

SITTING BULL FINDS GUILTY PARTY WHO HAD CRUELY KILLED A VALUABLE HORSE

By One Bull

While the Hunkpapa Sioux were camping on the banks of the Powder River, in the year of the fallen or shooting stars, some member of the camp had cruelly killed a valuable horse. The animal was the property of Black Bird, one of the prominent characters in the camp. He got possession of this animal through some relative who went on the war path against the Crows and seccessfully stole several horses. The horse had quite an enviable record among the horse-owners in the camp, on account of its beauty, swiftness and disposition.

The Black Bird family was in deep mourning over the loss. He was a personal friend of Chief Sitting Bull. He appealed to him and the sacred stone to locate the guilty party who had committed this atrocious act. The request was made in the formal way. Black Bird filled up the peace pipe ready to smoke -- took it to Sitting Bull's lodge. He got to the door when some member of the household, looked outside, saw Black Bird standing there with the pipe in hand. Sitting Bull who was inside the tipi ordered that Black Bird be allowed to enter. As soon as he had been admitted into the lodge, Black Bird, offering the pipe to Sitting Bull saying, "Brother, I have come to pray you help me to locate the party, guilty of killing my horse. Sitting Bull replied, "All is good -- your request shall be granted."

The Sacred stone -- sweat bath ceremony was resorted to, to locate the offender.

Black Bird was requested to furnish the booth and five of the most qualified medicine men were invited to participate in the ceremony.

When everything was ready, Sitting Bull and the invited medicine men enter the booth. Now the door was closed and the booth was air-tight and dark. The medicine men started singing sacred stone songs. After this Sitting Bull offered up a very devout prayer to the sacred stone asking