

Plains Pictorial Art: Narrative Style
Meet the Artist: His Fight

Recommended for All Grades

This is Oki'cíze-ta'wa (His Fight), or Ćehu'pu (Jaw). He was from the Hunkpapa band of the Lakota Nation. Like many Lakota people, His Fight received several names during his lifetime. The names were given to him for his accomplishments and important things that happened to him.

His Fight was born in 1850. His mother died when he was young, so his grandmother raised him. He hunted birds by the time he was seven years old, and his grandmother cooked them for dinner. At the age of seventeen he was already known for his horse raiding skills. Horse raiding was the act of taking horses from another group of people and required bravery and intelligence. A successful horse

raid gave the person honor and was also a sign of wealth in the community.

His Fight drew his accomplishments on paper and cotton cloth, called muslin. An untrained artist, His Fight could capture the important graphic details of horses and figures in his work. He also recounted his deeds in sketchbooks that featured himself and his fellow warriors.

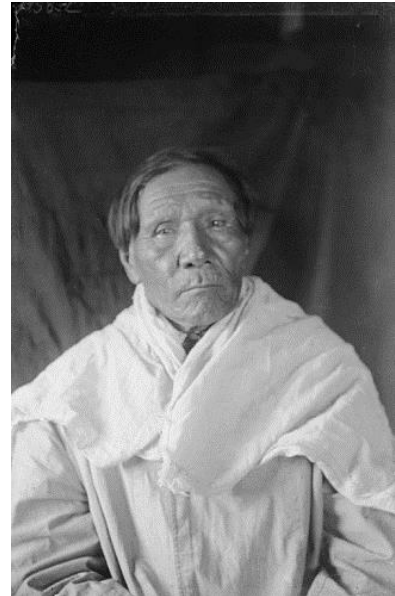
The Hunkpapa Lakota Horse Raiding painting tells the story of how His Fight captured seventy horses in one raid. "I did not wake or kill any of the Crows: I just took their horses," His Fight said. As he got closer to home, he and his friends let out a loud wolf howl. Everyone in the community came out. A special song was sung to celebrate.

Horses I seek

So

I am bringing them

From *Teton Sioux Music* by Frances Densmore, 1918.



His Fight (Hunkpapa Lakota).
BAE GN 03358c, National
Anthropological Archives,
Smithsonian Institution



Painted muslin by His Fight (Hunkpapa Lakota) depicting a horse raid against the Apsáalooke (Crow), ca. 1880. South Dakota or North Dakota. National Museum of the American Indian. (6/7932)