What my Elders Taught Me

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Niitowuuhu' nnuhu' beh'iihoho' nih'iisheentisi3i' tih'eneei'towuuni3i' heeyouhuu.
First of all [this is what] these old men used to say to me when they told me things.

Nuhu' beh'iihoho' nih'eeneisinihiisi3i' nih'eeneisiiiseineebi3i', nih'ee3neeniini nei'enowoo.
I've really held on to the way these old men used to talk to me and advise me.

Nuhu' hiini3ecoo tih'eneeitiowuuneihinoo.
The ideas [I heard] when they told me about things.

'oh hini' nei'oonoyoohootowoo nnuhu' beh'iihoho' heeneisinihiino3i, heenei3ei'towuunoo3i ne'nih'iisinihiinoo.
I really watch what these old men, what they told me, I'm saying that.

Neenei3ei'towuuni3i' neihoownoniihi'.
I don't forget the things they told me.

'oh howoo neneenino3o nosouniinono'eiitino3 hiiwoonhehe' tih'eneti3ou'u.
And I myself even still speak Arapaho now when I talk to them.

Heenetisi3i' noh nihcehe3tiinoo.
They talked to me and I listened.

Nootton[in]oo3i heeyouhuu nih'iice'ei'towuunou'u hibeete'iyyoino3o.
Whenever they asked me something, I told them again what they wanted to know.

No'oteihi3i' beh'iihoho' niisiini neeneyei3eihe3i'.
These old men were powerful, the way they taught.

'oh hookoh nnuhu' hoo3oo'o' tooniiciibeete'inou'u nnuhu' hinono'eiitit,
But because these others don't want to know the Arapaho language,

he'ihce'eniowu, he'ihciiitoyou'uuuwono'.
they didn't learn and didn't hold on to it.

"Toyou'uuuwu," nih'i3i' nnuhu' behiihoho' noh nihtoyou'uuwuutooni'.
"Remember this," said the old men and we remembered it.
Noh nnuhu' niicciitoyou'uuwu3i' kookon noonohookeitoo3i'.

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And the ones who don't remember it do all sorts of crazy things.

Beebebeeneeniitou'u nih'eneeisiini nestoo'eebi3i' nuhu' beh'iihoho'.
They thought it wasn't serious the way the old men warned people.

Niico'onestoowu3i' heeneeyohuuho.
They would always warn me about things.

Howoo nuhu' woose tih'iiteesciitonouni nuhu' hisitee'.
For example you're not supposed to use a knife on top of a stove.

Hiihoowteesi'kooko'osoottiin.
You don't cut anything on there.

Nuhu' beh'eihoho' wo'ei3 nuhu' betebihoho' niitonei'towuuni3i'.
The old men or old women would both tell me that.

Nehe' nebesiiwoho' nii- how3o'uuni hiihoownhoo3ouyeitino', niibeexo'unono'eitisi3i'.
My grandfathers never spoke English, they only spoke Arapaho to me.

Noh hini' hoo3oo'o' noonoohowou'u xonou niinono'eitisi3i'.
And when I see those others they speak Arapaho to me right away.

Xonou niisih'i3i' neniisih'iit, Wo'teenii'ehisei, ne'nih'iisih'inoo,
Right away they say my name, Black Eagle Woman, that's what my name is,

nenee' hih'iitonouyooninoo neenetisino3i, "Wo'teenii'ehisei" nih'iis3i'.
that's what they used to use when they spoke to me, "Black Eagle Woman" they would say.

Noh nih'iiceh'e3ihou'u.
And I would listen to them.

Heenee3ei'towuunoo3i ne'enosou neene'inowoo heeyouhuu.
What they told me, I still know those things they said.

Neihoownoo3e'.
It doesn't leave me.

Niinei'enowoo.
I hold on to it.