

home to his tribe as a convincing proof of what he had seen; and the tradition is still current among the Indians who frequent that part of the country. They believe that the rock is still in custody of the old squaw, and that the only means of obtaining any portion of it, is to frighten away her spirit by repeated blows with their war clubs and other weapons. For this reason, before they attempt to collect salt they beat the ground with their tomahawks, and every blow is considered to be inflicted upon the person of the invisible guardian of the rock. The ceremony is continued until they imagine she has been sufficiently belaboured, and will resign her treasure without opposition; and this superstition, though privately ridiculed by some of their chiefs, is devoutly believed in by the more ignorant members of the Indian tribes.

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