



Smithsonian Institution  
*National Museum of Natural History*

Department of Anthropology  
*National Anthropological Archives*

**NAA MS 2891**  
*Requicken address- English 1889-90*  
***National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution***

Please cite the material in the following format:  
"NAA MS [Manuscript Number], National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution"

For example:  
"NAA MS 2108, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution"

BUREAU AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY  
CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

No. 1557

Stock: Iroquoian

Language: Onondaga

Collector: J.N.B. Hewitt - Buck ?

Place: - Date: 1889-90

Remarks: ReQuicken Address - English.

III - CONDOLENCE -D

2891  
557a M-D

ML 144

Requicken of 1889-90  
Buck? (English)

~~On League~~ The Mind-soothing Address. ~~League~~ D891  
III-D [Requicken] ~~On League~~ 1889-90 ~~PP~~ 10<sup>CP</sup>

It is the deplorable calamity which has befallen you that has brought us here.

We desire to express in words our thoughts. You are now unaware what kind of thing light is.

It is our intention moreover to speak out our graceless words. Deep darkness has fallen over you, and so the tears that stream down your face are no longer visible in the gloom.

Moreover, this being so, we will restore the normal condition of things when we have once completed your case.

Now we will wipe away the dropping tear-drops. We will use for this purpose the great <sup>dawn</sup> ~~sacred~~ skin. And will this not enable you to look again upon your kindred?

Now, my off-spring, there is another thing that happens to those who are stricken down by some affliction. The passage-way in the throat is choked and so is the body of such. It is even so with you.

<sup>D</sup> The modern name for handkerchief.

So now we clear out these obstructions in thy throat & body, so that for one 'small day' you may do your thinking undisturbed and in peace.

Now another thing happens to one, one whom misfortune has fallen. It is this. The passage-ways of his hearing are obstructed. It is even so with you, my offspring (those whom I have weaned). We now remove these obstructions from your ears, so that easily & peacefully you may hear whatsoever thing it may be that one may say.

Furthermore, there is yet another thing that happens to one who has fallen under some sad affliction. It is this. He is wrapped in darkness. Now we turn your darkness into day, for you. So that you may think in peace one 'small day.' Now another thing, the sky is lost to your view. We now make the sky clear & beautiful for you.

Now another thing. The sun is lost

to you view and you cannot see it, and you do not know that the sun is moving on in its course. So now, we replace the sun for you. Moreover, in the morning your eyes will see it issue to go on its journey. The day light will be beautiful, as the sun will be moving in its course. At the time that it reaches mid sky you will also recall the labors in which you were engaged for the welfare of our offspring.

Now another thing happens to one in distress & affliction. The inside of his body becomes filled with yellow spots. Furthermore, we now pour ~~your~~ body the liquor, *kya-we-ka-ho'-fe<sup>x</sup>*. This will wash away these yellow spots, & so now we pour the liquor down, so that you may breathe freely; we desire that for one 'small day' my offspring you may think in peace.

Now another thing. Blood is spread deep over the ~~places~~<sup>spots</sup> where you make your resting-places. Now we will renovate & make normal these places. We will wipe away

These blood pools, so that when the time comes far as to separate, your resting places will be beautiful & you will be in peace, sitting in comfort & peace of mind. My offspring, we desire that you may there 'one small day' peacefully meditate upon your affairs.

Now, another thing has happened. The charred brands, <sup>(ka-koo-hetc'-hä)</sup> are scattered about your fire-place. So now we gather them together and rekindle your fire, so that now there arises a beautiful smoke which touches the sky. And now we place you back in the ranks, - in the body of the people.

Now, furthermore, you, League Chief, our uncle, you must renew your labors in behalf of the welfare of our offspring.

We desire in this same place to do another work; to urge you, League Chiefs to renew your duties in behalf of the welfare of our offspring. It is for this cause solely that we thought of cheering you on in your work and inciting you to be faithful.

Now then we have come to the place

where the earth is roughly upturned. On him  
 on whom our words rested we will cast our  
 words. We will make the rough ground  
 smooth; furthermore, we will cast various  
 kinds of moss over the place, and a beau-  
 tiful slab we will put over it, for we desire  
 to have you <sup>my offspring,</sup> think in peace 'one small day';  
 and we intend that should it rain it will  
 not be wet, but lie in peace, & that should  
 it (the sun's rays) be hot it would be un-  
 disturbed and lie in peace. We desire to  
 reestablish what they did & what they ordained,  
 our forefathers, in that they said, "We place  
 a pole horizontally, and on it we hang a  
 pouch in which we place the short string  
 of wampum, a'-ton'-tak'-shä". Wheresoever the  
 mind of one shall be stricken with mis-  
 fortune, this thing one must take up, and  
 then advance, and there being surrounded,  
 there, at the 'edge of the ashes', one will seize  
 his knees' (in humiliation of spirit) and will  
 speak <sup>softly</sup> words of mildness & comfort. It would

~~it~~ it = the dead body.

6

not result in good should one speak  
loudly, <sup>rude</sup> words of harshness. The reason for  
speaking gently is the great misfortune that  
has happened.

Now, furthermore, we are employing the  
means ordained by our forefathers in this  
matter.

*Between*  
Now, My Offspring, another thing is this.  
On the two poles which are <sup>together</sup> side by side we  
place a torch. You, perhaps, my offspring, shall  
look upon it; I say, you, perhaps, may look up-  
on 'our death' (means of our death), then im-  
mediately you shall go through the middle  
of the house; so that from one end of it to the  
other that very night it shall be known to  
all our 'fires.' Let there appear no resting-  
place.'

This is the matter which we three brothers  
had in mind in coming here. So now the  
'announcing (wampum)' is on its way to the  
place where another affliction will occur.

Now furthermore we will say 'point the finger'  
to the one who will be again our assistant.

(end.) repy.

7. Reply to The Mind-soothing Address.

The voice of us, four brothers comes forth.  
The sorrow and affliction<sup>are no more</sup> that have fallen  
upon us daily in the past, and have hovered  
like brandished clubs over our very heads.

The mighty Spirit of Death goes about from  
place to place manifesting his subtle & supernatural  
powers of enchantment. The people do not know  
the shape of his face, as he goes about mani-  
festing his subtle and supernatural powers of  
enchantment.

So, furthermore, that is another thing which  
has been restored to its normal condition, and  
that is, the wasting away of that on which  
we had placed our hopes. Now, moreover,  
at some distance he floats away, and that  
<sup>you are</sup> too, in darkness. Now too it is not noticeable  
that we have our pipes in one place full of  
tears.

Now, furthermore, we will remedy  
this by wiping away the tears, so that  
for one small day you might be able to  
meditate in peace.

Now, another thing is like unto it.

The body is choked & engorged. Your ears are also engorged. The inside of your body is full of yellow spots so that it does not appear natural. So now we will pour into your body the liquor, feya-wä-ka-hö'-ke<sup>'ku'</sup>, and it will wipe these stains & blots away, so that 'one small day' you may meditate in peace.

There, now another thing needs our care. Darkness has fallen upon you, and you do not know what light is like. We now make it day for you, and we also beautify the sky for you, & we also set up the sun again for you. To-morrow when the sun arises, you will look upon it in peace and contentment, and at the same <sup>\*happier</sup> time your mind will be in a different state.

Furthermore, you have arisen from a bed of blood where you were sitting to come here. We now wipe away these blood-marks.

Now, there is another thing. Now at the

place where the clay is roughly upturned, we will smooth the earth, and we will throw over it various kinds of moss, & place over it a beautiful slab, so that it will lie in contentment & undisturbed; so that the heat (of the sun) will not reach it, & so that the beating rains will not disturb it. This is what our grandsires said: That whenever some one's mind will be stricken with misfortune, it will be in order to comfort such person by the "value of twenty" strings of wampum." And now you yourselves have suffered these losses of many. So, now, furthermore, we collect your bones, and set again your land in order.

Now, moreover, the brands of your fire are scattered, in the place where you have your assemblies. So now we rekindle your fire, so that a beautiful smoke shall again arise, & it shall touch the sky. We moreover place you again in the ranks (of chiefs) so that you may again work, so that "it will become, the day of our children." So now we place a pole horizontally & hung upon it a pouch in

(council)

which we drop the "short string." It is this that our grandfathers said, "That person whose mind has become sore shall take it therefrom, and <sup>one</sup> shall speak words of comfort & pity to them. It would not be good should one speak harshly for it will cause a renewal of grief leading to distraction.

Now another thing we put on the poles that are side by side, a torch. This torch you shall take up should you see the means of our death, and that very night let all in the house know it. Let there not appear a resting-place.

This is the matter that we wished to speak upon in regard to the affliction that has befallen you, my paternal kinmen.

So now furthermore keep in mind that that will now come to pass, seeing you said "you must point one out for us."

(end.)



Smithsonian Institution  
*National Museum of Natural History*

**Department of Anthropology**  
*National Anthropological Archives*

**The Smithsonian continues to research information on its collections. Contact Smithsonian for current status.**

Please observe the following rules for file sharing, which are intended to help protect the integrity of the material and associated information.

- Do not incorporate material into a publicly accessible database or website without checking with the National Anthropological Archives (NAA).
- Do not post whole manuscripts to a social media site, such as a blog, Facebook page, Twitter feed, etc;
- Do not modify or obscure the source information or copyright notice included in the material;
- If you deposit the material in a tribal library or resource center, make sure that the library or resource center knows the source of the original material and is aware of these rules. Please let the NAA know where material is deposited so that we can guide community members to it.

Questions? [naa@si.edu](mailto:naa@si.edu).