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Songs of the Hecucka Society

by J. Owen Dorsey (1848-1895)

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SONGS OF THE HEℊUCKA SOCIETY.

THE Heʒucka Society is composed of men who have distinguished themselves in war. Sometimes a boy is admitted to the society in the place of his father. It was in this way that Mr. Francis La Flèche became a member. He furnished the writer with several songs, and aided him in the revision of others.

There is often a difference between the words of the song as sung, and the same words as merely spoken. The alphabet used is that of the Bureau of Ethnology.

I. Song about the Heʒucka feast.

U'-haⁿ ʒé-te niⁿ'-de ʒo! U'-haⁿ ʒé-te niⁿ'-de ʒe!
What is this collec- is done indeed What is this collec- is done indeed (?)
boiled tion boiled tion

Hin-dá kú-ʒe, niⁿ'-de ʒo! U'-haⁿ ʒé-te niⁿ'-de ʒo!
See! my friend it is indeed What is this collection is done indeed
done boiled

Há-ya-ha+ Hin-dá kú-ʒe niⁿ'-de ʒo! Há-ya-ha+
See! my friend it is indeed
done

Three words differ from the spoken language: ʒo, for aʒa u (?); ʒe, probably the same; ku-ʒe, Omaha notation of the Winnebago tca-ko-ró, *my friend.*

II. Song dictated by Fred Merrick. Mr. Joseph La Flèche gave the theme, "When Wakanda says that I shall not be, I shall not be."

> Aⁿ-ʒiñ'-ge e-há-ma (As spoken, Aⁿʒiñ'ge, é amá).
> Aⁿ-ʒiñ'-ge e-há-ma,
> Aⁿ-ʒiñ'-ge, e-há-ma,
> Wa-kan'-da aⁿ-ʒiñ'-ge e-há-ma,
>   Aⁿ-ʒiñ'-ge.
> E+-ʒa-he+-ʒau+! (+ marks a prolonged sound.)

III. Song, given by Fred Merrick. Theme: "That one causes me to be known by Wakanda. Heqaʒa causes me to be known by Wakanda." Heqaga, or Elk, was a brave Omaha who had died with-

out fearing death.   Through him Wakanda would hear about the singer.

1. Gá-ǥiⁿ Wá-kan-daú   That-unseen-one by-Wakanda.
    Í-ba-haᴺ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!   Causes-me-to-be-known!
      Cé-ǥiⁿ Wá-kan-daú   That-visible-one by-Wakanda.
    Í-ba-haⁿ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!
      Cé-ǥiⁿ Wá-kan-daú
    Í-ba-haⁿ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!
      Gá-ǥiⁿ Wá-kan-daú
    Í-ba-haᴺ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!
        E+! wi+!

2. He-qá-ga ctĭ Wá-kan-daú   Elk too by-Wakanda
    Í-ba-haⁿ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!   Causes-me-to-be-known!
      Cé-ǥiⁿ Wá-kan-daú
    Í-ba-haᴺ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!
      Gá-ǥiⁿ Wá-kan-daú
    Í-ba-haᴺ⁄-bi-aⁿ-ǥe+!
        E+!

IV. Ki-cta-wa-gu's song.   Dictated by Fred Merrick.

The idea of the first verse is, " Without any one to teach you bravery, you would fear to see (something)."   And that of the second, " Do you say that you fear to look at the Dakotas because they gave me two horses? "

1. Wa-gaⁿ⁄-ze ǥiñ⁄-ge tĕ,   2. Ca-aⁿ⁄ ǥañ-ká cañ⁄-ge
      Naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi e-he+!   Naⁿ⁄-ba aⁿ-⁴í-ba —
    Wa-gaⁿ⁄-ze ǥiñ⁄-ge tĕ⁄,   Ca-aⁿ⁄ ǥañ-ká cañ⁄-ge
      Naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pa⁄-bi e-he+!   Naⁿ⁄-ba aⁿ-⁴í-ba —
    Naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi, naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi,   Naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi, naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi,
    Naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi, e-dé-ca-bi.   Naⁿ⁄-ǥa-pá-bi, e-dé-ca-bi.
        He-e+-ǥo+!   He+-e+-ǥo+!

V. Song of Wajide aǥiⁿ.   Written by Frank La Flèche.   Music by Professor Szcmelenyi, to whom Frank La Flèche sung the song. It refers to one who was wounded in battle.   He says: —

" Iⁿdádi   ijáje   ǥadé   maⁿǥiⁿ⁄i-gă!   Wajíde   aǥiⁿ⁄   ijiñ⁄ge   éĕ
  My father   his   pronouncing   walk ye   Something   he has   his son   it is he
           name   it   red

hă,   ecé tai.   Dadíha,   iⁿc⁴áge   amá   ǥigísiǥái   hă."
  .   you shall say   O father   old men   the pl. subj.   they remem-   .
                                              ber you

D.C.

It is sung thus:—

1. Hiⁿ'-da-dí ʒa-de+ maⁿ'-ʒiⁿ-ga+ʒo! Hí-e-ʒe-e+!
  Hiⁿ'-da-dí ʒa-de+ maⁿ'-ʒiⁿ-ga+!
  Hiⁿ'-da-di ʒa-de+ maⁿ'-ʒiⁿ-ga+ʒo! Hí-e-ʒe-e+!
  Ȼa-dé maⁿ'-ʒiⁿ-gá! Hiⁿ'-da-di+, hiⁿ'-c'á-ge ha-má-ʒaⁿ
  Ȼi-gí-siʒ a-mé-e-ʒó! Hi-é o+-é!

2. Ȼa-de+ maⁿ-ʒiⁿ'-ge-ʒé. Hi-é-ʒe-e-ʒo+!
  Wa-jí-de a-ʒiⁿ+ hí-jiñ-ge+ hiⁿ-ʒiⁿ+-ga-ba+-daⁿ
  Hiⁿ'-da-di+ ʒa-de+ maⁿ-ʒiⁿ+-ge-ʒé. Hi-é+-ʒe-e+!
  Ȼa-de+ maⁿ'-ʒiⁿ-gá! Hiⁿ'-da-di+, hiⁿ-c'á-ge ha-má-ʒaⁿ
  Ȼí-gi-i+-si-ʒé a+-me+-ʒo! He+-ʒe+-ʒo!

VI. Song in honor of Úhaⁿ-ȷañga. He was slain in a fight with the Dakotas, after he had joined the Heʒucka. A survivor composed this song, of which the words in the spoken language are as follows:—

Agʒí tĕ uʒúama.	I regret that I have come back (alive)
Úhaⁿ-ȷañ'ga, iⁿc'áge amá	O Úhaⁿ-ȷañga, the aged men,
Ȼigísiʒai (ɥíʾjǐ) zá'e átiáʒai.	When they think of you, make a sudden uproar (calling your name),
(Ádaⁿ) agʒí tĕ uʒúama.	(Therefore) I regret that I have come back (instead of dying as you did).

The same song, in singing notation:—

Há-gʒi té ʒú-a-mé!	Ú-haⁿ-yaⁿ ȷañ'-ga, hiⁿ-c'á-ge a-má
Há-gʒi té ʒú-a-mé!	Ȼi-gí-si-ʒaí, zá-'e á-i-á-ti-a-ʒaí!
Há-gʒi té ʒú-a-mé!	E+á-gʒi té ʒú-a-mé!
Há-gʒi té ʒú-a-mé!	Hí-e ʒé-e-ó!
Hí-e-ʒe-e+o+-é! (<, *crescendo*.)	

Sung by Frank La Flèche. Recorded by Professor Szemelenyi.

VII. Supposed to be sung by a man who addresses his kindred and other friends. The words of this song, if spoken, would be as follows: —

Aⁿ'ba ǥéɔnaⁿ añgí̢aⁿbái-gă!   See me, your kinsman, only for to-day!
Heǥúcka tě téqi édegaⁿ,   The Heǥucka is a difficult thing,
    ḍáxe tá miñke!   but I will undertake it!
Aⁿ'ba ǥéɔnaⁿ añgí̢aⁿbái-   See me, your kinsman, only for to-day!
    gă!

The same song, in singing notation. The first line is sung by one man, then all join him in singing the rest.

1. Aⁿ'-ba-ǥé-ɔnaⁿ-yaⁿ' añ'-gi-í ̢aⁿ'-ba-i-gá!
    Aⁿ'-ba-ǥé-ɔnaⁿ-yaⁿ' añ'-gi-í ̢aⁿ'-ba-i-gá!
        Añ'-gi-í ̢aⁿ' ba-i-gá!
    Aⁿ'-ba-ǥé- ɔnaⁿ-yaⁿ' añ'-gi-í' ̢aⁿ'-ba-i-gá!
        Hi-é ǥé-e + -ɔ + -e!

2. Hé-ǥu-cká te té-qi é-de, dá-xe tá miñ-ké!
        Añ'-gi-í ̢aⁿ'-ba-i-gá!
    Aⁿ'-ba-ǥé-ɔnaⁿ-yaⁿ' añ'-gi-í ̢aⁿ'-ba-i-gá!
        He + -ǥo!   He + -ǥo!

J. Owen Dorsey.

A ṬETON DAKOTA GHOST STORY.

BY GEORGE BUSHOTTER.

Ehaŋ'ni   wićóti   śke.   Lená oyáte ̢iŋ   wanáse   áya ćaŋké
Long ago many lodges it is said These people the to surround the they were because
                                                    buffalo, etc., going

oyáte ótapi.   Waná   ̢ákĕl   étipi   ćaŋ   wićáśa   waŋ̢í   éyapáha
people were many   Now   in that   they camped when   man   one   proclaiming
                          manner there for a night