

9/27/21 L.F.

IMMORTALITY--Wasco.

---Sitting Rock. (September, 1900)

When a man dies, if he has been bad, if he has killed some one or stolen any thing, he will know it when he starts on the trail to the next Life. He goes a distance, travels for a time, and then gets lost. He must stay there for many snows; maybe forty snows. It might be longer time than forty snows, and he is lonely all the time. He sees occasional foot prints on the trail, all going ~~in~~ different directions; to ~~different~~ different places. There are no guiding rock-signs; nothing to tell him which way to go. He is lost! All this long time, all these long snows, he wanders around. He is lonely; is feeling bad [ly]. He wants to see his people, but he stalls on the way.

Gradually the heart of this trail-bound spirit-man makes a change. He is sorry that he ever gambled, that he ever stole. He is sorry that he ever killed somebody. He wants to go somewhere, but can not find his way. Finally he sees horse tracks. He thinks:

"Where are my horses? Where my best horses?"

When he thinks that, his horse comes to him; comes flying through the air. He gets on that horse, and his horse takes him ~~to~~ to the place he wants to go. That place is the Better Land, where the good are living. The horse returns to its own Spirit World. The man never sees that horse again. That is the way I have heard it told.

Klikitat-Yakima

--Smah-lah-hop. (1920)

The old belief of my people, Klikitat and Yakima, is that, after death the spirit rides about this earth on a former favorite horse; the best horse that the man possessed in this life. The two

spirits, man and horse, are never again separated. This is why the good horse was killed at the grave of the dead man. Sometimes the skin was removed and spread on top the stakes set in the ~~wooden~~ yah-ya-tosh of the rock-slide. But this was not always done. Oftimes the horse must be sent after its owner without ~~any~~ wounds.

The Spirit Land, or "Happy Hunting Grounds," is not off somewhere. It is located where the Indian loved to be in this life. This country was created for him. The after life is in this same good country, but it is changed to a spirit world. Every thing there is good, with no trouble. The bad is killed at the grave.

A Yakima Hunter. (April, 1921.)

When I die, I stay right here in dis mountain. I go no where else! Some people go way off some where; go some other country. But dey do not know dis place. I like dis place! High mountains, big rocks; good water. I stay right here all time.

A Yakima Chief. (1922.)

Spirit World much like this life, only every thing good. Nothing bad! Animals there, same as Injuns. Every thing you like to eat. It is there! But you do not kill as in this life. You wish for yah-mas, the deer comes to you. You take what you want; cut it with spirit knife. The deer does not feel any hurt. ~~There~~ No wound as hunting here. The spirit-deer remains sound and whole. Cut of ^{the} knife passing, ~~it~~ ^{is} instantly healed. ~~There~~ No blood, no pain. No death comes to the Spirit World.