

“...for Box Butte was a holy hill, a shrine where people went to pray for all sorts of blessings, but mostly for a long life... 'We shall visit the holy hill.' She called Little Chief in from play, telling him, 'Grandchild, as your grandfather said, we are going up there now... You and your sister shall leave your very own prayers today.'

They had climbed the south side, about the middle of the butte. The pile of prayers was at the west end, the 'sunset end.' They watched her unfold a bit of painted deerskin and spread it out. It contained ceremonial red paint. With a little of it on her fingertips she carefully painted each child's right palm. 'Before you handle holy things you must have sacred paint on your hands,' she told them. Then she painted their stones and instructed them to place their prayers where they would stay.

Great Mystery... See these little ones... They have become your relatives today...”

Ella C. Deloria, *Waterlily* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988).

Spiritual values and religious beliefs and practices were very important to the traditional cultures and daily lives of many Native Americans, including the Oceti Sakowin.

Ella C. Deloria, *Waterlily* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988).