

THE SACRED FIRE

All night long the people waited around the sacred fire, praying for food from somewhere. Each one prayed his own prayers and the prayers he could remember. No medicine man, or warrior remembered his past glory, or wished for more fame.

THE RABBIT

At dawn a young man went out on the hill to look, and he saw rabbits as many as a hundred. He got six fat rabbits, and with them tied together over his shoulder he started back to the village.

A woman saw him coming with the rabbits, and she went to meet him, sometimes trying to run and sometimes falling down, for she was nearly starved to death. And she said, "Grandson, pity me and give me food." He threw the rabbits down and said take all of them. I will get some more."

THE MOST OF THE PEOPLE LIVE

Until the buffalo and game came back, there were rabbits enough to keep the most of the people alive. But some old people and some children just weaned from nursing died. God had given the food and they divided the food so that each family had its share, tho' no one had enough.

In one more moon the buffalo hawk (Ptegopeca) came singing and saying, "The spring time, the spring time, it's almost here." And the women and the children cried for joy.

And in a few more days, the people saw the spring-time in the morning dawn, and they laughed, and they shouted, and they sang, and they wept.

THE TERRIBLE RAT GETS A WIFE

The terrible rat got a wife from somewhere, and he and his wife had children as many as a hundred. And their children got wives and husbands from somewhere, and in each family there were children as many as a hundred. Then the nation of the terrible rats was divided and went everywhere.

THE MIGRATION

Some of the terrible rats went to all the Indian reservations.

Some of the terrible rats went down the river to all the white men's villages.

Some of the terrible rats went to the village of the Great Father.

Sometime the terrible rats will eat the villages of the Indians, and the Indians will die.

Sometime the terrible rats will eat the villages of the white people, and the white people will die.

Sometime the terrible rats will eat the village of the Great Father and the Great Father will die.

Sometime the terrible rats will eat the earth, the same as the mice eat up the moon when the nights are all dark.

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