

T Sao Box

There were three brothers, who lived on the side of a creek between Inetlakatta & Port Simpson & one of the brothers was married to a woman from a settlement on the other side of the creek. One day these brothers set out on foot to hunt ground hog in the mountains several days journey away. Two of the brothers were successful in their hunting, but the luck of the third deserted him & he could kill nothing, & began to fear all was not well at home, so he left his brothers & made his way home.

It was towards evening when he reached his house, & he could hear the voice of a strange man talking to his wife. He waited outside till it was dark, & the people were gone to rest for the night, & then he went into his house. Sure enough, he found a strange man with his wife & he killed him, & buried the body under the floor, & went back to his brothers & his hunt.

When they had secured all the groundhog they could carry, skins & dried meat, they set off for home. By this time the people on the other side of the creek had missed one of their men. Presently the story came out that he had been murdered, so the men from the settlement came over to fight the three brothers; But the brothers overcame them & killed them all, & burned their homes, so that none escaped, except a mother & daughter. Now the Indian custom is, that

When a girl shall come to womanhood, she &

dug out of the ground & covered with boughs.
 These women were thus hidden from view, though
 they could hear the noise of the battle & smell the
 burning. When all was quiet, the mother, whose
 name was Coha, peered out cautiously; & seeing
 no sign of anyone about, she took her daughter
 & made for the woods, fearful lest their enemies
 should see them & kill them too.

When they had travelled some way, & no one
 had followed them, Coha grew bolder & called
 out "who will marry my daughter?" A wren
 flew up & said "I will marry your daughter."
 "What do you know?" asked Coha. "I know
 anything hits against you it kills you" said
 the wren. Coha was not satisfied with that
 answer, so they went further into the woods
 & again she called out "who will marry my
 daughter?" This time a deer appeared, & said
 "I will marry your daughter." "What do you know"
 asked Coha. "I know that when I swim the
 creek the Indians try to throw things at me &
 kill me, but I always escape them." "That is
 not enough" said Coha & went on. Presently
 she called again, "who will marry my
 daughter?" & a grizzly bear appeared, & said
 "I will marry your daughter." "What do you
 know?" asked Coha. "I know I am the strongest
 beast for I can overcome them all" said the
 grizzly. "That is not enough" said Coha, & went

By & by she called out again "Who will marry my daughters?" Then there was a flash of lightning & a clap of thunder & a young man stood before her & said "I will marry your daughters." Cocha was well content; & he took them one under each arm & warned them not to open their eyes, & he went up into the air. But Cocha was curious to see where they were going, & she opened her eyes, & saw they were far above the earth. Immediately they began to go downwards till they landed on the ground. "You opened your eyes" said the young man, "You must not do that again."

Up they went into the air once more; but again Cocha's curiosity overcame her & she opened her eyes, & again they came down to earth. The young man rebuked her again, & found a rock, from which he removed a large piece; put Cocha inside, & replaced the piece. This did not suit Cocha, & she knocked on the rock, saying "It is too hot in here". The young man let her come out, & again they went up into the air, each woman under one of his arms; but again Cocha opened her eyes, & again they came down to earth.

This time the young man took a big branch out of a tree, & put Cocha inside, & replaced the branch. She cried to be let out, but this time he left her there, & when the wind blows in the woods, & you hear the branches of a tree creak,

You will know that is the imprisoned Cocha calling to be let out.

The young man took the girl under his arm & carried her off to his father's country, where she became his wife, & bore him two sons & a daughter. When the children grew up, they wished to visit their mother's home, so they went to their father to get his permission. He gave each of them a gift. To the eldest who was called Um Tiger, he gave the gift of a strong arm; so that if he hit a man with a clenched fist, he would fall down dead. This is the meaning of Um Tiger - "the man with the strong arm".

To the second brother he gave a box, & he counselled him never to open the box toward him, but always away from him; & to know it, so that as it faced his enemies they would each fall down dead. This box was called ^{the} ~~the~~ box of life. To the girl he gave the power of bringing people to life by passing her arm over them four times. So they set out, & in due course arrived at the very spot on the creek where the mother had lived. It was late evening, & the brothers set to work at once & built three houses. Next morning there was a thick fog, & when it lifted, the people in the camp on the opposite side of the river saw three houses, where there had been no houses for years. This surprised them

who the strangers might be.

Presently they asked the young men if they could gamble with the sticks; & they agreed & placed their stakes before them - different kinds of furs, which was the currency of those days. The two brothers played so skillfully that they won all the furs; whereupon the other men became angry, & started to fight, but the two brothers killed them all, one with his strong arm, & one with his T'Sao box.

Next day some more men from the other side of the creek came over, & the same thing happened, the brothers winning all the stakes which so angered the losers, that they attacked & were themselves killed. Now there were no more people left in the camp on the opposite side of the creek.

Then the brothers & the sister decided to go across to Alaska, & so they packed their canoe with meat & furs, & the gambling sticks, & the magic box, T'Sao, & set off. They were invited to gamble at the first village they came to - The usual stakes of furs were put up in the middle & the brothers won them all.

In the fight that followed, one of the brothers was killed, but the sister brought him to life by passing her hand over him four times, & so they went back to their canoe, going from village to village, & winning great numbers of furs, which they brought back to their camp.

by the creek when the canoe was full.

Next year they decided to go to Alaska again, but this time they left their sister behind to look after the many possessions they had collected. In the bustle of leaving, they forgot the magic box, T'ao, when the sister found it. She took another woman with her in the canoe & set out for Alaska to bring it to them. But on the way, they found some good cedar trees, & the women started to pick the bark, which they used for many purposes, & they forgot all about the brothers; who, as they had not their magic box with them, were killed by the men of Alaska.