

vow, gives himself to his god, and thus performs a twofold duty. Of course the applause of the people and the exhibition of courage are important factors in this rite, but its chief feature is a religious one. Instead of being a time of feasting and pleasure, the Sun-Dance is a military and religious festival, in connection with which there are occasions for joy, and the feast enhances the pleasure.

It is impossible to obtain accurately the interpretation of the Sun-lodge ceremonies without a knowledge of the language, as the speeches made explain much that would otherwise be misunderstood. Oftentimes the entire assemblage will burst forth in songs of thanksgiving, and again a famous warrior will sing aloud the praises of a young man or some brave kinsman who merits the plaudits of his tribe. This is a kind of chant in which the name and noble deeds are spoken of, and a tune accompanies or follows the oration.

Prayer is made to Natos only, and everything in Okán is sacred to him. The influence of this festival upon the hearts of the people is such that it keeps alive their native religion, and excites their passion for military glory.

---