

## Nice Use of Words

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Ízrel dine'é nohłini, da'íísínółts'áá'; Bóhólníhii nihiDiyin God t'áá bí t'éi Bóhólníhii nilí. <sup>6</sup> Áko Bóhólníhii nihiDiyin God ayóó'ádeínóh'núigo nihijéi t'áá át'é bee áádóó nihii' siziini t'áá át'é bee índa nihe'adziil t'áá át'é bee ayóó'ádeínóh'ní. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)<sup>1</sup>

Tsindaabaąs bijáád naakiígíí yee dah deínéehii éi diyingo naal'a'í naadiindi míł, áádóó míłdi alk'i náámúłgo ánéeláá'. Dził Sáinaigi Bóhólníhii diyingo hólónigi át'éego éi bitahgi hóló. (Psalm 68:17)<sup>2</sup>

K'ad hágo haa'íshá' díí baa nídiit'íił, ní Bóhólníhii. Azhá nihibaąhági át'éii éi t'áá íiyisí tichxíí' nidi, yas nahalingo łigai dooleet; azhá diłhiłgo tichxíí' nidi aghaatłgaiigi át'éego łigai doo. (Isaiah 1:18)<sup>3</sup>

Nábidinínáádéé' nihí ałdó' danihijéi bee ayóó'ádanihíínóh'núí le'; ha'átchíní bich'í' yájíłti'ígi át'éego yáshti'go ádíshní. (2 Corinthians 6:13)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> What I like about Deuteronomy 6:5 is the forward look at the beginning of the verse (*Áko Bóhólníhii nihiDiyin God ayóó'ádeínóh'núigo . . .*, "So, loving the Lord your God . . .") to the wording used at the end of the verse (*. . . t'áá át'é bee ayóó'ádeínóh'ní*, ". . . with all of [this] you [must] love Him").

<sup>2</sup> In Psalm 68:17 I like the whole first sentence (*Tsindaabaąs bijáád naakiígíí yee dah deínéehii éi diyingo naal'a'í naadiindi míł, áádóó míłdi alk'i náámúłgo ánéeláá'*, "Those who bear up [these] chariots are angels who number twenty thousand, and [one] thousand upon another"). The grace and beauty of the Navajo does not come through in my gloss.

<sup>3</sup> The second sentence of Isa 1:18 is exquisite: *Azhá nihibaąhági át'éii éi t'áá íiyisí tichxíí' nidi, yas nahalingo łigai dooleet; azhá diłhiłgo tichxíí' nidi aghaatłgaiigi át'éego łigai doo* ("Even if your sin is deep red, it will be white like snow; even if it is dark red it will be white like white wool"). Not all wool on the reservation is white. Some Navajo sheep are black. So just saying "wool" doesn't convey the whole idea. Over and above the matter of what words are used, this verse feels good in the throat when you say it right.

<sup>4</sup> The last clause of 2 Corinthians 6:13 has a three-fold repetition of the idea of speaking (*ha'átchíní bich'í' yájíłti'ígi át'éego yáshti'go ádíshní*, "Like one speaking to one's children, as I speak I say this").