

**SONGS FROM NORTH AND  
SOUTH**

## SONGS FROM NORTH AND SOUTH

These songs, translated by Frances Densmore, together with their music, are to be found in the following bulletins of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution: Mandan and Hidatsa, Bulletin 80; Teton Sioux, Bulletin 61; Northern Ute, Bulletin 75; Pawnee, Bulletin 93; Papago, Bulletin 90; Yuman and Yaqui, Bulletin 110. The Tule song, by the same author, is from the Smithsonian publication, "Music of the Tule Indians."

MANDAN AND HIDATSA

*SONG TO THE RAVEN*

Raven

I am going to die—  
fly away.

*EARTH ALWAYS ENDURES*

Earth  
always  
endures.

*HE STARED AT ME*

My dear friend  
your husband,  
at me  
how he stared.  
Will you throw him away?

*YOU DID IT*

You did it  
therefore  
you wept.  
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*I CANNOT SLEEP*

O

to sleep

to lie!

I think, if—

but I cannot sleep.

*SERENADE*

O

to be a man!

*SHE WALKS ALONE*

A certain maiden

to the garden

goes;

lonely

she walks.

*WE MADE FIRE*

Comrade,

in the daytime when we made fire  
it was pleasant.

I understand women.

*TETON SIOUX**SONG FOR FAIR WEATHER*

May the sun rise well;

may the earth appear

brightly shone upon!

May the moon rise well;  
may the earth appear  
brightly shone upon!

*SONG OF THE SACRED POLE*

Father—

all these he has made me own—  
the trees and the forests  
standing  
in their places.

*NOON SONG*

Where  
holy  
you behold,  
in the place where the sun rises  
holy  
may you behold.

Where  
holy  
you behold,  
in the place where the sun passes us in  
his course  
holy  
you behold.

Where  
goodness  
you behold,  
at the turning back of the sun  
goodness  
may you behold.

*IN A SACRED MANNER I RETURN*

Friends  
    behold me,  
    in a sacred manner  
    I return.

You, tribe,  
    behold me,  
    in a sacred manner  
    I return.

The nation sitting holy,  
    friends,  
    behold me,  
    in a sacred manner  
    I return.

You, tribe,  
    behold me,  
    in a sacred manner  
    I return.

*SONG OF CROW AND OWL*

At midnight  
    may I roam  
    against the winds.

May I roam  
    at night.

May I roam  
    when the owl  
    is hooting—  
    may I roam.

At dawn  
    may I roam  
    against the winds.  
May I roam  
    at dawn.  
May I roam  
    when the crow  
    is calling—  
    may I roam.

*WHERE THE WIND IS BLOWING*

Where  
    the wind  
    is blowing,  
    the wind is roaring.  
I stand  
    westward.  
The wind  
    is blowing,  
    the wind  
    is roaring—  
I stand.

*EVEN THE EAGLE DIES*

Soldiers,  
    you fled.  
Even the eagle dies.

*A WOLF I CONSIDERED MYSELF*

A wolf  
I considered myself  
but  
I have eaten nothing,  
therefore  
from standing  
I am tired out.

A wolf  
I considered myself  
but  
the owls are hooting  
and  
the night I fear.

*OWLS HOOT AT ME*

Owls  
hoot at me;  
owls  
hoot at me.  
That is what  
I hear in my life.

Wolves  
howl at me;  
wolves  
howl at me.  
That is what  
I hear in my life.



*I LOOK FOR HIM IN VAIN*

As the young men go by  
I am looking for him.  
It surprises me anew  
that he has gone.  
It is something  
to which I can not be reconciled.

*YOU SHOULD GIVE UP THE  
WARPATH*

Going on the warpath  
you should give up,  
and you should desire  
to settle down  
and stop for good.

*A PRAIRIE FIRE*

A prairie fire  
I started  
when you were intent on women  
and hindered by them.  
Did you see it?  
well,  
it was I  
who did it.

*SONG OF SITTING BULL*

A warrior  
I have been;  
now  
it is all over.  
A hard time  
I have.

*SONG OF THE FAMINE*

The old men  
now are so few  
that they are not worth counting.  
I myself am  
the last living,  
therefore  
a hard time  
I am having.

*NORTHERN UTE**DANCE SONG*

On a mountain  
the noise of the wind.

*PAWNEE**UNREAL THE BUFFALO IS  
STANDING*

He said, unreal the buffalo is standing.  
These are his sayings,  
unreal the buffalo is standing,  
unreal he stands in the open space,  
unreal he is standing.

*I AM LIKE A BEAR*

I am like a bear.  
I hold up my hands  
waiting for the sun to rise.

*SPRING IS OPENING*

Spring is opening.  
I can smell the different perfumes  
of the white weeds used in the dance.

*THE WHITE FOX*

Yonder it comes.  
The expanse of earth is wide.  
My brother the fox spoke and said,  
“Behold and see the wideness of the  
earth,  
the white foxes know the earth is wide.”

*IT IS MINE, THIS COUNTRY WIDE*

Yonder they are coming.  
Although strange misfortunes have befallen  
me,  
yet it is mine, this country wide.

*THE THUNDER SPOKE QUIETLY*

Beloved, it is good,  
he is saying quietly,  
the thunder, it is good.

*OUR HEARTS ARE SET IN THE  
HEAVENS*

It is there that our hearts are set,  
in the expanse of the heavens.

*THE HEAVENS ARE SPEAKING*

I stood here, I stood there,  
the clouds are speaking.  
I say, "You are the ruling power,  
I do not understand, I only know what I  
am told.  
You are the ruling power, you are now  
speaking.  
This power is yours, O heavens."

*MAD CHIEF MOURNS FOR HIS  
GRANDSON*

Mad chief sings as he walks,  
his spirit is glad as he walks.  
Push-Forward is no longer among us,  
yet we seem to see him.  
Yonder he comes.

PAPAGO

*WHITE FEATHERS ALONG THE  
EDGE OF THE WORLD*

Downy white feathers  
are moving beneath the sunset  
and along the edge of the world.

*WHO IS GOING TO MARRY ME*

Who are you, nice boys?  
Who is going to marry me?

*TERRIBLE IN ITS POWER*

Hanging motionless in the sky  
yet terrible in its power to destroy.

*THE MAN WHO HAS NO JOY*

Who is the man who killed an enemy  
and has no joy?  
I am having all the joy alone.

*THE WOMAN BY THE SEA SINGS*

Where am I running from,  
that I come here?  
Am I crazy woman  
with a painted face?

*I MET A MEXICAN*

While I was running I met a Mexican who  
said,  
“How do you do?”  
While I was running I met a Mexican with  
a long beard who said,  
“How do you do?”

*THE BRIGHT MORNING*

The bright morning begins to shine.  
Get up, three of you, and see Manasi Moun-  
tain.

On top of it is yellow water.  
I went there, drank the water, and staggered in running.

*SINGING TO THE LEAVES AND  
FLOWERS*

Crazy woman, crazy woman, trying to sing  
to mescal leaves,  
how can she sing to them and make the  
wind come?  
Young children, trying to sing to *bahwi*  
flowers,  
how can they sing to *bahwi* flowers and  
bring rain?

*SONG OF THE HORSE*

Black hair rope is what you used in roping  
me.  
You treated me badly.  
You even threw me down and tied me.  
Not satisfied with that, you tied a knot in  
my tail.  
That made me disgusted.

*SONG OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN*

A white mountain is far at the west.  
It stands beautiful.  
It has brilliant white arches of light  
bending down toward the earth.

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*THE LITTLE CAPTIVE CHILDREN*

Men shouting "brother,"  
men shouting "brother."  
Among the mountains they have  
taken little Apache children  
where the sun went down in sorrow.  
All women,  
what shall we do to realize this?

*A POOR MAN*

A poor man takes the songs in his hand  
and drops them near the place where the  
sun sets.  
See, Cowaka, run to them and take them in  
your hand  
and place them under the sunset.

*THE WIND BLOWS FROM THE SEA*

By the sandy water I breathe in the odor of  
of the sea;  
From there the wind comes and blows over  
the world.  
By the sandy water I breathe in the odor  
of the sea;  
From there the clouds come and rain falls  
over the world.

*BEFORE STARTING ON THE  
WARPATH*

I am going to walk far, far,  
I hope to have a fine morning somewhere.  
I am going to run far, far,  
I hope to have a good night somewhere.

*THE VOICE OF THE HERALD*

When the morning starts and the sun comes  
up,  
When the morning starts and the sun comes  
up,  
At that time the voice of the herald sounds  
sweet.  
It seems to be calling to me.

*THE MORNING STAR*

The morning star is up.  
I cross the mountains  
into the light of the sea.

*EVENING SONG*

The sun is slowly departing,  
It is slower in its setting;  
Black bats will be swooping when the sun  
is gone,  
That is all.

The spirit children are beneath,  
They are moving back and forth;



They roll in play among tufts of white  
eagle down,  
That is all.

*IN THE GREAT NIGHT*

In the great night my heart will go out;  
Toward me the darkness comes rustling.  
In the great night my heart will go out.

*WE SMOKE TOGETHER*

*(Sung by an Apache spirit)*

It was a sad thing you did;  
It was a sad thing you did,  
But now we smoke together.  
The smoke will gather inside us.

*RAIN SONGS*

1

Clouds are standing in the east, they are  
approaching,  
It rains in the distance;  
Now it is raining here and the thunder rolls.

2

Green rock mountains are thundering with  
clouds.  
With this thunder the Akim village is shaking.  
The water will come down the arroyo  
and I will float on the water.  
Afterward the corn will ripen in the fields.

## 3

Close to the west the great ocean is singing.  
The waves are rolling toward me, covered  
with many clouds.  
Even here I catch the sound.  
The earth is shaking beneath me and I  
hear deep rumbling.

## 4

A cloud on top of Evergreen Mountain is  
singing,  
A cloud on top of Evergreen Mountain is  
standing still.  
It is raining and thundering up there,  
It is raining here.  
Under the mountain the corn tassels are  
shaking,  
Under the mountain the slender spikes of  
child corn are glistening.

## YUMAN AND YAQUI

(Colorado River Basin)

*THE WATER BUG AND THE  
SHADOWS*

The water bug  
is drawing  
the shadows of the evening  
toward him on the water.

*THE DEER IS TAKING AWAY THE  
DAYLIGHT*

The deer is taking away the daylight.  
After taking away the daylight  
he named it Darkness.

*SONG OF ADMIRATION*

In Cocori is a young girl  
whose name is Hesucita.  
She is a pretty girl,  
her eyes look like stars;  
her pretty eyes are like stars moving.

*THE OWL HOOTED*

The owl was requested  
to do as much as he knew how.  
He only hooted and told of the morning  
star,  
And hooted again and told of the dawn.

*THE BUSH IS SINGING*

The bush is sitting  
under a tree  
and singing.

*THE RISING SUN*

The sun is coming up.  
It is time to go out  
and see the clouds.

*THE DEER AND THE FLOWER*

The deer  
looks at a flower.

*SONG OF BROWN BUZZARD AFTER  
REMOVING HIS SCALP*

You must enjoy yourselves in the evening.  
Look at me. See how I look  
and yet I am happy.

## TULE

(*Panama*)

*TULE LOVE SONG*

Many pretty flowers, red, blue and yellow;  
we say to the girls, "Let us go and walk  
among the flowers."  
The wind comes and sways the flowers,  
the girls are like that when they dance;  
some are wide-open, large flowers and  
some are tiny little flowers.  
The birds love the sunshine and the star-  
light;  
the flowers smell sweet.  
The girls are sweeter than the flowers.

We are sitting here together;  
We are sitting here together,  
Singing the song of the east,  
Singing the song of the west.

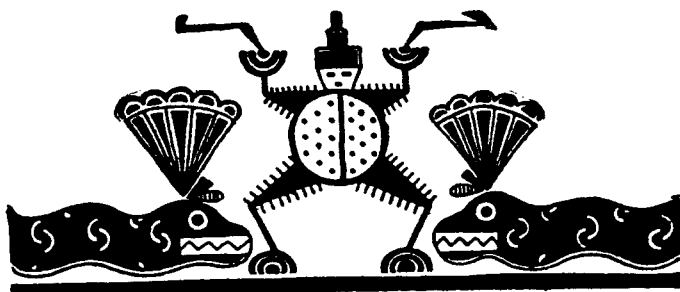
*RATTLESNAKE SONG*

In the early evening,  
In the early evening  
We begin to sing many songs;  
And I join in singing many.

It was near Kâ-matûk mountain  
That this Rattlesnake came forth;  
And he saw the low clouds lying  
Near the summit of the mountain.

Who is this, who is this?  
Is it not Horned Rattlesnake?  
Is it not Horned Rattlesnake  
Who now appears before us?

The Butterflies are singing;  
The Butterflies are singing,  
As I go past the foundations  
Below, of the ancient house.



## INTERPRETATIONS

