THE GREAT FATHER ABOVE A SHEPHERD CHIEF IS. I AM HIS and with Him I want not. He throws me a rope and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied. Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road. His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time, He will draw me into a valley. It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not, for it is in between those mountains that the Shepherd Chief will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.

Sometimes He makes the love rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean upon. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods. He puts His hand upon my head and all the “tired” is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over. What I tell is true. I lie not. These roads that are “away ahead” will stay with me through this life and after; and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Tepee and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever.

THE STORY BEHIND THE INDIAN VERSION OF THE 23RD PSALM

Many years ago, the Indians of the plains heard the 23rd Psalm and were much intrigued by it. They wanted to share its beauty with the neighboring tribes but could not because of language differences. It was suggested they put it into the universal Indian sign language, which was done. Many tribes shared its inspiration and loveliness.

A white missionary, Isabel Crawford, understood the Indian sign language so well that she could use it to portray the Psalm. Thinking it would be interesting to translate the sign language version back into literal English she did so, and the Indian version of the 23rd Psalm is the result.

Courtesy of the Cook Christian Training School