

This is one of the favorite songs of the Paiute Ghost dance. The tune has a plaintive but rather pleasing effect, although inferior to the tunes of most of the ghost songs of the prairie tribes. The words as they stand are very simple, but convey a good deal of meaning to the Indian. It must be remembered that the dance is held in the open air at night, with the stars shining down on the wide-extending plain walled in by the giant sierras, fringed at the base with dark pines, and with their peaks white with eternal snows. Under such circumstances this song of the snow lying white upon the mountains, and the Milky Way stretching across the clear sky, brings up to the Paiute the same patriotic home love that comes from lyrics of singing birds and leafy trees and still waters to the people of more favored regions. In the mythology of the Paiute, as of many other tribes, the Milky Way is the road of the dead to the spirit world. *Ro'rāni'* serves merely to fill in the meter.

2. DĒNA' GAYO'N

Dēna' gayo'n, Dē'na ga'yoni',
Dēna' gayo'n, Dē'na ga'yoni',
Bawā' doro'n, Ba'wā do'roni',
Bawā' doro'n, Ba'wā do'roni'.

Translation

A slender antelope, a slender antelope,
A slender antelope, a slender antelope,
He is wallowing upon the ground,
He is wallowing upon the ground,
He is wallowing upon the ground,
He is wallowing upon the ground.

This song evidently refers to a trance vision in which the sleeper saw an antelope rolling in the dust, after the manner of horses, buffalo, and other animals.

3. DO' TĪ'MBI

Do' tī'mbi, Do' tī'mbi-nā'n,
Do' tī'mbi, Do' tī'mbi-nā'n,
Tī'mbi bai'-yo, Tī'mbi ba'i-yo-ä'n,
Tī'mbi bai'-yo, Tī'mbi ba'i-yo-ä'n.

Translation

The black rock, the black rock,
The black rock, the black rock,
The rock is broken, the rock is broken,
The rock is broken, the rock is broken.

This song may refer to something in Paiute mythology. *Nä'n* and *ä'n* are unmeaning syllables added to fill out the measure.

4. PÄSÜ' WĪ'NOGHÄN

Päsü' wī'noghän,
Päsü' wī'noghän,
Päsü' wī'noghän,