

(Taken from his brother Red Blanket's rights.)

I do not own the trapping rights and by Indian customs should not tell but changing my ways I will. My father Small Ankle did not get the rights from his father but from Big Cloud and before Big Cloud died, he requested of my father that it would be better for him to put up a sweat and thus receive the small bear and that he might get some use out of it and then when some people in the future were making offerings to the bears he would receive that. Small Ankle told me that he got this small bear shortly after the smallpox. He said to me, "I treated my father in law well and that was why he asked me to buy the medicines. I had to put up the sweat and some articles before he received it. At that time there was no dry goods but I went out for buffaloes and saved about 25 hides. I tanned them by the women, prepared a sweatbath and called Big Cloud and he showed me two feet of the little bear, the one without hide, called Bone Foot so it was difficult to find a certain man who knows all the songs and we remember that there was a man named Old Finger Nails and he had a son who would know the holy songs and selected him to come in and sing the songs. That man was a Mandan, Calf Woman's mother's father, named Flint Earring. Big Cloud did not own a complete medicine but had only part of the rites and songs so they selected this since he knew them all. The man selected I called father because he and my father in some way related in the distant relationship. Also I said that it would be best to have my father in law there too for he knew some of the songs and knew how to put up the trap with the songs for the baits and pits. They met together to have the ceremony. Small Ankle was there, Big Cloud gave his medicine to Small Ankle, how to trap, sing the songs, and set the baits and then the other man gave him a small piece of bear hide, foot, and told him that when out trapping and if had bad luck could call him as father and say what you wish to say and I will remember. Big Cloud received the ten hides and said, 'It will be all the better to let this other man have 15 hides and a horse for he is the one who did the most to give you a completed ceremony. when they covered the sweat with the robes buffalo skull inside and the medicines that were to go to Small Ankle and then sang the holy songs. Big Cloud gave Small Ankle the bear foot, snares three in number, eagle down, and said 'I give these to use when trapping and keep them in order. Then they went in and sang a holy song and called some of the people to come in front of the sweat and cleaned them of their evil spirits.

"There were not many people there for most of the eagle trapping medicine died at smallpox but all who did own came there. Flint Earrings said to Small Ankle, "When you go out eagle trapping, this medicine is connected with trapping fish too so you do not want to do trapping of both in the same year for if you do you will surely get into trouble for it is holy. It is best to change off and go out after eagles one year, catch fish the next. If use both the same year, trouble will come for the fish have the stronger spirit."

There was a holy man with eagle medicine, Medicine Eagle Mandan and Small Ankle heard that he was holy and he taught that if any of the people wanted to make offerings to the eagles, I will draw the picture on the things that you offer" and I was trying to call him to come to my place and asked what he did about making the signs for the eagle thinking that it would help me in eagle trapping so I called him in and told him I would like to own how he drew the picture and the man said he was willing to let me have it that it was not necessary to put up a big sweat and ceremony, just save enough articles and he would show him how, also he owned a holy song for eagle trapping and could use it and that when he gave them both to him, he could have them both to use.

"I will save enough hides to buy it from you" and the man said that he would be ready at any time. I looked up 8 hides and the wife tanned it, also a mare and colt to include. I put up a

feast beside and called the medicine man that I was ready to own the medicine. The man came painted with face red and hair over his forehead and a longest wing feather and came in and said, 'Here is the material I have put up to own your medicine song, here are two sticks which represent the mare and colt, also this food goes along with it.

When the man saw that he said, "I am satisfied with it, my son. You have put up all these things and I am happy." I had a pipe ready and handed it to him and he called for a little fire and I took him a coal but before he began to smoke he held up his piae(? p. 2) to the sky and prayed, to the ground and then to the four directions of the birds. When he finished the smoke he said that he would sing the holy song which belonged to the bait and I will show you how to draw the pictures and when any man makes an offering to the eagles, you will have the right to draw a picture on his robe. I will show you how to make the picture for one who makes an offering to his own med the eagles, I have a holy song for that.' I was taught the song and the man said that he had already heard that he had bought the right to trap and now with my holy song it will be all the easier to trap an eagle. He taught how to sing the holy song but they were not supposed to sing aloud, just enough so that the people could hear it. The song had some words:

FEMALE EAGLES COME BACK FIRST

Then he taught how to draw the picture and said, "Some day the people may make an offering to the eagles and then you can draw the picture, have some mud in a stick and a stick and when you draw the picture draw a crooked line for lightning, one straight, alternating then a crooked a straight to make 6 or 8 figures to represent the lightning, pull out one of the wing feathers and put in one corner of whatever they offer when you finish drawing the pictures. When you finish drawing the picture, cut an ash stick put the robe around and long enough and have some sage put together on the top of it, a belt around the middle and when you finish that put it beside the door of his lodge house so that it will stand there. When you go out eagle trapping, remember the holy song and think over yourself whether you are getting enough birds and if you think you are not getting enough use that song, singing it on the way to the pit, smoking the bait before leaving and when you go into the pit, sing it and again when you are at the pit lift the bait in the air to west and sing but if an eagle shows up while you are singing, it means that you will be unsuccessful. Do not sing this song often, only when you need it very badly and then use it. Small Ankle did not go out often for there were many enemies and he did not like to go because of that. I went out along the Little Mo to Shoot in Nose creek and Small Ankle said Wolf Chief was 4 then, Old Woman Crawling, Flying Above, and Small Ankle, Big Cloud, there were pits and no one knew whose so fixed them in some places, alright if did not know whose and many eagles flying and kept one at home to protect women. Big Cloud told of birds destroying the bait, enemy appeared on hill, turned birds free and ran away from place and travelled all night coming back.

Origin. In the beginning all the black bears were supposed to be living on the north side of the earth and on the south side were the brown small bears. All the bears along the river on the left side of the river all the places to the Yellowstone and beyond, even down to Knife River belonged to the black bears, acira. The right side of river brown bears would know ahead of time the main trails of the eagles and get ahead of the others from the left bank. There was a place called Cottonwood trap where the Yellowstone runs into the Missouri for when the birds travelled, they always came through that country. At that time the black bears were catching them there and would eat them for they were tender and caught only that kind for they liked to eat them.

The brown small bears called himself the real spirit and that he had so much power that he did not have to use bait but could use his own hands to catch them. He selected his place called Thunder Butte where he went to catch the birds by hand. One of the brown bear had selected his place at the Knife River south of town of Golden Valley where the brush runs to east to catch only maicu and call it Sand Lodge from the sand stones around there, and there was another place at Heart River called Heart River Ravine

On the north side the black bears had a trapping place called First Trapping Place the butte just below Sanish, the highest one; (Four Bears used to trap there) another place at Buck Brush Trapping Place, the flat west of the Mormon church below shell creek and they put up a trap there for saw many eagles there and put the pits in the hills at the Slides and to the north; another trapping place was below Fishhook to the east on the high banks and called it High Butte Trapping Place; They do not know if it was Sandy Lodge, Thunder Butte or Cottonwood that he had his lodge close to the timber (just seven of these places but heard in another story that there was another one below Bismarck on the high point about 25 miles below but does not belong in this story.

Brown Bear had a lodge in one of these places. He lost his little boy from one of these lodges and when he disappeared they looked all over and it was foggy and they could not see a long distance or its tracks. After a while they learned that the eagles had hid the boy. They went far away looking but it was foggy all the time until they came to the Heart River east of Dickinson and there they thought they had discovered his tracks along the edge of the creek. They thought according to the tracks they thought that he was going to Rainy Buttes; sometimes the tracks were plain, other times, dim. The father thought when he came near the butte that they were hiding his son inside of the butte. Before reaching the Rainy Butte the tracks disappeared. They looked all the way around the butte and his father said, "I am sure that they must have taken him inside of this butte; I am going to cut this butte and destroy it. I am going to use my share to put around it and pull the butte to pieces and see if we can find him inside." Before putting the snare around the butte, he sang a holy song:

ACIRA ACIRA GOES TOWARDS THE BUTTE

and then he put the snare (calls it medicine robe) around the butte and pulled and caved off about half of the butte but did not have the power to tear it all down but did not find him in there. He went all over the earth looking around but still the boy had disappeared. At last the boy had been gone for a year and the parents were very sad. They came back to their camp and the fog still covered the sky, sometimes clearing slightly and then darkening. All this time brown bear's boy was trying to clear the fog but he was not quite powerful enough. This time the young one was all alone and the fog was beginning to break and he could see far and that the leaves were taking on color; he remembered his father and mother and that it was at this time of the year that his father and mother had a good time. He remembered himself and could tell where he came from and knew the place of the camp. As soon as he recognized the place, he sang his holy song at once walking towards his home singing

I WILL COME TO THAT HILL and then he came to the hill, at the fornt he saw timber and he sang I WILL REACH THAT BIG TIMBER and he was there at once, he saw the Missouri I WILL REACH THAT RIVER, and he was there, then he saw a road and he sang, I WILL REACH THAT ROAD, and he was there at once, then he saw the door and he sang I WILL REACH THAT DOOR and he was there at once.

The father was feeling badly about it and was going to do something to the birds for that. He went to eagle butte and went into a pit. He would spit on his hand and hold out and the eagles

would come down and he would seize them. Sometimes the eagles would fly up nearly to the sky and then he would hold up his holy snare and then the eagles would come right down. After that all these places were good ones to catch eagles. The brown bears would have a lodge house and one with a son had more power than the others and he would take out his snare and that would draw the birds down and they would say that he was the most powerful one in the lodgehouse.

They were supposed to leave for the traps when the leaves began to change color, the brown bears had one lodge; the youngest one wanted to go trapping but the father said that he was too young still he insisted that he knew the holy songs and order so he went out without the father's permission. He was in a hole watching the eagles and while there he went to sleep and the eagles picked him up and took him away. All that time on the eagles side there was a leader who said when he picked up the little bear, "He is sleeping down there; this is a good chance to take him away." This bird was a large one, the largest of the birds" The little brown bear's father wondered what had become of him and went out the second day to see. When he came to the pit and he saw the signs that the birds had picked him up and carried him into the sky. When he learned this, he came back and was real sorry. He thought that he would catch the lead man among the birds, the one who caused his son to be caught and he made plans at once to catch the birds. At his lodge there 5 of these brown small ears but one was the leader. The old one said, "I will try to catch that big bird for that is the one who took the boy up. I think that bird will come along about tomorrow or the next day. The leader of the brown bears stood up and said, "That big bird has started already" and when he went outside he sang:

WHERE I HAVE MY TRAP IT IS ALREADY CAUGHT THE ONE I WANT

Four times

He said to the older bears, "I will go out repeating that song on the way to the pit and when I bring that bird in you repeat that song and take the bird and throw it to the head of the lodge as hard as you can." He went into the hole and soon the big bird was in the air above him. He pretended to be asleep and the bird came down. He took his snare and sang the holy songs and when the bird was near, he threw his snare up caught the bird by the legs and pulled him down. When he caught the bird it began to beg saying, "Save my life" and brown small bear said, "No, I am going to sit on you" meaning that he was going to eat the bird. He tied the bird up and carried him home. When he was near the lodge he cried

I AM TRAPPING: I AM HOLY: I KNOW I AM

I AM TRAPPING: I HAVE CAUGHT HIM

I AM TRAPPING: NOW I KNOW I AM GOING TO EAT

He came back to the lodge and gave the bird to the others to seize and throw as hard as they could to the head of the lodge. All that time the bird was begging them not to kill it but the bear who caught the bird said, "Do not listen to him but get that clay pot ready to put in the fire and we will eat him"

The bears were singing while they were getting ready. They sang:

PUT THAT PAIL IN THE FIRE WE WILL EAT

TAKE YOUR KNIFE OUT AND GET READY: WE WILL EAT

The bird said "I will be with you and be a great help in the future and I can see that you have much power for I see that but if you have my help, you will have still more power."

They sang:

BROWN SMALL BEAR YOUR POT MOVES TOWARD THE FIRE

YOUR PAIL IS ALREADY IN THE FIRE

ACIRA (BROWN SMALL BEAR) YOUR POT IS BOILING

ACIRA YOUR PAIL IS NEARLY RED HOT.

ACIRA, YOUR POT IS BOILING.

At this time they decided to sing their holy song which was the knife song to be used when butchering the bird. At that time the bird jumped up again and promised that he would be among them forever and that he would help them along too and give them success in the future whatever they should do. They asked of the bird, "How would you help us?" and the bird said, "You will call me Acira's sister; you will pick up any kind of stick and tie it with a small offering of leather and that will be myself and when you want to get more eagles, you can say a prayer to me and you will succeed for I am the leader of these birds for I have already promised you. This will go on forever but if you kill me, you will eat me up and then you will have nothing to show. It might be in the future that some woman will have monthlies and the eagles are afraid of them, then have her stay away from here but there is a holy song that I will teach you and if there is such a woman you will have it to protect you so you will not have bad luck but get good luck from the eagles. (forgot song)

They said to the bird, "We will take your word for it but we will give you orders that in the future you must not claw the humans for if you do, I will get rid of you and kill you all off

They said among themselves, "We will let the bird go but I would put the snare around its neck with black medicine and if he disobeys what we say, having the snare around his neck, we have a chance to sit on him (eat him) again." The leader said to the bird, "Remember what we said and do not scratch any of the people for we are going to trap for a long time in the future and we do not want any trouble from you to the people."

This was kept on for a long time until a few years ago.

Even in my time some woman has monthlies, and do not report it then the tails of the eagles get spoiled

Story of East Side Bear. On the east side at the Slides in the brush there were about 30 black bears and had trapping places on the high hills from Lucky Mound to Joe Black Bear's home today. They had another pit in the buckbrush west of where the church is for they saw many eagle feathers around there and thought it would be a good thing to have a trap there. This pit near the buckbrush was the best of all and decided that instead of using them all, they would take turns at that pit; the first man caught five eagles and the others would stay on the butte and the others watch. Eagles would fly over there and then disappear in the ground. Five birds would be caught there nearly every day. They used the pit for two years and hardly used the other at all for so few birds were caught in them. They came back to the trap again and did not succeed so they thought that someone had spoiled it. All the time they were cleaning themselves and then went to the pit to see what was the matter. They cleaned the pit and found a flint knife in it and knew at once that it was caused by the knife. The leader cleaned it but still they did not succeed; they watched the sky and say that the birds would go into the air and fly around, then go away. Even the others were having bad luck and after catching only two eagles, they decided to give up. They do not know who spoiled the pit. After all the acira had gone away the people had pits there and they found out what was the reason the pit was not as good as formerly
Never heard what became of the little boy.

Big Cloud's bundle not complete, Iron Eyes a main one.

Small Ankle would put up the lodge and pull the snake pole in with buffalo skull and tied into place with dark sage and heard that once old Woman's grandson came in and they had the two poles brought in then and represent the snake.