

as time-markers, especially in the first-named countries, in connection with the period of fifty-two years, when its celestial position was carefully noted. Again, the special and ultimate connection of the seven stars with ritual dances in widely distant localities has been noted in the masterly researches of R. G. Haliburton, who says, in his "Traditions of Mount Atlas," "The very words of the song of the Pleiades, who are known in the New World as well as the Old as 'The Dancers,' the 'Celestial Chorus' of the Greeks, the 'Heavenly Host' of the Hebrews, and the 'Seven Dancers' of the North American Indians, are familiar to ears that can catch 'the music of the spheres,' and have been repeated to me by one of those favored mortals, a Susi wanderer from the Sahara.

Oh, Moon, oh, Mother, we hold our feast tonight;  
We are dancing before God between heaven and earth.

Words that recall Milton's allusion to those 'morning stars that sang together with joy' at the creation.

And the Pleiades before him danced,  
Shedding sweet influence."

As to the Micmac tradition of the transformation of the dancers into serpents, Squier states that the serpent was prominent in nearly all the mysteries of the so-called Old World, and that in America the rattlesnake was typical of the most arcane ideas. Is it not possible, therefore, that this tradition, literally rendered, would read that in former times this Micmac dance formed an initiation into their esoteric ritual? for we know at least that nearly all if not all the Indian tribes have possessed some such ritual. "Why I am a Serpent" is the title of a work by a native Maya, and in the Maya language *ah ak chapat* signifies both serpent and wisdom. Again, we see by the Micmacs' own interpretation of the dance that it refers to the seasons, and this is not surprising, for, alike in Persia, India, Egypt, and Mexico, exuviation was the peculiar symbol of the year. It seems, then, that the existence of this dance among the Micmacs should be considered evidence that they once possessed a ritual having noticeable points in common with that of Indian peoples farther south.

One of the folk-tales told me by Abram Glode was that of the water fairies. Far within a thick dark forest there dwelt a family