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BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

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1834 ✓

Stock Algonquian

Language Fox **Dialect**

Description: (words, vocabulary, dictionary, grammar, text, legends, notes)

Collector Dr. Michelson

Place Tama, Ia. **Date**

Remarks Autobiography of a Fox Man. Text and English translation. 294 pp 8 x 6", and 294 pp 8 x 7". (Ethnology)

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NO. 1834
TRANSL., PT. 1

Alfred Keahna

p. 37 of Indian work in 1 place.

Keahna

Clan Tsi Kara

What happened to me when I first knew it. when I was a boy. when I was a little boy I did not know how old I was. I had leggings. a mush rat fur for a hat, a buckskin shirt, arrows. a mink fur for arrow holster, and raccoon furs for a blanket these what I had on when I first knew, It was winter at that time when I first knew

(2)

whenever I don't mind my mother would say. "I am going to scream for an owl to pour water on you." whenever she says that I became afraid of them. They have kettles and arrow heads appearing here and there. and they always have cold water with them." They have told me of these, and these are our grandfathers but to bad children they would pour water on them whenever they are told to do so. To good children they liked them

(2)

They do not scare them. That's what they thought of them. This is what I am always told. Soon, when the evening approaches I always mind what I am told to do. whenever I am told, "I am going to call an owl." I would quit pouting and my grandmother that is what she also told me. "Grandchild! be good, don't be bad. they're going, awfully, scare you, our grandfathers the owls when they pour water on you." This is what my grandmother always says to me

"you must remember my grandchild, in the daytime when they hoot like this: Ku Ku Ku u u etc" when they hoot like this then, they pour out their water, real soon there will be rain, in less than five days but before there will be rain" This is what my grandmother use to tell me. "And if it is in winter like this its going to snow or there will be a storm and if you are a good boy you will often hear them!"

During the day, if you are bad, you will never hear them and at all times they stay near the lodges to observe the children to see if they do not get hurt, that's why they pour water, so they won't suffer very much with pain and not to leave any scars. Thats why they placed them here to watch by (wi sa ke a) Grandchild this is why I warned against being bad."

"So they won't scare you, the owls, my grandchild." This is what she always tells me, and whenever I hear them hooting, I turn to grandmother."
"Grandma, I wonder why they are doing so much hooting, the owls?" "Grandchild they are only talking to each other saveding 'don't scare our grandchildren too much' says the old owls to the younger owls and also the old female owls, it is liable if the younger is not good. they would likely if you do even a little thing

thats not very bad. They would pour water on you anyway my grandchild. That's why theyre scolding them so they wont pour water on you over little things. They also scold each other. our grandfathers, if they dont scold each other as soon as you step out they would pour water on you. Thats why they are talking to each they are not merely boating.

at times they too remind each other of the ancient order handed down by (Wisakea) what he told them that they remind each other of. my grandchild." This is what she always tells me. my grandmother whenever I sleep there at my grandmothers. and once in the fall when I went with my mother to get borks from the tree trunks, I heard an owl, a little afternoon I begun to cry for I wanted to go home, but she scoed me and said I'm going to call them to pour water on you

you have been good, thats
why you heard them in the day-
time. when they told me this then I
remembered what my grand
mother said to me, then I
asked my mother what will
happen when I heard them I
told my mother, "Well, I presume
it will rain." "I will tell my
grandmother about this?." "alright
replied mother, as soon as I
got to my grandmathers I
said "Grandma! a owl

I heard in a daytime." I told my grandmother. "Grand-child I told the truth then. In a little while its going to rain, if I have told the untruth it will not rain, replied my grandmother. Sure enough in a little while it rained. "And my grand-child I told the truth and now he poured out his water and grandchild, be a good boy, if you are a good boy

you will always make
a success in game birds
after you have grown bigger
this is what you are going to
do, if you are bad while
you are now growing, if you
grow old enough to begin to
have children of your own
they will pour water on your children
they will not be afraid of you, even
if you scold them against your
children. This is what Grandmother
always tells me, If you are good
they be afraid of you, the owls.
They will not, to your
children scare

To your children. This is what my grandmother tells me. And this is what the owls do. at night, they can see just as good as we can during the day and they wear raccoon furs for blankets and they wear leggings which make them look weird and always carry with them on their backs the kettles with cold water in it, to dip the children into it, to the bad children and they carry with them a sharp deer (horn) to pierce the children's ears.

if they pierce your ears they will make you sick for a long time." This is what they told me. This made me so afraid of the owls, after reconsidering. I became more than afraid the owls. Whenever the evening approaches I began to get scared to go outside. More so among the bull rush (Wigwams) an if in the fall they would tell me to go to bed early, because there would appeal without the (disease) in the evening is when this (disease) stands around.

see original

This is what they told me also.
and when I am awakened, after
I am up. "Put on your Moccasins"
This what they told me. and after
I grew older I am told to
be outside before the sunrises
sweeping. This is what they used
to tell me. "As soon as the
sun rises, he will see you.
your (spirit) will be strenghened
that's why I wake you up early
so it will not have any
crushed feeling if you sleep
long. you might cause it to
get lonesome"

This is what I was told. This is what they done to me for several seasons. And when some one dies they would make me fast for four days. "Fast." They would tell me "After they bury the body you will eat, why you fast, if he or she has something (spiritual) he or she will probably leave it to you, if he or she has been blessed by God". This is what they told me whenever someone dies, to anyone, not to closer relatives but to anyone.

Everytime for four days I would blacken my face, not only for old people but to children also when they die. This is what they done to me and sometimes we hear of someone nearly dying. I would get scared, I would often wish someone kills him for fear I have to fast. and when we hear that she or he has passed away I became afraid and in the morning they would tell me to "fast".

"sympathize with our friend."
They would tell me. "sympathize
ourselves, this one is of our own
race that died, never will again
will we see him. This is what
is hard when we die." This is
what they used to say to me.
whenever someone dies I would
think hard, that never will again
I see him. And sure I would
hear their relatives singing and
I found out that those were
crying, singing the
wailing songs.

Soon I asked." Grandma, why do I hear those wailings after someone dies?" "Well, anyone that sympathizes with the dead is the one that cries. Wailing after the dead they're the ones that you hear singing those wailing songs. The one that died are the songs that are used according to clan. Not any one but only the the ones that sympathize with the dead.

"Thats why we say these things to you children, to sympathize with anyone who dies. When I was a little girl, every Indian would wail after the dead and every one fasts and you know now that I am old, I am many years old and you are just starting in life and even this sympathizing is fast fading away

Once I went with my mother to see the dead. she took something along with her. and I went with my face blackend when we got there we sat down and soon someone said. "dress it." and they called on the ones that are to dress it. And then I seen the body at first I thought it was asleep. Soon they through dressing it. They placed everything alongsid the body. the food thats been cooked in a little pails and some bags. and soon the

men came in. They said they were through digging the grave. Then they used long poles to carry the dead and with straps tied lengthwise, everyone with a hoed on the straps and afew dishes placed on the corpse.

Illustration
(see original)
(ghost-letter)

They carry the corpse in these poles and then we follow in procession, I observed some grown men who were fasting and I was only a tot at the time, and when we reached the place of burial, they placed the corpse in the box. The bearers were all tired out. After this the face of the dead was unveiled by one man and at this time the tobacco strips were handed to me by my mother.

They made me hold it on each hand. One took its place and began the sermon placing the tobacco at intervals during the sermon. After this every one filed in to take the last look and began crying soon after. Soon my mother took me by my arm and we also placed the tobacco and soon after this my mother began crying. I began to cry, because I saw my mother crying.

She wept bitterly, I ~~was~~ too ~~more~~ wept
bent my self double crying.

I cried uncomprehensibly, but when I found that our own wailing songs were being sunged and in the evening the wailing ceased, and I also stopped and we went home, and when we got there I ate for the first time. My grandmother was still crying. And when I finished my meal I

I resume my wailing.
but my grandmother
ceased her wailing. and
turn to me, "Grandchild
never will again you see
him. He was our relative
This is how hard it is, this
death my grandchild." said
my grandmother and
every morning before the first
light of dawn my grand-
mother would be gone, I found
that she had gone to the
grave to do her wailing

Late in the morning my grandmother would come back. Whenever she comes back she would speak so tenderly to us. "Grand child, if you fast for many a day you will doing a great good for yourself, you are well in the age of maturity." she would say. "That is why you morned after your relatives' death." She would say to me. I never made no reply to my grandmother, "I cried because I saw my mother crying, and not after the dead. and not for my grandmother also.

I never said anything to her. And the next thing whenever I refuse to have my hair combed, then my mother would tell me. "You refuse me to comb your hair, you will become a crow." she would say. "You go and tell your grandmother about this, you tell her, 'My mother wanted to comb my hair and I refuse'." "She will tell you about how you will turn into crow, if I tell you about it, you will not believe me." said my mother." Then I went to tell my grandmother about it.

I said it like this: "Grandma, my mother I refused to let for her to comb my hair." I told her. "Why is it that you refuse to have your hair combed its a pity on yourself, if you refuse like that always, you will be come a crow, this is why you will become a crow too much dirt on your hair, if it isn't combed off, you will soon fly away." This is what my grandmother told me. And then you will go around eating anything with bad odor."

"Then in the winter you will often go hungry, even while you are flying you will crow, because you will be hungry. Thats why you will be crowing. you will eat anything, and you will never sleep warm, but you will always stay outdoors. you will sleep between hills Thats what you will lookout for when winter comes. That is what you will do my grandchild. if you always refuse to have your hair combed.

"And if you do not turn to crow you will not be good with your arrows. You will never make good at hunting the game. and when you grow up you will do the same my grandchild, if you mind your mother. then it will be good for you my grandchild. I am going to tell you now that your mother, you refuse her. she told herself what I have told you."

you, yourself, then she used to fast, when she was young. That's why you are told to don't. Even at night if you do a things thats not right, God will surely see you, if you do things at night that are bad then you begin to think who's going tell on you, this earth

will surely tell on you.
And the stars. This earth
we will never miss it.
We walk on it always.
Every one of us who walk.
That's what we do my grand-
child. Even the flying
creatures will touch the
earth sometimes. When
they come down to take
a drink, - that's why I said
this, every living thing
touches the Earth.

Thats why I said these things. "Thats whats going to tell on you." This is what my grandmother said. "And God will always know how bad you are. my grandchild." thats what my grandmother used to say to me. Sometimes early in the morning, they would take me to a bath. I would go in water four times. This is in the full. When the water begins to get cold, they do this to me. They would break the ice in which to take my bath in.

whenever I began to refuse then they make me fast letting me eat at noon. If I be playing with other boys I would go home promptly at noon, then after eating I am forced to stay inside. I am confine to our lodge the rest of the time, not being permitted to play elsewhere, I am strongly being told not to go elsewhere.

I soon grew older but still I was mush afraid of the owls, when I hear them sure enough I believe there were humans, but I soon found out what they really look like, then I thought they were just a fiction, and about becoming a crow, I soon found out they were only telling me the untruth, then I reasoned out that they were only telling me these things so I won't get too bad when I was a tot. That's why my grandmother kept telling these things.

"Why we kept telling these things my grandchild is because you wont get hurt in any-way, thats why they says these things to the children." This is what my grand mother said.

Then in regards to boiling for maple syrup, we would do our boiling somewhere. once I asked." Grandma what makes this sap to run out from trees? I asked my grandmother." Well its just because—

(wi sa ke a) made it that way.

broken Indian

Thats why he made them that way, the trees. That is the toad woman's urinary fluid, this sweet water, not these ordinary toads but (spirited) toad." This is what my grandmother told me." That was who (wi sa ke a) told to urinate on the trees, so they will find work, my step aunts (mo. sisters) mothers.—

and my uncles. Then thats why the sap runs out of the trees in the spring. Then we boil it, the (spirited) toad's urinary fluid. That was what my grandmother told me. I believed her again. "This is why we are very careful not to let the sap boil to the kettles full capacity. So none of it will spill. This is what my grandmother told me.

and it is said to work on it reverently, not to waste any of it and every great spirit knows and thinks highly of it, and whenever we worship them, they no to know it. thats why we are told to be careful with it in boiling. This is what my grandmother use to tell me, and once I asked her. "Where does (wi' su ke a) dwell?" "Grand child! way out, towards north."

"Once he use to live with people here, long time ago," said my grandmother," He used to live with his grandma, they live with people who were careful and now we are not careful. He use to tell them of it will happen when the earth comes to an end. and how this sky will fall to earth. The whole of the sky will fall to earth when the end comes," This is what my grandmother told me.

when she told of this I became afraid. I was little at the time. I was afraid for the sky to fall. and what my grandmother said this sky was stired four times, the (spirited) sycamore were used to stir with. No one did not observe the stiring poles, they say, there seem to appear in the midst of the waters. Then the beavers began their gnawing at them.

These poles are very hard in nature, whenever the earth comes to an end then all at once every thing will stir and nothing that is alive will survive. Every one of us will be killed. To fall on us. whenever they say this to me I am frightened "Thats what will happen to us." Says my grandmother, "But if you often fast it will be good for yourself, thats why

they often fast long time ago, these Indians, because they are preparing for the future, so time comes they will pull through." This is what my grandmother use to say. She use to scold me because I was guilty of being bad. Thats why they always warn me. Even things that ripe, if I eat them, I would fast for four day whenever I eat strawberries —

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