

Oldman Mountain

With head bowed and eyelids sealed in prayer,
 an Arapahoe youth crouched atop Oldman Mountain,
waiting alone in silence for a vision to come
 to reveal the paths of his future days.

A wind rush bent and shook the silver aspens
 and his ancestors came and whispered,
“You will be a shepherd of the mountains.
 gathering and tending sheep of the slopes
that your people may gain warmth and shelter
 against winter’s harshest chill and searing winds.”

Guided by the moon and morning constellations,
 the youth, now elevated to manhood,
descended the mountain with hope and joy
 to serve his people according to his vision’s call.