

will help you. And as she stood listening to these trees, they finally started singing a song to her. That is the song that she sang in the Big House. It was something like this, of course the old people always said not to use these sacred songs carelessly. So I will now try to sing a part of her vision song. Of course, this is held in sacredness but, anyway, I'll try to sing part of it. (She sings).

DELAWARE TRIBE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE CLANS

In our tribe of the Lenape people, otherwise known as Delaware Tribe, we have three clans. One of them is called the Tùkwsit, the Wolf Clan. And the word Tùkwsit really means Round Foot. And then the next clan Pùkuango which is called the Turtle Clan. And Pùkuango really means in the Delaware language, Hole in the Heel. And then we have the Pële clan which is the Fowl Clan. And we use these. We observe these clans very strict in the Big House ceremonies because each clan had a specified place to sit inside this Big House. The Tùkwsit women sat on the northwest corner of the Big House. The Tùkwsit men on the northwest. The Pùkuango, men and women, on the west. The Pële men on the southwest corner and the Pële women on the southeast corner. And these clan rules were strictly observed in the Big House ceremony. This ceremony lasted for 12 nights. Usually held in the month of October.

My mother's clan was the Tùkwsit, the Round Foot, the Wolf clan people. And my father was a Pëleinu, that's a Fowl, Clan man. And I, myself, of I course, belong to my mother's clan Tùkwsit because that is the way of the Delaware people. They take their mother's clan instead of their father's clan.

Katherine: Now how many clans would that make in all for the Delawares?

Nora: Three clans in all. There seems to have been a subdivision of these clans. The Tùkwsit clan was sometimes called Olàmàniyok and the Pùkuango clan was sometimes referred to as Elipsit clan and sometimes the Pële clan was referred to as the Wisawhitkuk people.

Katherine: (Would this be kind of like Bands within a clan?)

Nora: Well, more so like a subdivision the way I would think of these clans. But the general and true name would be Tùkwsit, Pùkuango, and Pële clans.

About these clans for example, as I've mentioned before, the child took the mother's clan and it went to the other way for a chief. In the white people's point of view, for example, a man who was a chief in the Delaware tribe might have a daughter. She would not be considered a princess or any important figure. But this chief's sister who had a male child, he, then would be