

it is one of the most widely spread tales of the Old World, and since, in America, it seems to be confined to the North Pacific Coast, which is so near Asia, I conclude that it was imported there from the Old World. We conclude from these facts that the mythology explaining the ritual of the winter dances is not as old as it seems, but brought together from numerous sources, and comparatively recently. Although apparently the ritual is based on the myths, it seems that much more probably the myths of foreign peoples were appropriated in order to explain and develop a ritual which originally consisted only of disconnected dances. In order to give it greater weight it was connected with these myths and thus by degrees an elaborate ceremonial and an elaborate mythology developed from insignificant sources, the one sustaining the other. This phenomenon may be observed often in studies of the ceremonials and rituals of mankind, and we may pronounce it a general law that wherever a ritual is found, a mythology will begin to form around it and will in its turn enrich and diversify the ritual.

The geographer, from the study of our small groups of phenomena, derives the conclusion that transmittance of culture by intertribal trade has taken place all over the American Continent and that points of contact between the Pacific Coast of the Old World and of the New World must have existed for very long periods.