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1879

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

Stock Algonquian

Language Fox

Dialect _____

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

Collector Dr. Michelson

Place Tama, Ia.

Date _____

Remarks 8 legends; listed on Card No. 2 in File.

(20)

The man who made a me-sha-me (sacred bundle, war bundle)

Once an Indian, a long time ago, used to fast all the time, or most of the time when he was a boy. But as he fasted on for so long a time his gift of vision never came. He never dreamed about any thing. Soon his father would ask him each day, if he had any kind of a dream, but the answer was always "no". It went on and on, till finally the father of this boy became disgusted that the boy had fasted so long and never had any kind of vision. And other boys who had been fasting were being talked about on what great dreams they had.

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and his boy could not dream of any thing. Each morning he would ask, he began to abuse the boy by whipping him, when he would say that he did not dream of any thing. The boy was growing quite large by now, then he would cry soon as he awakened for he could not dream and that his father would whip him. So finally the mother of the boy scolded the man, that is was their only child, he should not abuse him just because he could not dream of some thing great.

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It went on, that the boy hadn't dream of any thing yet, so the mother said

he would have to stop abusing the boy. If death should happen to take the boy that he would be the first one to cry out. So the man promised he would not lay hands on their boy any more but he would have to keep on fasting till he had his dreams. Finally this boy was getting to be a young man.

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Then the old man made a bark but for the boy away from theirs. After this boy lived by himself. He fasted often, more than he ever did before. Then some spirit gave him a certain kind of power, he dreamed, a god said, Man to morrow as soon as you

wake up, as soon as the sun rises, go straight for the mountain, right in the side of the mountain you will find a mate that you will live with waiting for you. So go as soon as you get up. So he thought "well, I will have to go as soon as the sun rises," "I am told."

- 3 -

Soon as he had cooked his morning meal, he started out to the place they had told him about in his vision. He walked along very slowly. It was getting toward the middle of the day while he was taking his time, he looked up there was a great big mountain in

the middle on the side he could see a tall figure looked rather white standing there. It looked so big to him but when he got close it was only a small person, it seemed - When he got right up to it, here it was a buck skin laying flat on the ground. He picked it up and started back.

- 6 -

When he got back to his bark hut, he took the buck skin, or deer skin and placed it in a hole in a tree. There was a large hole in a tree. He discovered there was not only the skin but it contained in it 2 flutes made of red cedar. He hadn't quite seen everything, when his father

came, he told his father to get his man who always cooked at his feasts. So the old man send the cook to him. This young man told him to gather all the men that had belong to the same clan he did. For the clans-men to bring some thing to cook for the feast.

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When they had all gathered the man cook, put the meat on the boil, they carried on the feast all night. This young man sent his cook to go to the different families and ask for two more deer skins, in which he did and brought back the deer skins. Then he told him to

step out for his deer skin
he had placed out side
in a big tree with a hole
in it. So the cook stepped
out and brought it in.
-8-

When he was out side
looking for the tree, the
young boy spoke of,
He looked in the hole,
here he found a lot of
things with this hide or
skin, he was told to
bring in every thing he
saw. When he was out
and came back he got
in just when the meat
was coming to a boil.

Then they sat up all night
and had their feast. It
was mostly brave men,
old time warriors who took
part in it. When morning

came they all departed for
their homes, except not
all left, a few old warriors.
9.

These few old warriors
stayed and put Indian
tobacco with the deer skin
which was to become their
very sacred bundle, made
thru the dream of this
young man, who was
given power by the gods,
to make it. Then in a
few days he sent for the
man who was cook at
his feast, he came and told
his cook he needed him
again. "I will never refuse
said the cook," "good" said
the young man who lived
alone. So the following
night there was to be
only four this time.

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So there were two men that was asked to come for the feast, these two old men took so much time they walked a day and a half there. When they got close, they showed them in. The feast was ready and the purpose was to prepare to ^{go} out on a war path far off.

These four was to set out for a war path to seek the chief enemies daughter. This young man was getting ready to leave, then his mother came and asked him where he was going, to be back right away and not stay long.

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He said, "alright" and

it was a Sioux chiefs daughter
and an old lady too who
was stitching up a deer
skin, in a Sioux village.

There was a path leading
to a thick timber, here
these men laid, and
waited for the chiefs daughter
to come along to the river
to get water. They had not
laid there very long. When
the old woman who threw
her work aside and went
along with her daughter.

This chief had gone on a
hunting trip. As these men
laid there hidden in the
tall weeds along a path,
came the Sioux chiefs,
only daughter, and her
mother an old lady. They
sprang up club them to
death with their warclubs.

and killed them, then immediately they cut off the hair or scalp. Then they ran home twice as fast as they came, the following night they reached home. Then when this old chief got home he looked about but saw no one home, there was another woman there and asked her but she did not know, "well, I guess they will be home soon" he said. But this story says again they got only the girl that the old lady didn't go very far and came home, so they got only the daughter.

As the sioux chief was out looking along a path

he found his daughter
lying dead, with her
scalp cut off clear around
her head - He hollered
out and cried till the
people in the village
heard him. The old lady
~~come~~ went out where he
was hollering, she knew
that the girl must be
killed -

- 14 -

yes, she is killed they
said, so the old man
got back and told the
people she had been
killed. The whole Sioux
village felt very bad their
chiefs daughter, the only
daughter they had was
killed and scalped by
some enemies. The whole
Sioux Village mourned with

with them. And this young man lived by himself, while the old people of his tribe danced every night. Then his father asked him to go look for certain kind of bark he wanted for medicine, so he went away.

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He took with him some dried Indian corn, and a small kettle for boiling his corn in along. He came to where he was told there was a lot of that medicine. He started a fire and put his corn on to boil. Then he started to cut down the little trees of the bark he was to get. Just as he got thru, some one was sneaking on him. He saw The

face he grabbed the kettle
and scalded the face of
the enemy, burned the
face with boiling ^{corn} soup.

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Then he tied the old man
up that was sneaking on
him and took him along.
Then; he went to his father
and told him to send a
cook to his bark but right
away where he had the
man tied up. But he step-
ped out for a short time
and this man got loose
and got away. So the
feast went on for four
days and nights.

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As the feast went on for
four days and nights each
time some of these men
would bring some thing to

boiled - and this old man
that got away was the
old Sioux chief sneaking
around trying to revenge
who it was that had
killed their daughter. At
this time there were four
men out looking about
too so their enemies could
not attack them suddenly.

- 18 -

The father of this young
man could hear the singing
all night it was the feast
going on. When it was
the fourth night of the
feast, just the men who
owned sacred bundles
took part, they sang and
sang all night with their
bundles on their backs.
As if they were getting
ready to go away.

The old Sioux Chief that got away that time was foolish that he didn't tell his tribe the Sioux in the Village about this other tribe, but kept it to himself thinking he would get his revenge on them some day.

- 19 -

As during this last feast every one had their pack on their back, it was the getting ready to look for the old Sioux, as they sang about going after the Sioux to the Village, the door came open there a grizzly bear came walking in they all threw Indian tobacco on him and followed him out.

20 -

It was the grizzly bear

with long claws that was giving this young man power. As they followed it away off they walked all night just about the break of day. They came to the piomy village every one was fast asleep. There was only four men with four packs, one on each man. Then this bear disappeared - And these four men hurriedly killed every living thing in the village except one.

- 21 -

They killed every living thing but one piomy, and this piomy was sent to the band of piomy's where they all came from to tell them they had ^{killed} all but himself. As this

lonely Sioux departed he
at last reached the other
village of Sioux s. And told
them all that happened -
just as he got to the end
of his story he fell back-
ward dead - then the
other Sioux's became
frightened - They said,
The mes-gua-be - was
be very powerful -

22.

Then these four warriors
returned to the mes-gua-
be - village, the cook was
still there and took off
the bundle from the
young man's back and
hung it on the inside
wall of the bark hut
toward the southwest
side - where hangs the
sacred bundle or me-
pha-me - to this day.

It was planned for the tribe to move the following fall - where they would be safe for the winter, a hidden place - so the men gathered in council just where the place would be. So it was planned where it would be and the moving began, this young man and his parents were the last to move, when they moved there was already a lot there who had moved, it was a large village.

Then he discovered right away they had moved close to a Sioux village the enemy - so he tried

them right away there was
the enemies camp close by.
He saw it - it was
quite a large camp. So
this young man with
three others to make four
in all, set out to see
the camp. They planned
to attack the camp just
before the break of day.

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Just before the break of
day they attacked the
village and killed all but
one man, this man they
tied up and took him back
to their village. The next
day they told this old
Sioux man to go back to
the place where the other
Sioux's lived and tell how
the mes-quah-ke-had
killed the whole camp of
his tribe.

So this man was un-
tied and he left, He
journe'd on until he came
far off where the other
band of Sioux were. Soon
as he got there they fed
him, after he was done
eating, they asked him
to tell some stories. So
he began to tell slowly
about the mes-qua-kil
how four brave warriors
had killed their camp.
Just as he got thru tell-
ing about it. He got
up on ^{his} feet then he fell
backward dead - Just
like the first captured
Sioux had done -

So this band of mes-qua-
kies - lived in peace all
thru the winter and they

danced all thru the long
winter to keep their feet
warm, and feasted over
the Sioux their enemy
that was going to kill
them. This is what the
man who made a
sacred bundle or war
bundle, done. He fasted
until he was told how
he could get one thru
a vision from some g.d.
This young man was a
great leader and warrior
of his band of mes-qua-
kies - This is what was
told of this certain man.
The end.



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