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The Running Deer is a song created by the Native Americans as a narrative of hunting a deer. It reflects the process not only from a hunter point of view but the deers. This shows empathy for the deers because they are able to share and express the feelings of the deer. Throughout reading "The Running Deer " I saw that there isn't much of a difference between what the deer experiences in its journey of the hunt purpose for humans and what Christians experience during the journey to the purpose for God.

The hunters in the Pahkolam are the Seekers in the flowers in the beginning. They are seeking the tracks in the wilderness looking for the deers. This reminds me of the way a Christian would seek out the right path for their lives. The natives are hunting for food similar to a Christian hunting to quench their thirst through seeking God. Later, the song continues by saying " Here, we, where the mescal agave like mescal agave stands, together we will meet. And you are enchanted, enchanted black vulture. And you are enchanted, enchanted turkey vulture. Here, we, where the white wood stands, together we meet, together we will talk about this animal. Here, we, where the mescal agave like mescal agave stands, together we will not meet". In the song the black vulture and the turkey vulture are meeting together to discuss the deer. The vulture is symbolic to a dead thing. A white wood stand is a dead tree. The song expresses that the vultures come down to eat with them.

In the journey to God and building a relationship with Him, Christians go through the shedding process. The way the vultures met to discuss the deer becoming a dead thing is similar to the conversation Christians may even have with God about what's to come. The dead thing that has to take place. The sacrifice to come in order for something prosperous to take place. The vultures consume the dead things. Meanwhile, the vultures in life can consume the things that make you alive and leave you for dead or it can wait for the right when life has worn you out and you are in the break of dying to consume you instead. Vultures are doing exactly what they are designed to do, they eat the dead things. It makes me wonder if you are alive and dealing with Vultures as a Christian are the vultures making it evident that you aren't really living. Are they just existing? What's the purpose behind your life? Although the deer is being hunted the deer is still serving its purpose. What are you living for ?

The song continues with "Around there look for tracks, go get him for me, Toward a place where I could not find safety I went". "Although the unseen in the wilderness, I am just running". First the vulture says to the hunter get him for me. Now the deer is speaking and saying how there was nowhere safe for it to run even into the unseen wilderness, a place where the deer hasn't gone before but is now choosing to run there rather than stay in a space of danger. Throughout life as Christians we come across these problems where it's unforeseen. God can be generous and tell us a few details in regards to our purpose but he never fully reveals what's to come, he'll send a warning or two but not the how. Like the deer when we are faced with the danger any way out of it unseen or seen we will take just so we won't have to deal with the pain, insecurity, lack of safety and protection. Like the deer our insides scream anything but this. The deer did try to hide but it was still spotted. In the heat of the moment the unseen is served as a

temporary fix. The deer choosing to hide was a temporary because it didn't hide enough to not be noticed. How many times have a Christian responded to a situation of danger spiritually with a temporary fix and get upset when it doesn't work.

The song is in the deers voice as the deer says I am talking to you. Looking for the wilderness, it's home to give it a response. A lot of times in a crisis situation people will go to what is familiar to them. The deer is actually asking the very thing that is betraying him to respond to him a meaningful way. It's like telling me even in my death that I would be okay. The deer is in a way pleading with the wilderness to save it as it continues to run from the hunters. Like in life a Christian would plead with God to change the circumstances so the discomfort, fear, worry and doubt can change. Like the deer, Christians sometimes fail to see the purpose in the discomfort. Yes God didn't give Christians the spirit of fear and doubt but a sound mind. When Christians don't take the timeout to ask God what is the purpose of this and look for a quick fix like the deer now they experience the fear, doubt and worry of survival in that moment. The song sings "Not wanting to die dodging through the wilderness." This is also similar to a Christian not wanting to die to self in order to reach its purpose.

Like the deer in the song exhausted from running, it slows down by walking but still moving. This is beautiful because the deer refuses to give up but at the same time when a Christian chooses to keep running from discomfort doesn't it catch up to them? The deer sings "Never again I, Will I here, around will so be Walking". It was the never again part for me. The deer is accepting its death in this moment by saying never again, but Christian say never again to the death of themselves and to the discomfort after slowing down but in reality the physical death

is permanent not the spiritual one Christians have to face when dying to self in order to reach their purpose. There will be plenty of discomfort. Christians won't ever get to say "I've only had to die once to myself and the death was beautiful and poetic. That's not realistic. "Oh, put a flower on me from the flower - covered person's flower body. Over there, I, in the flower-covered flower opening, as I am standing, covered with dust". "My enchanted flower body, fire, above the fire, side by side is hung".

Death to self for growth, destiny, and purpose requires dealing with brokenness, healing, uncovering the hidden skeletons in the closet, and dealing with the ugly truth about ourselves at times. On second thought, after death is beautiful. Once the goal is reached and the purpose is fulfilled that's when the death seemed worth it. All the discomfort, fear, worry and doubt is beautiful. The deers purpose was to become food. Meanwhile, as Christians our purpose can be a multitude of different things. I think that it's interesting how God created nature and humans. Both living things here serve different reasons but within serving different reasons they still mirrored each other. The deers hunted story mirrored what Christians feel in seeking a destiny fulfilled.