

THE CROW PEOPLE

Five Charms to Make the Enemy Warrior Fall Asleep*

1

In the spring when we lie down under the young cherry-trees, with the grass green and the sun getting a bit warm, we feel like sleeping, don't we?

2

In the fall when there is a little breeze and we lie in some shelter, hearing the dry weeds rubbing against one another, we generally get drowsy, don't we?

3

In the daytime as the drizzle strikes the lodge pattering and we lie warming the soles of our feet, we fall asleep, don't we?

4

At night when we lie down, listening to the wind rustling through the bleached trees, we know not how we get to sleep but we fall asleep, don't we?

5

Having looked for a hollow among the thickest pines, we make a fresh camp there. The wind blows on us, and we, rather tired, lie down and keep listening to the rustling pines until we fall asleep.

Two Songs¹

I

We came only to sleep,
We came only to dream.
It is not so, it is not so,
That we came to endure on earth.

II

- 5 We become as the verdant spring.
Our hearts are rejuvenated,
Burst forth anew.
But our bodies are as the flowers:
Some blossom; they wither away.
- 10 Is it yet true there is living on earth?
Not forever on earth; but a moment here.
If it is jade, it shatters.
If it is gold, it crumbles.
If it is feather, it rends.
- 15 Not forever on earth; but a moment here.

1973

¹From the *Cantares Mexicanos*. Trans. by Arthur J. O. Anderson, in his *Grammatical Examples, Exercises and Review, for Use with*

"Rules of the Aztec Language." (Salt Lake City: U Utah, 1973).

Moved

Uvavnuk¹ (Iglulik Eskimo)

The great sea stirs me.
The great sea sets me adrift.
It sways me like a weed
On a river stone.

- 5 The sky's height stirs me.
The strong wind blows through my mind.
It carries me away
And moves my inward parts with joy.

1973

Love Song¹

Aleut

- I cannot bear it, I cannot bear it at all.
I cannot bear to be where I usually am.
She is yonder, she moves near me, she is dancing.
I cannot bear it
5 If I may not smell her breath, the
fragrance of her.

1944