

The Sun Dance of the Plains Indians; Its Development and Diffusion Volume 16

Leslie Spier

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The Sun Dance of the Plains Indians; Its Development and Diffusion Volume 16 Leslie Spier This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1921 edition. Excerpt: ...Sociology, 297-299; Fletcher and La Flesche, Omaha Tribe, 251-260. These Dakota, Osage, and Omaha ceremonies are closely related, particularly the first two. the majority of tribes do not, the ceremonies of the latter would seem rather to have had common origin with those of Arapaho and Cheyenne.1 The evidence for the historical relations between these two tribes is not illuminating. The Cheyenne claim to have received their ceremony from the subsequently incorporated Sutaio (before 1832), who lived west of the Black Hills early in the last century and presumably were in close contact with the Arapaho.2 But whether the Cheyenne obtained their dance from the Sutaio or the Arapaho cannot be proven: it is nearly identical with that of the latter tribe, with divergencies chiefly by way of incorporating Oglala features. At best we can only consider the Cheyenne and Arapaho an inseparable couple with priority slightly in favor of the latter. The historical fate of the dance among other tribes can best be ascertained by reversing our procedure and eliminating those tribes whose acquisition is demonstrably recent. While that of the peripheral tribes can be given with some precision, only a general outline can be suggested for those more centrally located because of the great uniformity of the dance among them. The Wind River Shoshoni dance resembles the Arapaho and Gros Ventre equally, but inasmuch as it lacks both bundle and fraternity organization it was probably derived from the latter. According to native statement the Wind River transmitted it to the Fort Hall Shoshoni. These events must be relatively recent and subsequent to the removal of the Comanche into the Plains, since the dance is found neither among the last mentioned tribe nor the...



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