

had a typical culture which was outwardly marked by their use of the horse, the tepee, the camp circle, the warrior society, and the Sun Dance. In winter, when the buffalo scattered, the buffalo hunters also scattered and lived in small bands. In summer, when the buffalo assembled in large herds, the bands assembled also to make their tribal hunts, perform the Sun Dance, and become once more a tribal unity.

The life of these Indians was one of constant movement and adventure. Being hunters and within limits nomads, they cared for no more property than they could carry with them: the leather tent, the horse, clothing, and weapons were enough for them. Owing to the high mortality among the men, women were greatly in the majority. Because of the abundance of game and the fact that any competent man could maintain himself alone or with a few relatives, anything like power over his fellows was out of the question. Therefore, since the Plains Indian had little use for property, had an abundance of women to choose from, and no chance to dominate his fellows, his goal in life became prestige. To attain this he was usually willing to give away such property he had, to ~~put out his wife~~, and to forego all attempts at attaining lasting authority. Prestige in such a community belonged to the man who performed or had performed brave deeds or good deeds. That is to say, the man who sacrificed himself in defending or befriending others was said to have prestige.

The Sun Dance taught the virtues most admired by these Plains warriors. They were four in number: fortitude, courage, generosity, and fecundity. Under the condition of Plains Indian life, fecundity largely took care of itself, and fortitude was so necessary as hardly to call for public recognition. The real distinction went to the man who exhibited outstanding courage and generosity, and his rewards consisted of public honor, public prestige. The Plains Indian did his works to be seen of man and had his reward in this