

Scene 3

Setting: Ehtamwa's camp. There is a fire pit with a pot of tea. Blackberry bushes stage left.)

Cast: Seno, Charles, and Ehtamwa a Native American

(Lights up. Ehtamwa is on stage gathering firewood.)

Seno

(From offstage)

Tamwa, yo Tammwa...

(Seno and Charles enter stage right)

Ehtamwa

Ho, we wen et wi, mah ka te ha ih ka na wi, tti ta bi no! Greetings, my good black-earth friends, please, sit with me!

(They sit and Ehtamwa pours tea for them from the pot.)

I have something to show you.

(He unfolds a woolen blanket with many images on it.)

Here is the story of the red earth people. I have been chosen, and will not cease, to tell my people's story.

In the days before the intruders, the forests and streams were our refuge; giving us food and shelter; a gathering place for our leaders, and the resting place of our fathers. From sunrise to sunset, as far as the eye could see, our spirit was free to wander.

Then came the stranger; a few at first then many more; taking our land, our game, and in the end seeking to own our very souls, and the souls of our children.

But my people would not willingly surrender what was ours. For many years brave warriors of the Red Earth people fought to save our way of life, heeding the call of the Hawk, the battle cry sounded by our leaders as we joined the fight.

After many fierce battles, it was shown that we would not be able to halt the path of the intruder; no longer blessed to freely share in the fruit of the land as partakers and preservers of life, in our portion of the great circle of the earth.

Unable to roam, and our spirit deeply wounded, the earth was no longer our sanctuary. And when our sacred burial ground on these hills was violated, the anguish in the eyes of the elders was clear. And the blood of those wrongfully slain cried out for justice in the whistling wind of the treetop.

Charles

Our people been through a lot, 'Tamwa. Seem like them people don' never git enough: wanna own 'bout e'ery'thing. Much 'bliged fo' the tea. Seno, we bes' be gettin'back.

Ehtamwa

Wait. Come with me. There are ripe berries, just over the ridge.

(Motions stage left, they go and pick.)

Seno

Mmmm..uumm, these some sweet berries. Almos' worth getting' stuck with these stickers.

Ehtamwa

(Pointing off left)

Over there, just after sunrise, I shot a turkey. He will be good eatin'. His flock roosts not far from the Sand Cave, on the bluff.

(They turn and start stage right Seno in back. He about steps on a snake and jumps back.) (Rattler sound)

Seno

You see that rascal? Darn snake. Scare the hell out o' me.

(Lights down)