

Yakotla?swáhtu.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1970/1979

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St. Vitus Dance

Many years ago I got sick. They call this St. Vitus Dance. I had already had two children and they say a bear possessed me. I suffered very much. It was as if I knew I was not asleep but bears would come under my bed and then they say I would yell and lie around on various beds. The bear bothered me all night long and finally I said I would lie on the floor. Then I climbed up and the bears climbed up and went under the bed. I couldn't even move around. It went so far that I thought the bear must be touching me. It got so bad that finally I couldn't even do any more work.

So this old man showed up and he said, "That's St. Vitus Dance." Then we agreed that we would hold a feast. The time did come and people arrived carrying what we would eat. They set up a chair in the middle of the room and they set a dish of soup there. We danced and moved the way a bear would. We ate as well. For three nights we kept up the eating and dancing. After that the bear never bothered me again.