

Origin:

There was an eagle trap and the aciras were trapping. A man, came there by going on war and others left him and he did not know where he was and one of these acira took him to his lodge and there he found many eagle tails. One day acira and the man went into the pit together. Before going in, the parent acira told them not to catch the baldeagle but that day a bald eagle light on the bait and the man told the acira to catch the eagle but the boy said that his father told him he should not but the man said again, "Catch it that is what you eat." The boy tried to catch the eagle and the claws stuck in his arm. he ran to their lodge crying but the parents said that they could not do anything for them but the Indian thought of Black Medicine and went to it saying, "My brother is feeling sick and I want you to help him" and he pulled up four of the black medicine, took it back to the lodge, chewed it up, and spit it on the boy. He did that four times and the fourth time the swelling had gone down and the arm was well. The father acira asked the man for Black Medicine since they did not have any and the (Black Wolf is in the Wolf Trap) man gave them the black medicine.

One day the little bear and his brother were out and the acira told the man to spit osme of his medicine on the dry log and when he did, new bark began to appear and the fourth time, the tree took on new life. After he brought the log to a green tree, all the people, men and women came out and saw it, even though it was autumn, the tree was green and the large acira said, "That is a good thing that you gave us the black medicine and we will have it go with the black medicine."

When the visitor had stayed there a few days and was rested, he told the acira father "Those eagle tails are our best articles" so the bears braided the tails together in 12 feather bunches until he had a whole sack full of them." Since the man took the boy as brother he called man father. He said, "I have given you the black medicine and I have seen you catch eagles and I want to get that from you. Next fall I am coming back here and when I come, I will have some cornballs and tobacco, as well as other things. I will bring you robes and I want to get the whole right to catch eagles just as you are doing so I can go out and do the same things that you are doing." The old acira said, "I am very glad to do that and after that you can do it too. We will be depending on doing that next fall." They gave him food for the trip and the old man took him on the hill and told him the direction of his home and said, "When you get ready to camp, go to that hill and at night, take a stick and point in the direction you are going for in the night you may roll around and forget the direction you are going." He travelled four nights and came home.

When he was home he opened the sack of eagle tails. It takes 36 feathers to make a warbonnet and he set them into separate piles and had enough feathers for warbonnets for 4 families and the people learned he had them and came to buy them of him, paying a big price. After that he was married

That fall he was supposed to be out with the acira to the west so he asked his wife to prepare the cornballs. He prepared clothes and bought them form every source that they could then he and wife their dogs started out, reached the camp of the acira and found that the bears were there when the people arrived.

The two took all the things that were promised to the old man and also a pipe and said, "Father, I ask to have your rights in making the Eagle Trapping and promised to bring you clothing and tobacco and here they are for you." The old bear was happy and the little bear said, "I have some more feathers for you and they are braided ready for you" and the man said "I will give my wife to you, my father" and the bear said, "You can go ahead with eagle trapping just as you have seen us do." He explained all the things to him again. In a few days they wanted to

come home and the old bear said, "Your brother wants to come with you for he likes the cornballs" and they agreed to take him. Old Bear said, "Take him out a little ways and then tickle him and he will die" so he took the boy out and tickled him doing that for three times and on fourth time ? (p. 3) old bear said, "I told you tickle him to death. If you bring him back a fourth time, he will not go along" so he took him the fourth time and tickled him to death so that he was a little bear but dead, took the hide off, and his wife tanned it. When it was soft, they came home and put the hide to one corner of the lodge and would talk to him even though he was only a hide and at times he would ask for cornballs and then it would eat that. He did that several times but one time the mother-law was making cornballs and she hurt herself and spoke harshly at the hide and when the young man came back he saw tears coming down and asked what it was and the young bear told what was the matter and that he was going back home "but the hide will be here and all the powers of the hide will be here." The next time they were out eagle trapping, the young bear was back home.

When they reached the bears, the father said, "We expected that he would come back for some reason and that he would not stay there but you have all my power and when you go out trapping, I will do my best to send good winds to bring the eagle."

He went back home and Blood Man thought that since the buffalo were quite scarce, they should arrange some way of getting the buffalo into a bunch so he said, "The way it is, the young men go out and get the buffalo and the old men can't and the way I want to plan it will be so that all the people will get equal share." To other man he said, "I know that you went over to the eagle trappers and saw it with your own eyes and got your power from the acira and that is why I need your help for this plan which I have in mind. You have the snare and can fix that and get the buffaloes in by the power of the snare."

When the man made the snare, he sang a song (no words) and then painted the rope red. All that time three men were out, the best runners, driving the buffaloes towards the trap and when they were doing that, a man would stand on the top of a hill and the rest of the people in a basin and when the holy man held out his blanket, it was a sign that the animals were in the coral. Blood Man would be in the basin with the people with nine men he had picked out to make the coral, the man with the snare standing on the hill all the time drawing the buffaloes into the coral. He had four motions, when beginning and when in neck he holds blanket to side, when in a little farther, folds blanket, third time wraps it around him, and last time throws the robe in air, also dirt into air four times meaning that the people can approach the coral.

When the buffaloes are in the trap, they begin at the center next to the bank and lay a stick on the first one next the bank is the four clan, next three clan from the bank to end of coral through center, last four men on each side of entrance get a buffalo apiece, the man with the snare one; in getting the buffaloes out, the fur clan must divide it up among the four different clans the division being by men themselves, the women going by the clan of her husband; the ten men, that is the Blood Man and the nine helpers get one apiece. The four clan picks a man to keep track of the people of the four clan; three-clan select a man to keep track of the people of that division.

They try to give one buffalo to a family but if there is not enough for getting that much, they give a half or other fraction; the two head men of the moiety know how many families there are and decide on the division and the rest must abide by their decision. The three men who were runners bringing in the herd, get the tongues of all the buffalo of the eight men on the side of the entrance. The men on the side of the entrance get their share of the buffaloes in the coral as well as what paid for place.

If a widow with children she gets meat from the side she belongs but the other side would not help her at all; it is the duty of her brother to see that she is taken care of.

Heard that when Black Shield made trap named three men to bring in herd and to pick two more so he took Edge or Rock and Bears Heart but they were on horseback this time. When the buffaloes were in the trap, Black Shield came up to the edge of the trap and told Poor Wolf that all the tongues belonged to himself and the other two men for that was the way it had been done before and he was going to keep it up. Poor Wolf said, "I am glad that I that you are going to give them to me but when we go home, the first thing the children ask for is the tongue and for that reason I am going to give the tongues to the children for I would rather see them well fed and strong and besides there is plenty of meat for me."

In the center line, there is alternate division but to right and left of that line, 3clan gets its side and 4clan its side. Place stick on buffalo for those on line to identify them, there is no moiety division by men at the stone piles of entrance but the bravest men, customary for the men at the piles to get from the center line but in either case they MUST get it of their own clan share.