

of the latter, and jet black, with the exception of the breast, which is white, and a white spot on each wing. In its tail are two long feathers with beautiful changeable metallic luster. It is a home bird, frequenting the neighborhood of the Paiute camps in small flocks. It is held sacred among the Paiute, by whom the long tail feathers are as highly prized for decorative purposes as eagle feathers are among the tribes of the plains. The standard price for such feathers in 1891 was 25 cents a pair. The delegates who crossed the mountains to visit the messiah brought back with them quantities of these feathers, which thenceforth filled an important place in the ceremonial of the Ghost dance. In fact they were so eagerly sought after that the traders undertook to meet the demand, at first by importing genuine magpie feathers from the mountains, but later by fraudulently substituting selected crow feathers from the east at the same price.

The song is also peculiar in referring to the messiah as "my mother" (*vena*) instead of "our father" (*hesûnanin*), as usual.

## 57. ANI'QA HĒ'TABI'NUHU'NI'NA

Ani'qa hĕ'tabi'nuhu'ni'na,  
 Ani'qa hĕ'tabi'nuhu'ni'na.  
 Hatāna'wunāni'na hesūna'nin,  
 Hatāna'wunāni'na hesūna'nin.  
 Ha'tāni'ni'ahu'hi'na he'sūna'nin,  
 Ha'tāni'ni'ahu'hi'na he'sūna'nin.

*Translation*

My father, I am poor,  
 My father, I am poor.  
 Our father is about to take pity on me,  
 Our father is about to take pity on me.  
 Our father is about to make me fly around.  
 Our father is about to make me fly around.

a<sup>2</sup>

This song refers to the present impoverished condition of the Indians, and to their hope that he is now about to take pity on them and remove them from this dying world to the new earth above; the feathers worn on their heads in the dance being expected to act as wings, as already explained, to enable them to fly to the upper regions.

## 53. NĀ'NISA'TAQU'THI HU'NA

Nā'nisa'taqu'thi hu'na—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!  
 Nā'nisa'taqu'thi hu'na—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!  
 Hi'bithi'ni'na gasi'tu—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!  
 Hi'bithi'ni'na gasi'tu—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!

*Translation*

The seven crows—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!  
 The seven crows—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!  
 They are flying about the carrion—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!  
 They are flying about the carrion—Hi'ā hi'ni'ni'!