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Music is devalued when it is only used for entertainment. In traditional societies, the soundscape is far more powerful. Songs are change agents. They transform the lives of individuals and communities. The music of a culture establishes its relationship with the divine, and even when songs enter the everyday spheres of work and play, everything they touch is spiritualized to some degree. Remember that the Latin word for singing "*cantare*" carries the additional meaning of a magical spell. Our word "*incantation*" comes from this same root. This is the way I prefer to look at music: it is a form of enchantment, a type of incantation. Most people today have forgotten this aspect of sound and song. You can't blame them. We all live in a degraded aural culture. Let's call it the era of "*American Idol-etry*", where the only aspect of music that is celebrated by the media is its ability to make a few people into celebrities. But music retains its power, even if we neglect it. When we need it most, music will still be there waiting for us.



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"HEALING SONGS" AND "WORK SONGS"