

The Spent Arrows

by Ti-i-ti

When I first saw a railway train –
A solid example of the white man's magic –
The frightening noise that it made –
The invisible spirit that made it move –
I began to see

The world moves faster than men –
And it moves for the white men only.
The red men who strive to hold it back
Will only be crushed, as was the buffalo –
As the white men's coming
Will sweep over them forever...

Our trails are lost –
Our arrows are spent –
We can only bow to the waning moon.

*Thoughts of an intelligent Indian survivor in 1895
(translated from the Kiowa)*

quoted in the novel "The Spent Arrow"
by Inez Lacey Evans, Perkins Oklahoma, 1987)