

36. A-HU'HU HA'GENI'STI'TI BA'HU

A-hu'hu ha'geni'sti'ti ba'hu,
 Ha'geni'sti'ti ba'hu.
 Hā'nisti'ti,
 Hā'nisti'ti.
 Hi'nisa'nā,
 Hi'nisa'nā—
 Ne'a-i'qaha'ti,
 Ne'a-i'qaha'ti.

Translation

The crow is making a road,
 He is making a road;
 He has finished it,
 He has finished it.
 His children,
 His children—
 Then he collected them,
 Then he collected them (i. e., on the farther side).

The crow (^a ~~is~~) is ~~the~~ sacred bird, ~~of the Ghost dance, being revered~~
 as the messenger from the spirit world, ~~because its color is symbolic~~
~~of death and the shadow land.~~ The raven, which is practically a larger
 crow, and which lives in the mountains, but occasionally comes down
 into the plains, is also held sacred and regarded as a bringer of omens
 by the prairie tribes, as well as by the Tlinkit and others of the north-
 west coast and by the Cherokee in the east. The crow ^{is} depicted on
 the shirts, leggings, and moccasins of the Ghost dancers, and its feath-
 ers are worn on their heads, and whenever it is possible to kill one, the
 skin is stuffed as in life and carried in the dance, as shown in the pic-
 ture of Black Coyote (plate cv). At one time the dancers in Left Hand's
 camp had a crow which it was claimed had the power of speech and
 prophetic utterance, and its hoarse inarticulate cries were interpreted
 as inspired messages from the spirit world. Unfortunately the bird
 did not thrive in confinement, and soon took its departure for the
 land of spirits, leaving the Arapaho once more dependent on the guid-
 ance of the trance revelations. The eagle, the magpie, and the sage-
 hen are also sacred in the Ghost dance, the first being held in veneration
 by Indians, as well as by other peoples throughout the world,
 while the magpie and the sage-hen are revered for their connection
 with the country of the messiah and the mythology of his tribe.

The crow was probably held sacred by all the tribes of the Algon-
 quian race. Roger Williams, speaking of the New England tribes,
 says that although the crows sometimes did damage to the corn, yet
 hardly one Indian in a hundred would kill one, because it was their
 tradition that this bird had brought them their first grain and vege-
 tables, carrying a grain of corn in one ear and a bean in the other,
 from the field of their great god Cantantouwit in Sowwani'u, the
 southwest, the happy spirit world where dwelt the gods and the souls

*The White Pony
 Plague Cure.*

*rather
 to water*

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