

A mantra is primarily a mental sound and regarded as fundamental in both the creation and dissolution of all form. The function does not end in expressing an ordinary meaning; the very sound aspect of a word or a combination of words has the capacity to activate the divine forms invoked. A mantra exerts its power, not so much through expressing the meaning as we understand it, but more deeply through its sound-vibrations Seers of ancient times who knew the secrets of the power of sounds composed the mantras by joining symbolic syllables in accordance with certain laws laid down in Tantric texts Mantra gives formula and equation; yantra, diagram and pattern; and what correlates both systems of relations is Tantra.

—Ajit Mookerjee, Tantra Art, Its Philosophy & Physics

My son, the ancient No-ho-zhi-ga have handed down to us, in songs, wi-gi-e, ceremonial forms, symbols, and many things they learned of the mysteries that surround us on all sides. All these things they learned through their power of wa-thi-gtho, the power to search with the mind. They speak of the mysteries of the light of day by which the earth and all living things that dwell thereon are influenced; of the mysteries of the darkness of night that reveal to us all the great bodies of the upper world, each of which forever travels in a circle upon its own path, unimpeded by the others. They searched, for a long period of time, for the source of life and at last came to the thought that it issues from an invisible power to which they applied the name Wa-ko-da.

—Playful Calf (Osage), as related to Francis LaFlesche, early in the 20th Century

I'm so foolish. A song is heat. There may be light, but light and beauty is not the state of: the state is the grip of (and it is not feverish, is very cool, is—the eyes are—how did they get that way?

"He who controls rhythm
controls"

—Charles Olson, "Against Wisdom As Such" (1954)