

MYTH, MUSIC AND DANCE OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Student Songbook

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THE MYTH OF YOUNG EAGLE

Paiute
Pie-YOOT

Young Eagle, a Southern Paiute, feels that he is ready to leave his boyhood behind and enter manhood. In order to accomplish this, according to Paiute beliefs, he must travel from his Western home, Eastward to the country of the Sibit-Paiutes. He asks permission from his mother to make this journey.

The words of many Indian songs imply more than they say, often assuming generally accepted cultural beliefs without expressing them. In this song, it is assumed that Young Eagle really wishes to go East so that he can hunt jackrabbits, a task permitted only to men of the tribe. Having accomplished this, according to tradition, Young Eagle will then be able to find a wife.

English text by Ruth De Cesare

In conversational style



Lit - tle Mo - ther mine, let me go out hunt - ing.
Pi - yae nip - pu - tsi u - v^wut - can (u - qwa - ya!)



I must trav - el far. Oh, I must go!
Ti - in - tu - gwan - tim - pan (Oq - qwa - ya!)

