

Part I

Hidatsa were wintering on the south side of the river below Nishu, people were hungry and the buffalo few. Children were playing on the ice and sandbars when towards evening a boy came and asked one of the little girls to go with him to his mother's home when the stars appeared. They went to the white tipi and his mother fed her meat and gave her meat to take to her parents and for her to return next night. After several visits the old woman asked the girl to have her parents put up a tipi for her and her son; the woman at heart a buffalo cow that could not go north because of injured foot. People visit her lodge to eat and the son changes into a buffalo and went north, brought in the winter herds and four times in the winter they killed all they could take care of.

In spring when village returning to Knife River, buffalo woman said that she was going back to her people and if there was another famine, she would help again. During the summer, when the people were going out towards Yellowstone on summer hunt, a buffalo calf, Calf was born to the girl and 7 buffaloes take the child and make it grow up magically, then take it to the herd. Calf wants to go to own mother and his grandfather recognized him, Buffalo Woman promised to come later, Calf Wedge, Calf's father came and brought the buffalo herds with but when the crops were dry Buffalo Woman refused to bring rain saying that she did not have the power.

In the village a poor boy fasting was blessed by the Moon who took him as his son; a great gambler in the village and Moon's son won and asked the other to bring 100 arrow sticks, he went to Yellow Water and cut the sticks but Sun came along and won which meant that he would kill 100 of the Hidatsa; Buffalo Woman knew what had happened, called in old men and said that they would have all the spirits come for a ceremony, a man with good wife to give it make offering to grandfather and 6 others in the river, then enemy will come and 100, among them Sun's son will be killed, an officer in ceremony Shuts In, the Black Mouths. Ceremony begun before the battle but Sun would not come in with the other spirits; this went on four four nights and last night Sun came in and the giver offered him his wife and they walked and then the Sun promised her that the people would not be destroyed and that the young man would be victorious. The enemy came and were defeated and Sun's son killed and the head given to the big snake; they named the young man who gave the ceremony Sunflower which is a respected name

Part II. Calf Wedge did much good in bringing the buffalo before growing old; before dying told a friend to keep his skull, buffalo skull at the edge of village with other buf skulls. Friend put the skull on sage and made offerings of eagle feathers to them. Friend had 4 wives, also a younger brother belonging to a society. Younger brother wanted someone to steal brother's wife and Little Coyote volunteered, sang song and woman forgot herself, Little Coyote was an arrow; eloped to Little Mo. Wolf came and told him Buffalo Bull looking all over for him; wolf, red fox, and grey fox offer to run in his stead and last one jumps across ditch and Bull falls and is killed. Four more come but are fed by Little Coyote. L.C. offers wife back but he refuses at first. Little Coyote founded Fox Imitating Society, belonged formerly to Wood Rattling Soc Keeper of the 4 skulls could call the buffalo who were his servants.

Part III. When Calf grown was called Rough Horn Bull; called herds often; once the herds in coming cut up the snakes with their hoofs and snakes were angry and decided to go after Rough Horn in his village; people saw them coming and climbed scaffolds but some bit. People did not know what to do and Rough Horn went out and lay beside a buffalo skull near the village who

Origin of Medicine Pots of the Snakes.

Wood Rattling and Fox Imitating Society

told him that to get rid of snakes people should boil broken bones, put soup away to sour, recook and sprinkle through village with sage and snakes left. That time snakes could fly and some still

Part IV. Origin of Snake Rain Ceremony. A handsome young man at Awaxawi refused to marry any of the girls who wanted him for he thought they were foolish. Four mornings saw a young woman leaving his bed and last time followed her; she went into the river and he followed, then to north and a killdeer jumped up as they were stopping for night, sent for cottonwood branch as knew the bird would notify her enemy the Thunder. Went into a cave and rain came and Thunder took the stick. Came out and travelled north to large lake and went in it to village but there under water were safe from Thunder. Woman was Snake Woman; man became homesick and the two went back to his village, she was jealous of him and would not let anyone touch him; his sister-in-law does and she left alone. He followed but could not get under the water of the lake but wife came out with two pots, a large one and a small one, first one male, last one a female and told him how to bring rain by dressing them up and beat them as drums on hide over top. Roughen log and use stick to run back and forth to make a sound of "Calling Rain."