

Hunting Song

Source:
Natalie Curtis
The Indians' Book, 1923

With spirit

♩ = 92

Hi ne yan - ga

Comes the deer to my sing - ing, comes the deer to my song.

Comes the deer to my sing - ing, hi ne ye yan - ga

*Ka' ai - yash - te til - yilch - ye

Shi - ni shli - ni Ko lo

Comes the deer to my sing - ing, i ne ye yan - ga

* Translation:

He, the blackbird, he am I
Bird beloved of the wild deer.

Background Information

All animals of the chase are the herds of Hasteyalti, God of Sunrise. Hasteyalti is god of game, and he made the hunting-songs and gave them to the Navajos. In the old days, before they were shepherds, the Navajos lived by hunting. The Navajo hunter sits quite still and chants a song, and the game comes straight to him. In this song the hunter likens himself to the beautiful blackbird loved by the deer. The Navajos say that this bird alights on the animals and sometimes tries to make its nest between the horns.