

MYTHOLOGY

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a peculiar movement with his left forepaw, which deprived Kabá-anchūn of the power to run. So the Cougar came up close, and said: "Do not fear. I am human like you, only I have this shape." He came still closer, and said, "Give me those things." The man drew forth two arrows. But the Cougar did not take them, and repeated, "Give me those things." Again the man offered two arrows, but they were not accepted. Then the Cougar took the entire quiver and removed from it the man's fire-drill. "Stay right here and watch me," he said. So the man sat and watched. The Cougar pointed the stick at a deer, and it dropped dead. Thus he went all around the pond and killed all the deer, and piled them up. He came back to the man and said, "Before you start eating you must sing this song." He sang, and then cut up the deer. For himself he took only the briskets. He sang another song and went away. The man carried a deer home and led back all the people to bring in the rest of the meat.

ADVENTURE WITH THE WHITE WOLF

A large party of men were hunting. As they stood in a crowd on a mountain peak, debating which way to go, they saw a white wolf approaching. It went into a thicket, and they watched closely to see where it would come out. Suddenly they heard it behind them. They pursued it, but it eluded them in the same way. This happened repeatedly. The instant they prepared to shoot, it would disappear and then would be heard far off in the opposite direction. At last they followed the white wolf into a thicket where a large rock could be seen above the tops of the bushes. They surrounded the place and crept into the thicket. An entrance was seen under the rock, and passing in they found a large house.

An old man was lying on his back with his hands under his head, and one leg crossed over the other. Here and there were seated several women and girls. The hunters sat down and waited without speaking. Then one said: "We are in the wrong place. This is the home of the animals. Let us go." But they found that, though the door was still open, they were unable to move toward it. So there they sat. After a while the Wolf man put a shoulder of venison into the fire and roasted it, and gave them food. As soon as they had eaten they felt able to move, and with a rush for the door they dashed away toward home. The Wolf man ran out and howled. Here and there along the road as they ran, they heard the wolf-howl, and one of them fell dead each time. Only one man reached home.

THE CREATION¹

There was only water, and over it a fog. On the water was foam. The foam moved round and round continually, and from it came a voice. After a time there issued from the foam a person in human form. He had wing-feathers of the eagle on his head. This was Taikó-mol ["solitude walker"]. He floated on the water and sang. He stood on the foam, which still revolved. There was no light. He walked on the water as if it were land. He made a rope and laid it from north to south, and he walked along it, revolving his hands one about the other; and behind him the earth was heaped up along the rope. But the water overwhelmed it. Again he did this, and again the water prevailed. Four times this was done.

Taikó-mol was constantly talking to himself: "I think we had better do it this way. I think we had better try it that way." So now he talked to himself, and he made a new plan. He made four *lilkae* ["stone crook"], and planted one in the north and the others in the south, west, and east. Then he stretched them out until they were continuous lines crossing the world in the centre. He spoke a word, and the earth appeared. Then he went along the edge and lined it with whale-hide, so that the ocean could not wash away the earth. He shook the earth to see if it was solid, and he still makes this test, causing earthquakes.

The earth was flat and barren, without vegetation and rivers. And still there was no light. In the ocean were fish and other creatures, but on the earth was nothing. Yet Taikó-mol had the feathers of various birds. He laid buzzard-feathers and eagle-feathers on the ground, and they became mountains. With lightning he split the mountains, and streams issued forth. He made all the birds and beasts, which in those times were persons. Afterward he changed them into their present forms and created real human beings.

¹ Narrated by a Round Valley Yuki. This version is patently only an outline.