

The sticks are light rods, about 30 inches long, tied in pairs by a peculiar arrangement of buckskin strings, and distinguished from one another by pieces of cloth of different colors fastened to the strings. (There is also a pile of tally sticks, usually a hundred in number, about the size of lead pencils and painted green, for keeping count of the game.) The sticks are held near the center in a peculiar manner between the fingers of the closed hand. When the wheel is rolled, each player runs from the same side, and endeavors to throw the sticks so as to strike the wheel in such a way that when it falls both sticks of his pair shall be either over or under a certain figure. It requires dexterity to do this, as the string has a tendency to strike the wheel in such a way as to make one stick fall under and the other over, in which case the throw counts for nothing. The players assign their own value to each figure, the usual value being five points for one and ten for the other figure, with double that number for a throw which crosses the two corresponding figures, and one hundred tallies to the game. }(-

The wheel-and-stick game, in some form or another, was almost universal among our Indian tribes. Another game among the prairie tribes is played with a netted wheel and a single stick or arrow, the effort being to send the arrow through the netting as nearly as possible to the center or bull's-eye. This game is called *ana'wati'n-hati*, "playing wheel," by the Arapaho.

## 50. ANI'ASA'KUA'NA DÄ'CHÄBI'HATI'TANI

Ani'asa'kua'na dā'chäbi'hati'tani bā'qati'bä,  
 Ani'asa'kuā'na dā'chäbi'hati'tani bā'qati'bä.  
 Ni'ati'biku'thahu' bā'qatihi,  
 Ni'ati'biku'thahu' bā'qatihi.  
 Di'chäbi'häti'ta'ni',  
 Di'chäbi'häti'ta'ni'.

## Translation

I am watching where they are gambling with the *bā'qati* wheel,  
 I am watching where they are gambling with the *bā'qati* wheel.  
 They are rolling the *bā'qati*,  
 They are rolling the *bā'qati*.  
 While they gamble with it,  
 While they gamble with it.

In this song the dancer tells how he watched a group of his friends in the spirit world playing the game of the *bā'qati*, as has been explained in the song last treated.

## 51. NI'CHI'A I'THETI'HI

Ni'chi'ä i'theti'hi,  
 Ni'chi'ä i'theti'hi,  
 Chana'ha'ti i'nīt—  
 Chana'ha'ti i'nīt—  
 Gu'n baa'-ni'binä thi'aku'-u,  
 Gu'n baa'-ni'binä thi'aku'-u.