

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: SCRAPING WHITE
ADVENTURES OF WOLF CHIEF
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: BLOOD RESERVE
CARDSTON, ALBERTA
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CARDSTON, ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: BLOOD
LANGUAGE: BLACKFOOT
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INTERVIEWER: RUFUS GOODSTRIKER
INTERPRETER: DAVE MELTING TALLOW
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Various origin myths.

Scraping White: A man was camping alone with his old woman (wife) and a son of his. It's a wonder how they got food. It's not known how they come to be camping out alone. So he was camping there. It was in winter; he camped there.

When darkness came someone was shaking his feet outside the door. He just pointed a finger at his wife. Someone came in. The man told him, "Here is some food for you to eat. Your friend Wolf Chief provided them for you. Along this river where you're camping, start walking. He is there; he is making buffalo jumps. Your friend Wolf Chief provided these for you." He didn't suspect a thing. So he ate and after he got through eating he slept. He broke camp, he camped again and when it got real dark again, someone was shaking his feet again at the door. He came in and told him, "Okay, your friend Big Wolf provided these for you." Now he is going to suspect something.

The man told him, "Take these. You will be provided with food again. He is making buffalo jumps and you will have plenty of food." They sat there. "Okay, we are going home." So away they go. The man told his old woman (wife), "Now I think that there is something crooked about those that are providing for us. I will track them tomorrow." Their tracks were human tracks for some distance. Their tracks didn't go far. They different, they turned into wolf tracks. The man told his wife, "They are no vicious, there is not wrong with them. They pitied us." So he broke camp again and away he went. He

camped again, the third time. They were shaking their feet outside the door. They entered. "Okay, your friend Wolf Running provided these for you. You will be provided with food once more and you will be there. Just follow the river." He broke camp again in the morning and he camped again. Someone shaking his feet outside the door. "Okay, your friend Fox Running provided these for you." The old woman said, "Yiow." "Shut up. You might cause something wrong," the man told his wife.

"You will go around that inlet and you will come out into the open and there he is. The snow will be swept away and where you will pitch your tipi and wood will be supplied for you. You will camp right beside your friend." They broke camp in the morning. As he came out into the opening, they camped here and there; they camped individually in clans. "Over this way, my friend." The snow was swept away for him. "Okay, come over." His lodge was erected in no time by the women and beds were made. Wood was supplied for him and he was given some food; so he had plenty of food. He stayed there. The man's friend had a son. The man's son made friends with his friend's son; they were making buffalo jumps. His friend told him, "Beware. Your son must not take any of the arrows that the

buffalo are hit with. Something might go wrong. Have a gut available. As soon as you notice us stir, cook it, even if it is not real cooked. Ah, my friend, here is your food. Why are you running away? My friend, if anything goes wrong you will say likewise." So he put a gut away, he was provided with food, his wife was storing meat in containers and lacing them together -- dried meat, backfats and all sorts of meat.

The boy ran along and there was an arrow. The feathers were almost without a black tip; they were centre tail feathers. He grabbed it and here it was a coyote dropping, in the direction. They made a rumbling noise as they ran. "Wah-wah-wah," they were yelping in their run. He jumped in. "A poor thing is done. Where is that gut? My friend, here is your food. Come back, come back." They came back. As he looked the women were all pregnant. It must be the Duck Moon (March); they were pregnant. His friend told him, "You are seeing our women. When this moon is gone and the next one they will disperse to have their litters. My friend, these two will look for your neighbors then you can go home. You are through staying here." He had lots of meat. The two started off. Coyotes travel great. They came back. "They have found your neighbors. Now you can go home." The boy told his friend, "This is my robe. I give it to you now. Beware, my friend, a woman must not wear it. The ochre on my robe will vanish."

On the right hand side of the robe the Human Arm was on it and down the centre the Milky Way was. "This is our trail, we are alive by that arm." So the boy got a robe. "Okay, I am going to move camp." On and on, the two bachelors accompanied him. "So now, go to bed and we (bachelors) will go to bed too." The bachelors curl up outside and sleep and they come in in the morning and they eat. "Okay, it's close by. You will go." So

they (bachelors) shook hands with him. "Now we are going to go back. My friend, take some of these white weasel cedar needles. Something may go wrong. Incense will be burned with them for you." So he got them and gave them to his father. When he reached manhood he still had his robe. He told his wife, "Don't wear my robe, don't wear it." So time went on. They were invited. She jumped up, "Why shouldn't it be worn?" He was whooped and shouted at. He turned into a coyote. They held him down. His father said, "Drag him in." His teeth were chattering. Incense was burned with the cedar needles and he came to his senses. And as he looked, the designs were gone and there is the Human Arm up in the heavens and we used to say the Wolf Trail. That ochred robe went up there. So that is how it is.

THE MOON AND THE SUN AND DOG

Okay, from where we originated, a man's name is Sun and a woman, her name is Earth Woman, and a dog; those are the first

three that inhabited the earth. The man (Sun) would go out hunting. He'd only cut open his kill and he goes home. The woman will be given a fast limited time. The man will soak a thong in his mouth and puts it down and the woman will bring the meat home before the thong dries, and they'd live abundantly after. The woman (Earth Woman) told her husband, "Sun, there is only two of us. The dog is useless. I wish that we could have somebody to live with us." He told her, "No, there will be only the two of us." It occurred that women will finally beat us in an argument. The man said, "Okay, let it be that way." Time passed on and a baby boy was born to them. He told her, "Please give him a name." The woman said, "No. If it was a girl I will name her. It's a boy; you give him name." He told her, "You are right. I will give him a name, that is NAPI."* Time went on. The woman said, "I think it is lonely for our son. He is alone. It is better to be two of them so that they will go around together." He said, "No." Sun was refusing but finally the woman won. Yes, there will be another one. It was a boy again. He told her, "Now you give him a name." She told him, "No, you will give him a name. I told you if it was a girl I will give her a name. It's a boy; you will give him a name." He told her, "Yes, okay, his name will be Creator." There they were, as it was a mystic thing. They were both boys and they go around playing together.

When the man goes hunting the woman goes out and, as they were mysterious people, when she thinks that it is time for her husband to come back she goes in her tipi. Time went by. When she went to get the meat one of the boys told him, "Na-ah (Father), as soon as you are gone she goes out." He said, "Yes, she has somebody else. She has somebody else. I noticed that." He (Sun) sharpened his knife and he went off on his hunt. When he came back he gave his wife the wrong direction where his kill was. As soon as his wife disappeared over the horizon he took the trail of his wife. He came to a trail which was slippery, a trail which was made by a great big snake

that she always meets. He kicked at the entrance of the snake's den. The snake came creeping out. When the snake crept out completely he cut its head off with his knife. He (Sun) told the snake, "For your punishment, you will not walk on your feet from this day, you will be creeping on your stomach. You will not be walking on your feet any more."

He (Sun) walked home and he told his sons, "Your mother is powerful. She will kill us. Take this sod, son, and these

*Pronunciation of Napi is NAPEE and the meaning of Napi is, My Friend. The name of the child that is mentioned in the legend spelled NAPI, pronunciation is NA-APEE. 'I', stands for 'E' in the Plains native tongue.

hawthorn and this mountain rock and this water moss. When she comes close behind you, drop one of the items. Flee in that direction." So they close up the tipi. "Yes, I will kill you all." She (Earth Woman) was trying to enter the tipi and when she poked her head in the Sun cut her head off. He (Sun) jumped out and ran. It was said that he ran in the eastern direction.

On and on they ran at full speed. As they (boys) looked back they said, "Our mother has got up to us." She (Earth Woman) was chasing them with her head in her hand. When she (Earth Woman) got real close to them they dropped the sod and a deep coulee created. She had a difficult time to climb. Finally she did. One of the boys said, "My friend, she is almost catching up to us." When she (Earth Woman) got real close up to them they dropped the hawthorn. A great big thick growth of hawthorn bush formed this way and that way. They ran and ran. There she comes; she was threatening them. Then she got real close up to the boys. They dropped the mountain rock and the mountains were formed. Now they fled farther this time. "There she comes again," the boys said. They dropped water moss and there they were standing on the opposite shore. When they looked this way they did not see any earth, just the ocean. Napi (Old Man) told him (Creator), "It is lonely where we are. It is better to be where we were born." "Yes," said Creator, "you go back and I will stay here." "Okay," said Napi. "Are you ready?" Creator told Napi. "Yes," said Napi. "Now close your eyes," said Creator, "I will tell you when to open your eyes." "Okay," Creator told Napi. As Napi opened his eyes and looked he was back on earth. Today humanity exists on this continent. The ones that told the story claim that the head of Earth Woman is almost catching up to her husband, the Sun.

Okay, the dog was sent on an errand. I (Scraping White) lost that part of the story. The dog hasn't found its destination yet. So nowadays that is how we are living from the creation of man by Napi (Old Man). That is all.

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