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HIGHLIGHTS:

- A Sarcee creation myth.

THE SARCEE STORY OF CREATION

There was no land, only water. Old Man called to Muskrat and said, "I am going to make land."

He gave Muskrat a bit of dirt and said, "Be very careful with this. Run around it, and as it grows larger, keep running around it."

So Muskrat ran around it but the dirt did not grow. Old Man said, "I know the trouble. I shall have to get different dirt." He sent Muskrat to dive into the depths of the water and said, "Try hard to get a bit of mud from the bottom." Muskrat dived three times and came up with open hands. The fourth time he touched bottom and got some mud under his nails.

Old Man took the mud, rolled it in his hands and it began to swell. When it was as large as he could hold, he called Muskrat and said, "Keep going around this earth. Do not stop, because it must be a large earth. There will be people -- people of many kinds. I want them to love one another and to love this earth which I am making for them." Muskrat ran round and round the swelling earth which became larger and larger. Soon, it was as large as Old Man wanted.

He took some earth and created people. Then he made birds from clay of many colors. He stopped, then said, "I have no clay left and I forgot the crow." So he picked up some charcoal, made the crow and said, "You will live among men."

Old Man took a long stick and as he walked he struck the earth in various places and formed streams. He told the people, the animals and birds what they should do, "Love one another."

When Old Man was ready to leave the earth he remembered that he had not created the Sarcee. He took some red clay and created them.

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