

The word "Olelbis" is formed of three etymological elements : ol, up ; el, in ; bis, dwelling or sitting,—dwelling on high. Nomhliëstawa is formed also of three elements: nom, west ; hliës, to hurl ; and tawa, left-handed. Both names are epithets, and the Wintus have forgotten who or what their chief divinity is ; at least I have not been able to find a man among them who could give information on this subject. Olelbis lives in the highest part of the sky ; with him are the best of the first people. From his beautiful house, Olelpanti Hlut, he sees everything on earth, and seems more real and familiar than any divinity connected with other tribes. He is certainly more effective in management, more active than any divinity of other Indian stocks, so far as I know.

Olelbis disposes of the first people, except in a few cases, and he retains with himself whomsoever he likes. He sends to the earth and transforms those whom he thinks more useful below than above, and gives the example of a single ruling divinity which, without being all-powerful or all-wise, is able, through the knowledge and services of others, to bear rule over the world in all places and everywhere.

The two old women, the grandmothers, are interesting persons, counsellors of the chief divinity, rainmakers, wise with a knowledge of people of whom Olelbis is ignorant, at least professedly. These old women have been turned into a stone which has a spongy appearance and looks like the inside or porous portion of bones which are without marrow.