

PETITION OF IS-TATA SIN AND OTHERS TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN - July 17, 1863

Kansas Agency.  
Council Grove July 17<sup>th</sup> 1863.

My Great Father.

I wanted to go to Washington to see you, but you did not want me to come, and now as you told me, I ask my agent to write you a letter.

My Father! I am very poor and I want you to help me. I want to have two payments each year, and about \$20. for each person. I have a big debt to pay and want some money left after paying it.

Agent Montgomery stole \$2000. of our money. I want it. I send you the papers proving it one year ago, and want you to examine them and pay me the money. You owe us 300. cattle, 400 hogs, 400. chickens 300. hoes, and 300 axes. We got carts once, and you owe us six more. We dont want any of these things, but there value in money. Major Harvey promised us some work horses. Our Great Father told us we were. the richest of all the Indians; now we are poor. Major Harey told us we should have \$12000. as long as grass grows and the Kaw river runs; now we get only \$8000

We have had 150 horses stolen by your white children which by the Treaty of 1825, you ought to pay us for.

My Great Father! White men tell us that you are going to drive us off to another place. We dont want to go. We want our children to have this place when we are dead. My Great Father! Your White children have killed seven of my children, but I have listened to you and done them no harm. I suppose we have got some land on the Big Blue in Missouri. Which I think is worth a great deal of money, which I want. I hear this money has been taken to pay for our stone houses, and I want to know if there is any left. I don't like the land the commissioner gave to my Half Breed children, which is scattered all over the Reserve; but I want it altogether on Rock Creek. I don't like my trader, I want my first trader, Choteau, and another besides. We have some log-houses which need repairing very much.

The former Agent promised me a good house to live in besides the kitchen which I now have. I have seen the houses of the Head Chiefs of other tribes, and I am ashamed of my house. You owe us six medles which you promised me more than a year ago, and I have not received them yet. My braves would like to have nine small ones.

I need more cattle and farming tools.

I want a Blacksmith and a Carpenter.

The white man's mill takes half my corn and wheat; I want my own mill to grind for me. Some of my men have no fields, and they want them. I have heard that our last Agent took some of our money, I want you to write me if this is so. and if it has been paid back.

You promised to listen to my requests just as if I came to Washington and talked to you; and now my Great Father, I want you to attend to this and answer me very soon. I am very poor and hope you will do all you can for me and my people.

About 70 of my boys are fighting in the army of my Great Father, and I rejoice to hear of his success

Signed in the presence of,		
H. W. Farnsworth U.S. In Ag't,	Is tata sin	his X mark
Joseph James U.S. Interpreter	Nopa wi a	his X mark
his X mark	Kah hega nateaiga	his X mark

Joseph Dunlap  
Strong Sargent  
A Reeve

Wah Shun Gah	his X mark
E. be sun ga	his X mark
Pah hus ka lun ga	his X mark
Aloga wah ho	his X mark
Kuh he gu shun ga	his X mark
Net he ya wah ches so	his X mark
Wah hah na sun	his X mark
Kah he gate she	his X mark
Wah pat juh	his X mark
Wah ti an gah	his X mark
Shen ga wah Sa	his X mark
Ona Sha	his X mark
Mah she tum wa	his X mark
Pah hah na gah le	his X mark
No bah gah ho	his X mark
Pah du hol le	his X mark
Che hah she na ti en guh	his X mark