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## *Spirit Road Mysteries* Glossary

A reference for Lakota Language terms featured in *Spirit Road Mysteries*.

**A**

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**B**

**Bloka**

Masculinity. For example, the buffalo is thought to possess bloka.

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**C**

**Chankpe Opi Wakpala**

Wounded Knee Creek.

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**E**

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**G**

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## H

### **Hanblecheyapi**

Literally “cried for a vision.” Young men and sometimes women entering puberty would partake in this ritual whereby they would go somewhere alone and fast, praying for a vision, after which they would enter an inipi and be guided by a sacred man as they sought their vision unique to them.

### **Hankasi**

Male-to-female greeting.

### **Hau**

Greeting by a man, similar to "hi."

The teeth clenching together in death, often resembling a grimace.

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## I

### **Inipi**

Sweat lodge used in purification ceremonies.

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## J

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## K

### **Kola**

A special friend. Originally, one who would die for another. Nowadays, one often hears another address a friend as “kola”, without regard of the historical context.

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## L

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**M**

**Misun**

Younger brother

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**N**

**Nige Tanka**

The "Big Bellies." Wise old men.

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**O**

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**P**

**Peji wacanga**

Sweetgrass, used in many Lakota ceremonies.

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**S**

**Sic esi**

Female-to-make greeting.

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**T**

**Tiospaye**

Basic family group of the Lakota.

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**U**

**Unsimalaye**

"Pity me."

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## W

### **Wakan Tanka**

The Great Mysterious. Maker of all things.

### **Wanagi**

Spirit.

### **Wanagi Tacanku**

Spirit Road.

### **Wanagi Yuhapi**

Ghost Keeping Ceremony. Ritually feeding of a person's ghost, usually for a period of one year, before setting it free.

### **Wayuonihan**

Honor.

### **Wicasa Wakan**

Holy Man.

### **Wicasa Yantanpi**

The "Shirt Wearers" of old. Respected men.

### **Wopiye**

Medicine bundle. The leather bundle, often beaded, contains anything the keeper of the bundle believes has spiritual value to him or her, including seeds, rocks, arrowheads, tobacco, teeth, hair, rocks, claws.

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## Y

### **Yuwipi**

A holy person distinguished from other holy people by his or her conduction of the yuwipi ceremony. The yuwipi man is tied with blankets and ropes while he prays for the healing of the person afflicted. It is hard on the Yuwipi man to conduct this ceremony.

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## Z

