

Yuma, Arizona July, 1862

## GOOD PRISONER

Guards called him Stupid Indian Prays Too Much.

*When they said to put his drinking cup in the door slot,  
he did.*

*When they said to leave his shit bucket in the corner,  
he did.*

*When they said to stay silent in the darkness for weeks,  
he did.*

*When they said to dance like a savage Indian on parade,  
he did.*

*When they said he could walk circles in the morning sun,  
he did.*

*When they said he should return to his cell,  
he  
stabbed a  
guard  
in the eye with  
a tortoise shell  
knife and broke  
for the open  
desert.*

Soldiers tried to track him  
On the endless horizon of nothingness surrounding the prison  
But could not find a trace.

They quit hunting him by noon  
Saying that no man could survive without water  
In this Hell hole of heat waves and hard times.

Later that afternoon two crows circled over the sun yard.  
From that day forward the prisoners called him by the name  
Two Crows Runs in Air.