

Herbert Spinden's translation from Nez Perce, reprinted from his "Essay on American Indian Poetry," in Songs of the Tewa, New York: Exposition of the Tribal Arts (1933).

THREE SONGS OF MAD COYOTE

1.
Ravening Coyote comes,
red hands, red mouth,
necklace of eye-balls!
2.
Mad Coyote
madly sings,
then the west wind roars!
3.
Daybreak finds me,
eastern daybreak finds me
the meaning of that song:
with blood-stained mouth
comes mad Coyote!