

In this song the dreamer tells of his trance visit to the spirit world, where he found his friends busily engaged cutting up the meat after a successful buffalo hunt, while the crows were hovering about the carion. Four and seven are the constant sacred numbers of the Ghost dance, as of Indian ritual and story generally.

59. AHU'NÄ HE'SÜNA'NIN

Ahu'nä he'süna'nin—
 Ahu'nä he'süna'nin—
 Ni'tabä'tani' bätä'hina'ni,
 Ni'tabä'tani' bätä'hina'ni,
 Ha kä hä'sabini'na he'süna'nin,
 Ha'kä hä'sabini'na he'süna'nin.

Translation

There is our father—
 There is our father—
 We are dancing as he wishes (makes) us to dance,
 We are dancing as he wishes (makes) us to dance,
 Because our father has so commanded us,
 Because our father has so commanded us.

a2

The literal meaning of the last line is "because our father has given it to us," the prairie idiom for directing or commanding being to "give a road" or to "make a road" for the one thus commanded. To disobey is to "break the road" and to depart from the former custom is to "make a new road." The idea is expressed in the same way both in the various spoken languages and in the sign language.

60. GA'AWA'HU

Ga'awa'hu, ga'awa'hu,
 Ni'hii'nä gu'shi'nä,
 Ni'hii'nä gu'shi'nä.
 A'tanä'tähinä'na,
 A'tanä'tähinä'na.

Translation

The ball, the ball—
 You must throw it swiftly,
 You must throw it swiftly.
 I want to win,
 I want to win.

The author of this song was a woman who in her trance vision saw her girl friends in the other world playing the ball game, as described in song number 7. In this case, however, her partner is urged to *throw* the ball, instead of to strike it.

61. AHU' NI'HIGA'HU

Ahu' ni'higa'hu,
 Ahu' ni'higa'hu.
 Ha'tani'ni'tani'na,
 Ha'tani'ni'tani'na.

Will?
~~The Broken Road~~
~~Ghost Story~~