

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

HOPI NATION: Essays on Indigenous Art,
Culture, History, and Law

History, Department of

September 2008

Hopi Essence: Self-Portrait and Poem

Lomawywesa (Michael Kabotie)

Hopi Cultural Center and Museum, Second Mesa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/hopination>



Part of the [Indigenous Studies Commons](#)

Kabotie), Lomawywesa (Michael, "Hopi Essence: Self-Portrait and Poem" (2008). *HOPI NATION: Essays on Indigenous Art, Culture, History, and Law*. 18.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/hopination/18>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the History, Department of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in HOPI NATION: Essays on Indigenous Art, Culture, History, and Law by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Hopi Essence: Self-Portrait and Poem

Lomawywesa (Michael Kabotie)



The somber face, the snow-misting hair and the eyes looking at me/you is me—Lomawywesa, Antelopes Walking in Harmony. Born to the Snow/Water Clan of Shungopavi, a migratory people who traveled to the Hopi mesas from the legendary Red City to the South, Paalotkwapi.

It was at Paalotkwapi that our Father, the Serpent, emerged and gathered us, his children, and blessed us with Clouds. “Go northward my Children,” he directed us. So northward we journeyed and among the barren mesas we emerged to reside with the Bear Clan and build our Cloud-Inspired Homes.

And

to these Cloud-Terraced homes our Cloud Fathers/Mothers will arrive to rest and bring Life-Giving Moisture

And

to these Cloud-Terraced homes our Katsina Fathers/Mothers will arrive to bless and purify our Lives then to return to Nuvatukwiovi, the Sacred Snow-Capped Peaks

And

Among these Cloud-Terraced homes our Bear Clan Fathers/Mothers will lead us daily over the blessed pollen pathway of the Hopi

And

among these Cloud-Terraced homes we/I experience our Lives; looking, listening, singing and dancing as we/I prepare for that final journey

And

to these Cloud-Terraced homes to return once again as a Rain-Carrier and scaring you with the boldest lightning and the loudest thunders.

LOMAWYWESA
(Michael Kabotie)
10-14-81



Figure 79. HOPI ESSENCE: SELF-PORTRAIT AND POEM

Lomawiywesa (Michael Kabotie)

serigraphic print. 1981 (Courtesy of the artist, and Maggie Kress Gallery, Taos, New Mexico)