

1-1-2008

Indian Peaks

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Custom Citation

Gregory J. Hobbs, Indian Peaks, 11 U. Denv. Water L. Rev. 370 (2008).

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Indian Peaks

INDIAN PEAKS

But how am I to tell you
you who . . .
walk up my side
your lug sole boots sinking
into berry seeps
do you see how a heavier mark
you leave than she who walked
in deerskin not so long before you—
in your years 12,000 or so—
over the notch of my shoulder
into Middle Park to summer
with her people along Willow Creek
in beauty all around she walked
you follow the same path
in beauty you walk . . .
your voice of white fire
not yet lit.

ENDURING SENSE OF AMERICAN SELVES

A window particular
carved of water and the wind
from an ocean of sandstone

People emerging from the earth
four levels into the Glittering World
four sacred mountains

Opening to the east homeland opening
women to the north men to the south
center-west ancestors

Changing Woman at the source
mother and child
corn-pollen blessings

Grandmothers Grandfathers saying
middle-mountain horse wagons
sheep bells clanging in the distance

Teachers testing Red Lake waters
journaling Little Colorado poems
walk the long walk back