of Chicago Annual Award," eyápi čha, k'úpi ičhíŋ táku tólkhuŋ kiŋ hé makȟásitomniyanj oslólyapi. 1971 k'uŋ héhaŋ, Čhaŋnáphópa-Wí aŋpétu ičíakenuŋja háŋl, wičhóni ékignake éyaš, heháŋhuŋniyaŋ South Dakota Waŋkátuya Owáyawa (USD) ektá wapási na wówaši ečhúŋ.

