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James M. Fire

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Arapaho Reverie

By James M. Fire

East brought chilling winds
with assent mysterious circle
and shrouds of sacred dance
became winter's wish.

Arapaho yearns for heart-touch
but like smoke from fires
of summer's camp dissipates
lost in time, in another place.

Spirit leaps as exploding cinder
morning dew falls upon tongue
hold warm earth in hand
touch sweetness of sacred winds.

Heart soars above the timbers
above eternal sea of rolling plains
where buffalo's thunder
echoes songs of Man-above.

Indian spirit refreshed
from waters of winding, sandy-streams
carves earth, tenderly, caressingly
ever drinking of its seasons.

Flight of eagle, dance of fire-fly
moved by whispering four winds
explosion of snowflake
covers genesis to tomorrow.

PERSPECTIVES

introspective heart touch

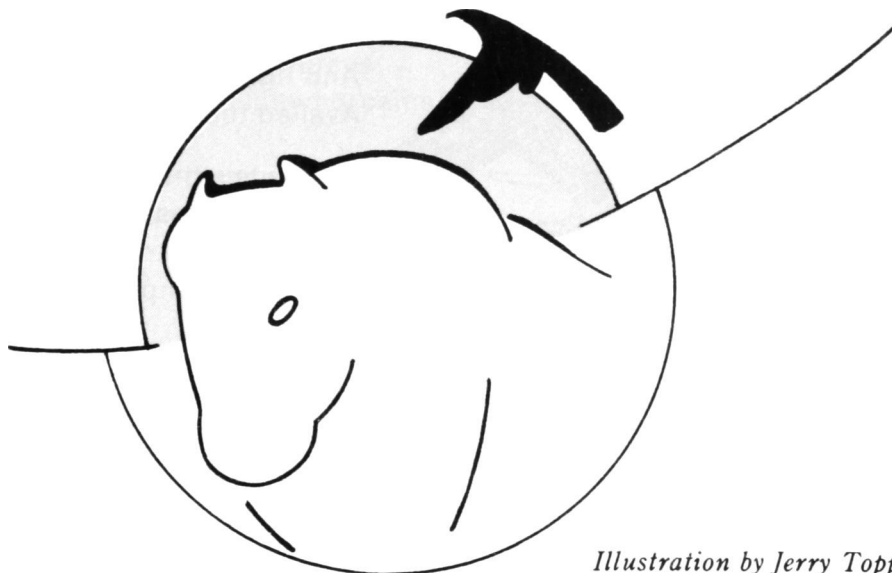


Illustration by Jerry Toppah

JAMES M. FIRE of Bethany is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and is an Arapaho chief. He has served as a pastor in Colony, Thomas, and Clinton.