

winu'rcala (old woman). Old age set in when a man or a woman was no longer able to do the work that he or she had always done and that a man or a woman was expected to do. Some enter this age at sixty; I did not enter it until I was eighty. When a boy's voice broke, (he imitated the tones) it was a sign that he was becoming a man. The bravest and most honest man in the locality then took it upon himself to take such a boy and to throw him into cold water, usually into the river. This was to train the boy in having a brave heart; it was to teach him patience and to give him an opportunity to show the control of his anger. He had to learn to endure not only this kind of thing, but other hardships, as well. I was thrown into the river three times by my father. He did rough things like that to me to see if I would get angry. I was the youngest boy in our family and had a hard time growing up. My older brothers and cousins teased me a good deal.

The year is divided into four seasons by our people: waniyeta (winter), wetu (spring), bleketu (summer), and ptaniyetu (fall). (40) Each season has three moons. The year begins with the winter: it begins in the moon when the leaves are all brown and fall from the trees, and when the cranes from the north fly south bringing snow with them. When this happens, people say, "Winter is about here." Winter has arrived when all birds have gone south, and all animals and everyone else seeks sheltered places. Soon buffalo and all animals have grown sufficient hair for protection against the cold. This happens about the second moon of winter. The peak of the winter is on when frost forms in the houses, and when trees crack because of the cold. During this moon, the last moon of the winter, the unborn buffalo calves look blue and there are few hairs on their noses. This is discovered when a mother cow is killed accidentally.

(40) Hayden's account gives the same terminology: we'-tu, spring, three moons, coming in of spring; bel-o-ke'-tu, fair weather, coming in of summer; ptan'-e-tu, coming in of autumn, three fall months; wa-ni'-i-tu, coming in of winter, three winter months. (Loc. cit., p. 376.)