

*W.S. Merwin's workings from Robert Lowie's
Crow Texts. Merwin himself an old hand at
Indian & other workings as in his book of
translations from Atheneum Press, Quechua
pieces in Technicians of the Sacred, etc.*

CROW VERSIONS

1

I am making
a wind come here

it's coming

2

Child listen
I am singing

with my ear on the ground

and we love you

3

Your way
is turning bad

and nobody but you
is there

4

If all of me is still there
when spring comes
I'll make a hundred poles

and put something on top
sun

for you
you

right there I'll make a small sweat lodge
it's cold
I'll sprinkle charcoal

at the end of it
my death

sun
it will all be for you

I want to be still there
that's why I'll do it

thank you

I want to be alive

If my people multiply
I'll make it for you

I'm saying
may no one be sick

so I make it

so

5

If there is someone above
who knows what happens

You

today I have trouble
give me something to make it
not so

if there is someone inside the earth
who knows what happens

I have trouble today
give me something
to make it not so

whatever makes these things
now just as I am
I have enough

give me just for me
my death

I have enough sadness

He was there
Old Man Coyote

Water all over the earth
no animals

He looked around
grabbed

and there was a little bird

a swallow
they say

He told it Go down
bring earth

it brought none

Then a crow
Go down
get some mud

it brought none

Wolf
you bring it

it brought none

Old Man said
Nothing I can do

grabbed a duck
then duck gone

it's gone

he said to himself it won't be back
he brought earth

made this world
here

then mud people
mud man
mud woman

at that time
with only that much mud
that was how

Afterward there was a baby
a boy

then he had a baby
a girl

so
as they say again and again
now there was
being born

more people
came to be

you get married
you make others

I am climbing
everywhere is

coming up