

Manuscript

The meaning of this song is not clear. It may refer to the Thunderbird or to the Crow, the sacred bird of the Ghost dance. The *ye'nis* or wild rose is much esteemed among the prairie tribes for its red seed berries, which are pounded into a paste and dried for food. It is frequently mentioned in the ghost songs, and is sometimes pictured on the ghost shirts. Although rather insipid, the berries possess nutritive qualities. They are gathered in winter, and are sometimes eaten raw, but more generally are first boiled and strained to get rid of the seeds. This dough-like substance is sometimes mixed with marrow from broken bones and pasted around sticks and thus roasted before the fire. It is never packed away for future use. The Cherokee call the same plant by a name which means "rabbit food," on account of this animal's fondness for the berries.

30. NIHA'NATA'YECHÉ'TI

He'yoho'ho! He'yoho'ho!
 Niha'nata'yeche'ti, na'naga'qané'tihi,
 Wa'waga'thänúhu,
 Wa'waga'thänúhu,
 Wa'wa ne'hawa'wüna'nahu',
 Wa'wa ne'hawa'wüna'nahu'.
 He'yoho'ho! He'yoho'ho!

Translation

He'yoho'ho! He'yoho'ho!
 The yellow-hide, the white-skin (man).
 I have now put him aside—
 I have now put him aside—
 I have no more sympathy with him,
 I have no more sympathy with him.
 He'yoho'ho! He'yoho'ho!

Spider

This is another song about the whites, who are spoken of as "yellow hides" or "white skins." The proper Arapaho name for a white man is *Nia'tha*, "skillful." A great many names are applied to the whites by the different Indian tribes. By the Comanche, ~~Shoshoni, and Paiute~~ they are called *Tai'vo*, "easterners;" by the Hopi, of the same stock as the three tribes mentioned, they are known as ~~Páhu'na~~, "eastern water people;" by the Kiowa they are called *Be'dálpago*, "hairy mouths," or *Ta'ka'-i*, "standing ears." It is very doubtful if the "pale face" of romance ever existed in the Indian mind.

omit

31. A-BÄÄ'THINA'HU

A-bää'thina'hu, a-bää'thina'hu,
 Ha'tnithi'aku'ta'na,
 Ha'tnithi'aku'ta'na,
 Ha'-bätä'nani'hi,
 Ha'-bätä'nani'hi.
 Ha'tnithi'aku'ta'na,
 Ha'tnithi'aku'ta'na.