Letter to Western Indians from the Meeting for Sufferings

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To the Indians living on the northwestern and
western borders of the United States, and all others to whom
this writing may come.

Brothers,

Hearken to the speech which your friends, called Quakers,
assembled in Philadelphia from several parts of Pennsylvania and
New Jersey gave new wind to you, by their Watson John Parrish,
William fatty, John Elliott Jacob Lindsay, Joseph Moore, and
William Shawhouse.

Brothers,

When our grandfathers came with once over the great waters
to settle in this land, more than one hundred years ago, they styled a
large council fire with your grandfathers, and sat together round it in
much good will and friendship, smoking the Calumet pipe together,
and they told your grandfathers that they were men of peace, and shine
to live among you in peace and love, and that their children might also
be careful always to live in the same love one with another, as brothers
of one family.

This council fire was kept burning with a clear flame
many years, which gave a good light all around the country; and the
chain of friendship which was made at the same time, was kept clean
from rust by our fathers, and your fathers, until about forty years ago
an evil spirit whispered bad stories in the ears of some of your people,
and some of the white people, so that the light of the ancient council fire
was almost put out, and the old chain of friendship was made dull and
rusty.

Brothers,

Our grandfathers told your grandfathers that the great and
good spirit, who made them all people, with a design that they might
live on the earth for a few years in love and good will one towards another
had planted his law in the hearts of all men, and if they carefully attended to
its inward voice, it would keep them in love and friendship, and teach them
to shun and avoid every thing that would occasion them to trouble and
hurt one another.

Brothers,

Do you not feel that after you have been angry, quarreled,
and done any bad action that you are made uneasy and sorrowful, and that
when you are sober and serious, and do good actions, that your minds feel
pleasant?
Philadelphiaytf the 19th day of the 4th month, 1793ytf ytf To the Indians living on the North western and western borders ofytf the United States, and all others to whom this writing mayytf come.

Brothers, ytf Hearken to the speech which your friends, called Quakers, assembled inytf Philadelphia, from several parts of Pennsylvania and and New Jersey Y. nowytf send to you, by their brethren Johnytf Parrish, William Savery,ytf John Elliot, Jacobytf Lindley, Joseph Moore, and ytf William Hartshorne. ytf Brothers

When our grandfathers came with Onas over the great waters, toytf settle in this land, more than one hundred years ago, they kindled a largeytf Council fire with your grandfathers, and sat together round it, in much goodytf will and friendship; smoking the Calumet pipe together, and they told yourytf grandfathers, that they were men of peace, and desire to live among you inytf peace and love, and that their children might also be careful always to livetyf in the same love one with another, as brothers of one family. ytf This Council fire was kept burning with a clear flame many years, which gaveytf a good light all around the Country; and the chain of friendship, which wasytf made at the same time, was kept clean from rust by our fathers, and yourytf fathers; until about forty years ago an evil spirit whispered bad stories inytf the ears of some of your people, and of some of the white people; so thatytf the light of the ancient council fire was almost full out, and the old chainytf of friendship was made dull, and rusty. ytf Brothers,

Our Grandfathers told your grandfathers that the great and goodytf Spirit, who made them, and all people, with a design that they might live onytf the earth for a few years in love, and good will one towards another, hadytf placed his law in the hearts of all men, and if they carefully attendedytf to its inward voice, it would keep them in love and friendship, and teachytf them to shun and avoid every thing that would occasion them to troubleytf and hurt one another. ytf Brothers,

Do you not find, that after you have been angry, &ytf quarrelsome, and done any bad action that you are made uneasy and sorrowful, ytf and that when you are sober and serious, and do good actions, that yourytf minds feel
pleasant, easy, and comfortable? It is the law from the good Spirit, who is all love, and placed it in your hearts that gives you such peace and comfort when you do well, but when you do evil things, it punishes you, and makes you feel uneasy and sad.

Brothers, we wish you to consider and remember, that the Great Spirit saw and knows all the thoughts of your hearts, and the hearts of all mankind, and all their actions, and when their bodies die, such many of all colours, and all nations, who have loved, served, and obeyed the holy law of the good Spirit, placed in their hearts, he will receive their souls which are never to die, and they will live with him in joy and peace forever; but the souls of bad men, who have lived wickedly in this world must lie, after their bodies die, with the bad spirit, in a state of distress and misery.

Brothers, we make profession of the same principle with our grandfathers, which teaches us to love you and all men, and in that love we put our minds drawn to send you this speech, with a great desire for your good, and we now receive glad when we hear that the colored people among you are disposed to promote peace and brightness the old chain of friendship with the white people of the United States. And that many of you have a desire that you may be instructed in telling the ground to live after the manner of the white people, which we believe you will find to be more comfortable for you and your families than to live only by hunting, and we think it will be also good for your young people to be taught to read and write, and that sober, honest, good men should be amongst you for teachers.

Brothers, we have often told some of your chiefs, when we have had the opportunity of talking them by the road in this city, that we are not concerned in the management of the affairs of government, which are under the direction of the president of the United States, and his councilors, but that we should at all times be willing to do anything in our power to promote love and peace.

Brothers, we greatly desire that the Commissioners who are now sent by the president, and your councilors and chiefs, may look up to the good Spirit for his wisdom and help, that you may all be made wise and strong to fight up the same fire, and brighten the chain of old friendship, that all things may be settled to satisfaction, and all laws taken out of the road, and a lasting peace established, so that there may be no more difference and war between your people and the inhabitants of these states.

And we desire you may receive our friends, by whom we send
pleasant easy and comfortable? It is the Law from the good
Spirit, who is all love, and placed it in your hearts, that gives you
such peace and comfort when you do well, but when you do evil things,
it reproves you, and makes you feel uneasy and sad.

Brothers,
We wish you to consider and remember, that the Great
Spirit sees and knows all the thought of your hearts, and the hearts of
ally mankind, and all their actions; and when their bodies die, such men
of ality colours, and all nations, who have loved, served, and obeyed the holy
law of the good Spirit, placed in their hearts, he will receive their Sould,
which are never to die, and they will live with him in joy and peace for
ever; but the souls of bad men, who have lived wickedly in this world
must live, after their bodies die, with the bad spirit, in a State of distress
and misery.

Brothers,
We make profession of the same principle with our Grandfathers,
which teaches us to love you and all men, and in that love we feel our minds
drawn to send you this Speech, with a great desire for your good; and we
were made glad, when we heard that the sober good people among you were
disposed to promote peace, and brighten the old chain of friendship with
the white people of the United States; and that many of you have a desire
that you may be instructed in tilling the ground, to live after the mirror
of the white people, which we believe you will find to be more comfortable
for you and your families, than to live only by hunting; and we think it will
be also good for your young people to be learn't to read and write, and that
sober, honest, good men should be sent among you for teachers.

Brothers,
We have often told some of your chiefs, when we have had
the opportunity of taking them by the hand in this City, that we are not concerned
in the management of the affairs of the Government, which are under the direction of
the president of the United States, and his councellors; but that we should at
all times be willing to do any thing in our power to promote love and peace.

Brothers,
We greatly desire that the Commissioners who are now sent by
the president, and your councellors and chiefs, may look up to the great Spirit
for his wisdom and help; that you may all be made wise and strong, to
light up the council fire, and brighten the chain of old friendship; that all things may be settled to satisfaction, and all logs taken out of the road, and
a lasting peace established; so that there may be no more difference and war
between your people and the Inhabitants of these States.

And we desire you may receive our friends,
and this writing in love, as brothers, who are disposed to encourage you in all good things. And in the antient love which our Grandfather and yours felt for each other, we salute you, wishing your happiness in this life, and in that which is to come, and remain,

Philadelphia the 19th day of the 11th month, 1793.

Your Friends and Brothers,

Isaac Page
James Moore
Richard Lawrance
Charles West
James Pemberton
Samuel Smith (Mark)
John Pemberton
David Bacon
George Churchill
Thomas Lightfoot
Robert Holiday
John Simpson
Simon Meredith
Nathan Taylor
Warner Miller

Nicholas Web
Joseph Bringham
John Drinker
David Evans
Thomas Welsuby
Benjamin Mason
Samuel Smith
Samuel Clark
Owen Biddle
Daniel Offley
Mark Milla
Oliver Parson
John Field
Caleb Cornall
Stephen Hendinshall

John Doolittle
Thomas Morris
William Wilson
Joseph Shotwell
John Pierce junior
Abraham Radwalder
Thomas George
Thomas Gashelter
John Roberts
Jonathan Evans junior
David Cumming
John Weston
James Emile
John Beam

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John Drinker
sendyf this writing in love, as brothers who are disposed to encourage you inyf all good things. And in the ancient love which our Grand fathers andyf yours felt for each other, we salute you, wishing your happiness in thisyf life, and in that which is to come, and remain, Your Friends andyf Brothers, ytf Isaac Zane, ytf James Moon, ytf Richard Lawrence, ytf Charles West, ytf John Bosse, ytf

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