

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FC 7776

# ANPAO

## An American Indian Odyssey

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN BY

# Jamake Highwater

PRODUCED BY Verna Gillis

1977 NEWBERY HONOR BOOK; A.L.A. NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK 1977; A.L.A. BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS 1977



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98  
F6  
H63  
1978

MUSIC LP



**SIDE I**

Band 1 - The Dawn of the World

Band 2 - In the Days of the Plentiful

Band 3 - The Lessons of Heaven and Earth

**SIDE II**

Band 1 - The Lessons of Heaven and Earth

Band 2 - The Invasion from the Sea

Band 3 - The Invasion from the Sea

Through Jamake Highwater in ANPAO - AN AMERICAN INDIAN ODYSSEY speak the beliefs and stories of the rich heritage of native Americans from the Great Plains and Southwest. The compelling odyssey of ANPAO is the masterful weaving of a tapestry of adventures beginning with the dawn of the world and ending with the coming of the white man to this continent. The tradition of story telling as a direct and instantly accessible method of transmitting and preserving information, is known as the oral tradition. The communal sharing of culture embodies it in a way known only to these great non-literate societies which had been flourishing for more than 25,000 years before Columbus landed. The oral tradition is related to the aural tradition - the tradition of being a "listening people." Listening to the spoken word of Jamake Highwater, of Blackfeet/Cherokee heritage, now discovering that there is someone really talking to us, sharing important information in part about our heritage, too, ANPAO will become a part of our reality through the power of the voice as breath, idea, and emotion. These are the experiences that shape us, and I remember, for myself as a child, that a story well told by the human voice was so personal, so close, so compelling. There are indeed certain things that are better said.

I would like to dedicate this record to Ivan, Sarah, and Aram Rubenstein Gillis who are still in the dawn of their worlds in the days of the plentiful.

Verna Gillis

Recorded in March, 1978

Produced by Verna Gillis

Edited by John Fisk

Cover lithograph - Fritz Scholder

Cover design - Ronald Clyne

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# ANPAO: An American Odyssey

by Jamake Highwater



Indians are not very inclined to assert themselves in the style and manner required by autobiographies. Most of us, even when we claim to be writing about ourselves (like Black Elk, Charles Eastman, or N. Scott Momaday, etc.) tend to tell the story of large events in which we were participants. The focus of the Indian world is upon the events of nature, upon the power of things which come and go. We are many leaves which cast deep shadows. Indian stories are found in these shadows, not in the trees.

Kenneth Canfield, a friend of mine and a critic for the Kansas City Star, put his finger on it when he said: "Jamake Highwater has created what I suspect he might admit is a cultural autobiography."

That's exactly right, and the paradox in a term like "cultural autobiography" summons all the peculiarities and challenges of what I have written in ANPAO.

The title, ANPAO, names the central character of the book and is a word derived from the Dakota language which means "the dawn". Anpao is the son of the Sun and of a mortal woman whose union ends in her death and Anpao's fall to Earth. There the young man falls in love with a girl who is promised to the Sun. She agrees to marry Anpao if he brings proof of the Sun's willingness to release her. The book is the epic story of Anpao's discovery of his own mysterious origins on his journey in search of his father, the Sun. He meets

with many adventures and ordeals, eventually achieving a reunion with his father, the Sun, and a reconciliation with the Moon who is the wife of the Sun and who detests the Sun's mistress and the mortal child she bore him. Anpao returns to marry his beloved only to find that mysterious white invaders are approaching from the East and that he must escape with his people into the depths of the shadow world.

The six tales recorded for this album were drawn from ANPAO in a way which indicates the thrust and plot of the book. The first segment is concerned with the dawn of the world and the birth of Anpao. The second segment tells the story of Anpao's efforts to rescue his contrary twin-brother Oapna from the Moon. In the third section is the tale of Amana, a young woman who loves Anpao and saves his life when he is bewitched. The next story is concerned with the fearful person called Deer Woman who appeared during a Powwow. Eventually Anpao reaches the Sun's lodge and gains his permission to marry his beloved Ko-ko-mik-e-is. He is also given the gift of a "Magic Dog" or horse. Hurrying back to the village of Ko-ko-mik-e-is he encounters a terrible stranger, which is the subject of the fifth tale. Escaping the deadly glance of this stranger with a ruse, Anpao hurries to warn the village of Ko-ko-mik-e-is of the dreadful things which are descending upon the ancient land of Indians.

These readings are dedicated to the memory of my dear friend and teacher Alta Black (1888-1978).

"The Indian does not make the separation into personal as contrasted with impersonal in our sense at all. What he seems to be interested in is the whole question of existence, or reality; and everything that is perceived by the senses, thought of, felt, and dreamt of, exists for him."

Paul Radin

Jamake Highwater is of Blackfeet/Cherokee parentage. Mr. Highwater is the classical music editor for the Manhattan publication The Soho Weekly News. He is a member of The National Congress of American Indians and a Past-President of the Council of American Indian Community House, N.Y.C. Mr. Highwater is writing and will host a series on American Indians for the Public Broadcasting Service. ANPOA won the 1978 Newberry Honor Award of the

American Library Association. Books of Jamake Highwater include: RITUAL OF THE WIND - NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN CEREMONIES, MUSIC, AND DANCES; SONG FROM THE EARTH: AMERICAN INDIAN PAINTING; JOURNEY TO THE SKY: REDISCOVERING THE MAYA CIVILIZATION; DANCE: RITUALS OF EXPERIENCE: Fodor's GUIDE TO INDIAN AMERICA: MANY SMOKES, MANY MOONS, a history of Indians as seen through their arts; and THE SUN, HE DIES, based on the Aztec view of the invasion of Cortez.

"Fortunate indeed is he who has received such a rich heritage. For he knows that their land is also his. His body, like theirs, is built out of its native corn. These great peaks rent with storms and arched by rainbows can never quite be explained away mechanically. Old Man Coyote, Spider Woman, the Grizzly-Bear-Who-Married-A-Girl-Created-From-an-Aspen are not strange to him. For his fairy world is not that of Europe. He owes no allegiance to King Arthur, or to Zeus on a Grecian peak. The voice of the mighty Manitou is the voice that fills the silence of these canyons, speaking from these ancient mountains that have always spoken to a listening people. It is the voice of America itself, with its own rhythm, its own deep wisdom, and its own symbolism for the universal truths of living man."

Frank Waters, The Colorado

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Verna Gillis

A three hour interview/concert on Native American Music conducted by Verna Gillis with Jamake Highwater on Ms. Gillis' radio program "Soundscape", is available on a rental basis. For further information, contact Verna Gillis, Brooklyn College, New School of Liberal Arts, Bedford Ave. & Avenue H, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210

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# Children's Series

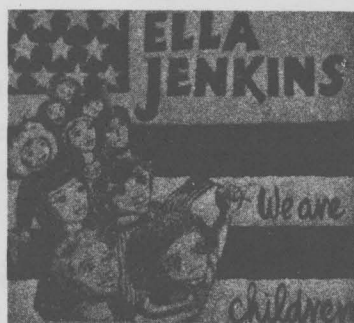
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..... 7702 Marching Across the Green Grass, and other American Children's Game Songs. J. Ritchie. (Was AH 752)  
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- ..... 7844 African Songs and Rhythms For Children. Carl Orff.  
..... 7852 Children's Songs from Kenya. D. Nzomo.

## SPECIAL NEW RELEASES

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