

Yathú'n äta'-usä'bä—
Nithi'na hesüna'nün,
Nithi'na hesüna'nün.

Translation

Thus says our father, the Crow,
Thus says our father, the Crow.
Go around five times more—
Go around five times more—
Says the father,
Says the father.

This is the closing song of the dance since the return of the great delegation of southern Arapaho and Cheyenne who visited the messiah in August, 1891. Before that time the closing song had been number 52, beginning *Ni'nini'tubi'na hu'hu'*. The literal rendering of the second part is "stop five times," the meaning and practice being that they must make five circuits singing this song and then stop. As already stated, in accordance with the instructions of the messiah, the Ghost dance is now held (theoretically) at intervals of six weeks and continues for four consecutive nights, closing about midnight, excepting on the last night, when the believers dance until daylight. As daylight begins to appear in the east, they sing the song to the morning star, as just given (number 72), and then, after a short rest, the leaders start this, the closing song, which is sung while the dancers make five circuits, resting a few moments between circuits. Then they unclasp hands, wave their blankets in the air to fan away all evil influences, and go down to the river to bathe, the men in one place and the women in another. After bathing, they resume their clothing and disperse to their various camps, and the Ghost dance is over.

ARAPAHO GLOSSARY

In this and the other glossaries here given it is intended only to give a concise definition of the meaning of each word without going into details of grammar or etymology. The Ghost dance was studied for its mythology, psychology, ritual, and history, and language in this connection was only the means to an end, as it was impossible in a few months of time to devote close attention to the numerous languages spoken by the tribes represented in the dance.

The Arapaho language, as will be seen from the specimens given, is eminently vocalic, almost every syllable ending in a vowel, and there being almost no double consonant sounds. Like the Cheyenne language, it lacks *l* and *r*. The most prominent vowel sounds are *a*, *ä*, and *i*, and in some instances there are combinations of several vowel sounds without any intervening consonant. The soft *th* sound is also prominent. The *g* and *d* frequently approximate to *k* and *t*, respectively, and *b* in the standard dialect becomes *v* among the northern Arapaho. The only sound of the language (excepting the medial *k* and *t*) not found in English is the guttural *q*, and the language is entirely devoid of the hissing effect of Cheyenne or the choking sounds of Kiowa.