

ONLINE AUDIO GUIDE 6.3

YAQUI DEER DANCE

title: In awa hisa molewaim (Old Antler Crown)

performing forces: male singer, rasping sticks, water drum.

language: Yaqui

form: strophic

function: to honor the deer and its role in Yaqui belief system

source: *Indian Music of Mexico* (Smithsonian Folkways FE 4413 1952, 2006)

Listen for:

- ten repetitions of the same melody, with some slight variation
- two sets of words (verses), distributed over these repetitions
- steady rhythm of rasping sticks
- pitched water drum
- the word “seyewailo,” a reference to the flower world
- emphasis on antlers, to the dancer’s head

Timing	Structure and text	What happens, translation
00:00	Introduction	background of rasping sticks and water drum that will continue throughout is established
00:07	Verse 1 In awa hisa molewaim nane nane kova kovate in awa hisa molemwaim nane nane kova kovateee	My old antler crown I move my head around My old antler crown I move my head, head around
00:21	repeat of verse 1	
00:33	another repeat of verse 1	
00:47	Verse 2 Ayamansu seyewailo huyata naisukunisu wana huya kove nane kova kovate in awa hisa molewaim nane nane kova kovate	Over there, in the middle of the flower-covered grove there in the wilderness, my head, I move my head, My old antler crown I move my head, head around. slight variation in melody
1:04	repeat of verse 1	rasping sticks and water drum continue
1:15	another repeat of verse 1	

1:28	repeat of verse 2	rasping sticks and water drum continue, slight variation in melody
1:44	repeat of verse 1	rasping sticks and water drum continue
1:56	another repeat of Verse 1	
2:07	repeat of verse 2	rasping sticks and water drum continue, slight variation in melody

English translation and transcription of Yaqui text by Juan Avila

Consider:

- What initial impression does this music make on you?
- Does your reaction have anything to do with the actual context of this music and the religious function it performs? Once you become aware of these factors do you hear the music differently?