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GEORGE FIRST RIDER

George First Rider of the Blood Reserve was born in 1904. He had no formal schooling but became an accomplished horseman and worked for a time on the rodeo circuit. After working as a farmer he ended up in jail as a result of alcoholism and theft. He attributes his reform to his conversion to Christianity.

He prides himself on his ability as a storyteller and on his knowledge of Blood culture, particularly the holy societies many of which he joined as a young man.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discusses various sexual practices.

NOTE: The title of this document bears no relationship to its content.

George First Rider: Okay, now we wanted to know why girls got married so young. A boy will not propose to a girl. A man will take a boy for a son-in-law and all of his daughters will be marrying the same man; the man doesn't care how many wives he is going to have. The reason why the man is like that, the reason why he didn't care to have too many wives it is like this. He hunts and he will have a lot of hides. His wives are just like his hired boys. That is why there are bad secondary wives. The man's wife knows about life. This is the one that a

story was told about, the one that I told a story about before, the one that I illustrated before, the woman that was taken up into heaven. We all became wise by her, for a woman to be wise.

A man really wanted his son to be useful. It's just like to be educated in school. The person, the man, raised his son with the thing that I (First Rider) illustrated before. The man made his son healthy by having him to be dipped in cold water and to be bathed in the snow, so that he'll be aggressive, and not to have any ailments, to become a chief. To be an aggressive person to have no fear, that's what the man wanted. The wife wanted her daughter to be an ambitious woman, to be good in tanning hides, to be good in slicing meat and to be good in making food supplies for the winter. She is after her daughter for these. She wants her daughter to be perfect, not to be lazy and to try to reach the position of a Holy Woman so she can put up a Sun Lodge.

A Holy Woman will never be abused by her husband. Even if she is a very young girl but once she puts up a Sun Lodge the people are all her children. Even the people are older than her, even the women are older than her, they are all her daughters. Even if a woman is older than her, even if the Holy Woman is younger, she will call the older woman, daughter. The man will call her daughter Ko-Ko-Wa and he will call the girl that is not his daughter Ko-Ko-Na.*

The one that he is going to have for a son-in-law is not a young boy. The man noticed, "That man has a daughter. He treasures his daughter. I will ask him for his daughter." So he invited a well-to-do man. He told the man, "Here is a horse and here is my bow and arrows. Go to that man, take the horse to him and the bow and arrows and give them to him and tell him to give me his daughter. I admire that girl." The messenger went to the man. He told him, "This is your horse and this is your bow and arrows." The arrows were not in a quiver.

*Ko-Ko-Wa and Ko-Ko-Na means the same only the two end letters in the first word are Wa and the two end letters in the second word are Na but they both mean daughter in English.

That young chief has a good life. His wives, he might have one wife or two wives and he wanted another wife. So he will raise your daughter and if your daughter has a good life the man will be chief with her. The man knew then, "my daughter never did wandered around yet. She doesn't know yet to go around with boys and now that man has proposed to her, before someone spoils my daughter for me." He got scared of this. He told the man that came into his tipi, "Yes, it shall be that way."

The man told his wife, "Give him three thongs." So the woman took a thong and gave it to the man. The girl didn't even know that she was going to get married. The woman took the thong and she gave it to the man. She told the man, "Tell my would-be son-in-law to measure his feet and I will make a pair

of moccasins for him and if he still have a father and a mother they got to all measure their feet." The man took the thongs and he went out. He went into the tipi of the chief. He didn't tell him, "Your proposal is agreed," he just told him, "Measure your foot with this." His father and his mother also measured their feet.

The measurements were brought back and the woman got busy sewing the moccasins. They just waited for the moccasins. When they were done they were given to the girl. A travois and horses -- her brothers helped her with horses so she had her own horses -- a parfleche and blankets, and she moved to the man that she was going to marry. She got there and she went inside and made her bed. The chief sat with his wife. The man waited for the night and he concentrated on the girl, so his wife slept in his tipi. The next day his wives were telling the girl to do this and that so that they'll know if she knows how to work.

In the evening it was starting to get dark. The man didn't find anything wrong with her so got ready. He didn't call her "my wife." He told her, "My daughter, you will come with me and we'll look after the horses." He took his new wife out and he tended to his horses. After he had tended to them he looked for some tomatoes, those prairie tomatoes.* So he picked some. If the tomatoes are fine he'll take four; they will be big tomatoes. He looked for a suitable place, so he told her, "Daughter, let's sit here." He seated the girl. He told her, "Now lie down." Recently girl just started wearing panties. The girl had no panties. When he checked up on her, the girl never had a sexual intercourse before. He told her, "Have courage, daughter." So he forced his finger into the girl's vagina and the girl screamed because she is young. So he had her opened.

*Wild rose berries are called tomatoes in Blackfoot.

When he pulled his finger out, as he had chewn the tomatoes already, he pulled the lips apart and he pushed the tomatoes into her vagina with his tongue and he pulled the lips together and he laid her on her side and he held her down for a while. Then he told her, "Get up, we are going home now." The tomatoes remained in there and he took her home. He told her, "Don't drink," because the girl might urine. They got home and the girl slept with the chewed tomatoes. As we get itchy with the wild tomatoes, so the tomatoes were in her. The girl's vagina was swollen. As her swollen vagina started to go down, the tomatoes worked and she got itchy and right away she wanted somebody to scratch her but finally she started to scratch herself and she took out all the tomatoes.

He will go on a buffalo hunt with his new wife after four days. He has noticed her, that she was a smart girl. She slices meat and all her works, et cetera, so he went with her. Now they are gone to get some meat. He killed a buffalo. He build a

shelter and he went to bed with her. The girl was all right when he had sexual intercourse with her; he satisfied her instead. He brought home the meats. The girl had her bed on one side of the tipi.

Now the Sundance is on and everybody knew that the girl is newly married. The Holy Woman has got the buffalo tongues. That girl that just got married, her husband would have let her go if she had a lover before, and it is obvious that her husband didn't find faults against her. Her husband just opened her vagina and now she'll be invited. And she was called without notice. She was called for the Holy Sun Lodge to slice the tongues. When the husband heard that his new wife was invited he just sat quiet.

The father was heard singing a song of praise outside of his tipi; he sang a song of praise for his daughter who just got married. The husband heard his father-in-law sang a song of praise for his daughter. He told her, "Daughter, do you hear this person that is singing a song of praise?" And the girl will say, "Yes, I am hearing him." "Are you going to get ready?" In that way he told her, "Are you going to get some of the tongues? Are you going to slice some tongues?" The girl will say, "Yes, I am waiting for you to tell me." "Yes, just go ahead." The girl will paint her face. Now she covers her head with her robe. She will not look around and she went. The Sun Lodge is not up yet. The Holy Woman is now cutting tongues; the girl is going to slice the tongues. So she went. She didn't look around, she was just walking to the tipi. When her father and mother saw her they sang another song of praise; they were proud of their daughter.

She entered the tipi and she was welcome. The people that are going to conduct the Holy Sun Lodge were already seated. They put up the Sun Lodge when the saskatoons and the chokecherries are ripe, and they start fasting from that point. They fast for so many months. That is why the Holy Women get really skinny. That is why they can't walk by themselves; they have to be helped. The girl's husband has let her go at this time. When the people bring some meat home they'd have a buffalo tongue for the Holy Woman. They'd say, "There some more tongues that are brought into the Holy Woman's lodge."

Other newly married girls are called. The ones that just come in are also taught how to slice tongues. They have boy friends at the time they slice the tongues, their untruthfulness will show. The one that sliced a tongue, when she takes some of the tongues, her relative, through her deceitfulness, she has another man besides her husband, and she'll feed her relative the tongue and her relative will die. People will know that she hasn't got a straight life; she has another man. They make a confession when they take some of the tongues. They don't make a confession when slicing the tongues, they just pray. Their husbands will let them free at this point.

A boy that was never married before and a girl that was never

married before are put together and they still play. They don't know about married life; they still play together. Some will fight while they are playing. A married woman will teach the boy how to have a sexual intercourse and then the boy will know how to have a sexual intercourse with his wife.

The first girl that sliced some tongues will be the first one to take some of the tongues in the next Sundance. A man is an orderly; he wears a crow feather. The tongues that the woman took, the orderly will also take those and he'll give them to the Horn Society and to the small societies; that is why he wore a crow feather. The girl is the first one to take some of the tongues. When she took the tongue she broke a piece of it and the ones that took some also broke a piece of the tongues and they stood in a group; it's always like that.

The sun is not in the centre, it is going down. That's when it occurs. I think it takes place at three o'clock in the afternoon. That is the white saying. They all face the sun and they make confessions. She was still a child before she got married. If there is a boy that tried to do something to her she will confess that. She'll say, "Now, Sun, you are looking at me. That boy did tried to do something to me and I refused him. He couldn't do anything to me." Or maybe she'll say, "When I got married a boy came up to me and he said, 'Let

us be relatives.'" Relative means, "Let us be lovers. You'll be my love." And now we'll give the right meaning. It means, "Can I have a sexual intercourse with you?" That's what it means. Those will be confessed.

There might be another boy that had a sexual intercourse with her and if the girl hides that, if she didn't confess it and she will give the tongues that she took to her relatives to eat, and as she feeds them with her lie one of her relatives will die. That is why the people of the past are strict to their daughters; that is why they get married young. The first thing for her to do is to get some of the tongues and eventually she'll sponsor a Holy Sun Lodge and then she has a higher rank than her husband; her husband will treat her like a chief.

She will not go to a place where there is an amusement and she will not do any work because she sponsors Holy Sun Lodges. If the man abuses her, the girl's relatives will say, "She did a great thing for him and why did he abuse her? Tell him not to strike her again." That's what they say. If the man beats his wife again, the girl's brothers will kill the man and the woman will never get married again because she puts up Holy Sun Lodges and she will not put up a Holy Sun Lodge again because her husband is killed. She will not get married again and she will not sleep with any man in her lodge to put up a Holy Sun Lodge. Now she just looks after the Holy Women; she gives them instructions. She will know the songs. She will tell the singers what to do if they don't sing well. That's what that woman will be. They are not all like that; there are some that are crazy.

If the woman's husband dies she will not get married again and she will not sponsor a Holy Sun Lodge again. Later on there are some Holy Women that their husbands died and they get married again and they sponsor a Holy Sun Lodge and they have come to a life that is no good. Things continue to change. They will not separate from each other. We won't say that Holy Woman's first husband is still alive; nobody will do that.

In the other part, if a girl knows about men before she gets married there might be a man that will have a sexual intercourse with her and yet he will not marry her. And after that the girl got the habit of having sexual intercourse with any man and finally she'll get pregnant and she'll never take off her robe while she is in pregnancy, she'll always wear it. Some women will erect a tipi on the prairie and they'll save the girl; she deliver her baby. That baby is a coyote baby; we don't know its father.

That kind of baby will be wrapped up and it will be thrown away; some are found by other people. Some women that looked after the mother will smother the baby by putting a hand over the baby's mouth and the baby will die and they hide it away. They don't want people to know that the girl had a baby; that is the reason why the babies are thrown away, that is the reason why the babies are smothered. Others, a man's daughter will have a baby and when he knows that his daughter has delivered her baby and he'll go there. "Where is my grandchild?" "Here it is." His grandchild will be given to him and he will take it out and he'll slam his grandchild on the ground. That is how people lived.

An unmarried woman and she has a baby, these are called Cut Leaved Anemone. The others are called Crooked Stem and the others are called Wild Licorice. The unmarried women make decoctions of these herbs and they drink them and they have their menstruations every month. That woman will never get pregnant. Finally they'll have stomach trouble. They are called having tumors. Maybe the womb gets rotted. They stink very much. Shelters are built for them when they get to be like that. They have sores on their faces. That is why they are strict to their children.

Now the other girl, a young boy that didn't have a wife before will marry the girl that didn't have a husband before. They will not make an agreement between themselves. The father will invite the men and he'll tell them, "I want my daughter to get married so please choose a son-in-law for me." The men will say, "That boy is a favorite child and he is a quiet boy, have him for a son-in-law." The man will go to the father of the boy. He'll tell him, "I came to have you for my son-in-law. You will marry that man's daughter." The man will know, "He wants to have my son for his son-in-law."

The man also invited the men. He brought them in and he told them, "You will make suggestions for me. That man wants to

have me for a son-in-law, so what do you think?" The men will say, "She is a good girl." They know that it was his son who is wanted for a son-in-law, so these people will make the agreements. So the two will be put together. The girl was brought to the boy and they still play together. The other boy knew that the girl is now married and she still plays. The husband didn't know how to have sexual intercourse with his new wife. Finally the other boy will have sexual intercourse with her instead and the husband will know then how to have a sexual intercourse with his wife, but somebody had sexual intercourse with her already.

They got married. So as the boy is now married, he will also marry his wife's sister and he'll know how to open her vagina and he'll stay with her. And he didn't like his first wife because he didn't open her vagina and he started to abuse her on account of that and they didn't stay together so well after that. If the woman stretches her legs towards to the centre the man will hit her shin with his knife. Women will have scars all over their shins.

He kept her for a wife just to mistreat her. When he kept her just to mistreat, the brothers, the relatives of the girl, will go after their brother-in-law. They will tell him, "Both of you were still children when you got together and why do you get mad at her?" The boy will say, "Her vagina was opened before I married her. That is the reason why I abuse her." The brother will tell his sister, "Yes, you didn't get married in an honest way and now I will take you away from your husband and you can get to be a bad woman. You will not get married any more." The woman is taken back at that point and she is of no use any more; she is now a single woman. She is kicked around, she is a bad woman, she is mistreated. Her brothers led her that way. If she is caught by her brothers entertaining a man they'll kill her.

If a woman is abused before she sponsors a Holy Sun Lodge her brothers will take her away from her husband. She might be caught with another man. Her husband has the rights to kill her. If her husband doesn't kill her, he will cut off her nose. If her nose is not cut off, the brother will tell his sister, "I warned you and you didn't hear. Since you didn't hear my warning..." They cut off their ears. Today we'll tell a person he has hard ears. "You didn't hear the warnings. Have you got ears?" That is why women's ears are cut off; that is what it means. That's why these words existed, "Have you got ears? Why have you got such hard ears?" So their ears were cut off. That's all.

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
------------	-----------	----------	--------	--------

CHILDREN					
-illegitimate	IH-AA.079	HORNSOCIETY4	55		6,7
MARRIAGE					
-arranged	IH-AA.079	HORNSOCIETY4	55		2,3
SEX					
-contraception	IH-AA.079	HORNSOCIETY4	55		7
SEX					
-deviation	IH-AA.079	HORNSOCIETY4	55		3,4
SEX					
-education	IH-AA.079	HORNSOCIETY4	55		5
SEX					
-extra-marital	IH-AA.079	HORNSOCIETY4	55		7,8