THREE BOYS AND OLD MAN RED HAT (told by Adam Le Clair)

There were three boys that lived with their parents. One day the oldest boy said to his father, "Dad, I'm going to the next village. I would like to just watch the people and maybe visit some of the homes." So his father gave him some of the things he had earned at home and the boy left. As he traveled around he met some gamblers playing. He joined in and made the fourth player. There were four playing seven point gin, The boy played and was lucky. Towards morning he was the winner. He won everything the three men had including their horses. The last man, Red Hat said, "I have one more bet left. I have three girls. I'll bet my oldest daughter, she is the marrying age." So they played again until early in the morning. When it seemed as if the man would win the boy would start winning again, and the old man lost. He said to the boy, "You've won everything I have. Come on over to my home and collect." There's a hill and there's a two story house on top of the hill. This is where I live. The boy took all his winnings and started out for Red Hat's house. When he got there Red Hat greeted him and told him, "It's good you have come." He called the girls out and told the boy, "This is my eldest, you can marry her." Red Hat had some work for him to do and when he finished Red Hat said, "It's getting dark, you must stay for the night and get an early start because it is a long way to where you are going." So the boy and his wife stayed for the night. That night his mother-in-law, an ugly, malicious woman killed the boy. It is not known how she did it but it was effective. The boy never returned home.

A year later the second boy became of age and wanted to go out for himself. He said, "It's time for me to leave and make it on my own." His father said, "You better be careful because your brother left and never returned and we have never heard from him." "You must behave and watch yourself." The boy answered, "Dad, I'm old enough to take care of myself alright." He left home and traveled and met the same gamblers that killed his brother. They asked him to be the fourth player as they did his older brother so he joined them. They played seven