

text transcribed from *Blackhawk/Effigy/Roads*, 2025  
Nitaawe Shananaquat Shepherd

**Text 1:**

You caught a big red fish. There was that permanent furrow in your brow. Papa John gutted it and cut it into chunks and we had some in a ziplock in a freezer. A month later you died I got it out of there along with the lobster tails you pillaged as you would say from Whole Foods and I put it in Sal's freezer. I left the deer hide I was too busy drinking to ever process at Columbus St. I tried harder than anything to get you out of there which is silly because in retrospect it's pretty obvious you already did that your self. I didn't try very hard to get me out of there before I left New Orleans so I dream about the house all the time and my Dad said I'm still a ghost there haunting it. Not you though you unfolded into everything are are everywhere especially Crepe Myrtle. There was a big storm and all the power went out in the 9th Ward so the red fish you caught thawed and went sour. The deer probably got like that too. Someone probably threw it out. And that is when I became sour fish. Rotting fish woman, they say there is nothing more horrible than that.

So my heart cracked open  
& buried itself into the mounds  
& from there grows corn, beans, and squash

We are using  
The well-fed & rancid  
Which kills its own God  
As fertilizer

It created sins  
To place all-over  
We will waste nothing  
We will grow from sin  
And live and live and live and live

**Text 2:**

There is evil magic being done with how they  
use our names and what is done with the things  
attached to them and where the roads go.  
That goes with the other stuff they taught  
us, like addiction & exploitation & shames,  
paralysis, forgetting

the path of a road is very important  
The path of a road can make sure the  
life force of a people in a place is circulating  
real good as they go about their days just  
like veins connect the organs  
The main road for Wounded Knee used to  
begin at the Sundance Grounds. In a  
continuation of the spirit of interference  
which was the Indian reorganization  
act, that federal plant & Custer descendant  
Dick Wilson was installed as tribal president &  
this road was wordlessly re routed to no  
longer be connected to the ceremonial grounds.  
This cut off the veins/path of the place as a  
major organ, and new connections were  
installed on the terms of the enemy, to places  
like IHS Hospital, Commod Office, White Clay, NE,  
the fort, sources of poison and killing, tumors on  
the land

We have paths inside of us that the enemy  
cannot see & will never find  
We have paths inside of us that the enemy  
has dug without us noticing

**Text 3:**

Black Hawk was tricked into signing a document that reaffirmed the treaty of 1804 which ceded Sauk & Fox homelands in now Michigan & Illinois to the U. S. In 1828 the peoples were displaced west of the Mississippi to Iowa. The people disputed the validity of the treaty & Black Hawk led a number of attempted homecomings to the eastern side of the Mississippi in Illinois between 1830-31 but he returned west each time due to feeling he was putting his people in too much danger. Come 1832, Wabokieshiek prophesized that other tribes would come to stand beside his peoples return, so he led 1500+ of (warriors, old men, women, children) to the east. Finding that the British hadn't followed thru w/ their claim of support, he attempted to again safely return his people west, but the Illinois militia attacked them. This Became a war between The Michigan territory + Illinois militias, & Black Hawk's band fighting to return to their homelands, alongside Sauk, Meskwaki, & Kickapoo allies The people traveled east along Rock River to meet Wabokieshiek. The war grew on either side, the Potawatomi joined Black Hawk. It was later called the last Native American War. Militias caught up to them @ Bad Axe & slaughtered hundreds of Sauk & Potawatomis so everyone was forced to surrender. Black Hawk and Wabokieshiek

Interrobang 11232  
734a 4th ave, brooklyn, ny  
interrobang11232@gmail.com  
985-705-3337

wanted

To surrender to Indian agent Joseph  
Street but were instead taken to Zachary  
Taylor so they ran away to hide out on  
a secret island in the Mississippi, I'd  
like to go there. But eventually they  
had to surrender to Jefferson  
Davis, the future president of the  
Confederacy.

Black Hawk, Wabokieshiek, Nea-Pope, & eight other leaders were captured & held at Jefferson Barracks.  
Before they were taken to

Ft. Monroe, Andrew Jackson ordered that they be paraded through crowds @ major cities to be made an  
example of & because

he wanted them to be scared of the "power" of the U.S. and they wanted them to feel humiliated. In  
cities like Baltimore,

Philly, & N.Y. the crowds amassed to gasp at the spectacle. In cities like Detroit, closer to where the war  
had taken place,

the crowds amassed to show them burned & hanged effigies of themselves. The tour/spectacle ended  
w/ Washington

DC, where Jackson and Sec. of war spoke shit 2 them before taking them to prison

It was while they sat in this prison that all those portraits of Black Hawk were drawn & painted

They took his image while he was there. They took his name

They took his name and put it onto their roads

They took his name and put it onto their sports teams, schools, golf courses, banks

They took his name and put it onto their war machines, & used them to kill resistance leaders &  
commit genocides & occupations & imperial & colonial horror all over the world

I think of one day when these machines are worn out old husks & the living world overtakes them  
& embraces them to the ground & blooms all over & the people will come & take it apart &  
use every last piece for something else & waste nothing