

How The Sun Disk Came To Spokane

There lived on the prairies of Spokane before the time of man two friends, Coyote and the fleet footed Antelope. They were neighbors. Coyote had four sons and the Antelope had twin sons. They had their lodges by a little spring, one across from the other.

Every morning before sunrise the Antelope twins would get up and have a light meal and take their daily exercise for swiftness and endurance. They had packed only a light snack to eat at midday. From morning until sunset they made a complete circle of their home, running in one direction until the sun was half way across the sky and back toward their home the rest of the day. In the evening they would reach home where their father would have their meal ready for them. Immediately after they would fall asleep from sheer weariness.

Now Coyote's four sons were supposed to be training for endurance and swiftness, but they didn't see any point in wasting so many beautiful days just running and running. So they would leave after breakfast and go swimming in the cool rippling waters, or pick wild berries and loil most of the day away in idle play. Instead of getting lithe and strong they grew fat and clumsy.

After weeks of running the Antelope twins decided they were ready to make the long trip east to the Blackfeet country to steal the Sun Disk from the Blackfeet. When they announced the date of their departure, Coyote's four sons naturally said they were ready, too. Early one morning the boys departed for the Blackfeet country, the twin Antelope and the four Coyote.

They traveled for days crossing bodies of water and mountains and valleys until they reached the plains of the Blackfeet. They rested for two

the Sun Disk fell, the next brother behind him a little and on down to the youngest of the brothers. The Antelope twins had the rear position, together as always.

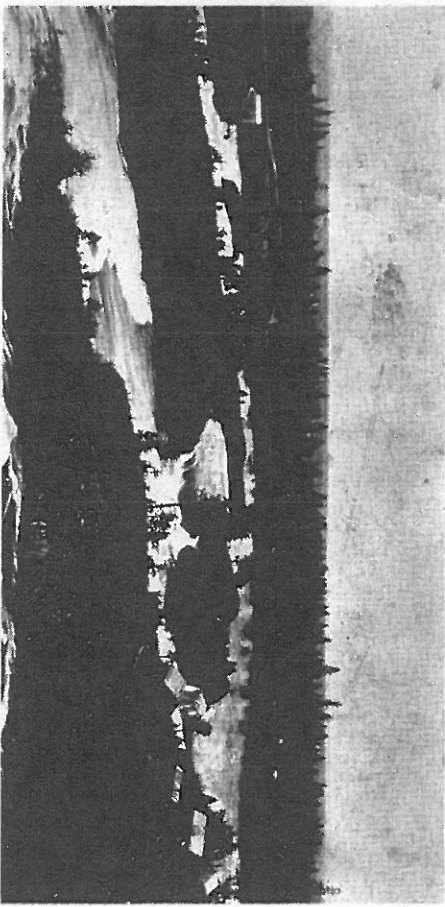
At the first opportunity the first Coyote picked up the disk and started rolling it, he did pretty good for awhile but being fat and easily tired he didn't go very far before the Blackfeet overtook him and killed him. The next Coyote took over the disk, but like his brother he didn't get too far. Finally the youngest of the four Coyote brothers took the disk. He was a little faster and held out longer than his older brothers but he too was slain. Now it was up to the Antelope twins to bring the Sun Disk home or to fail like their friends. As soon as the youngest of the Coyotes fell the two Antelopes started rolling the Disk, one on each side. When it started to waver they just gave it another little push. The Blackfeet were amazed at the speed of these two, they were as one with the disk rolling at full speed. After hours of this losing race all the runners of the Blackfeet started falling out of the chase. Finally the swiftest and best runners could go no further and had to give up the chase.

The Antelope twins were far out on the plains before they dared to rest and continue their way home at a slower pace. After days of travel they finally reached their home country. From a high hill they could see the lodge of their father and Coyote with the smoke curling lazily through the poles. They felt terribly sorry for Coyote for he would never see his four sons again, but at the same time they were relieved to be home.

Coyote and Antelope had finished their evening meal and had curled up by their lodge fires warming their backs, when all of a sudden out of the stillness they heard a loud voice say, 'Antelope, your sons were slain

friends lodge, "See, what did I tell you. Your sons didn't have a chance. They were so lazy, they shouldn't have gone. They were probably just a hindrance to my sons." With his burning limb Coyote singed the back of the Antelope.

Coyote had hardly finished when they heard the loud voice again. This time the voice said "Coyote, your sons were slain by the Blackfeet." Antelope recognized his son's voice,



Part of the falls of the Spokane River as they appeared in the early 1880's.

"Coyote, you worthless creature, burn my back, will you. I'll show you". Antelope took a burning limb from his fire and gave Coyote a dose of his own medicine.

By the time the Antelope twins reached home their father had stewed meat cooking over the fire for their homecoming meal. Meanwhile Coyote was shedding puddles of tears and burning his hair off in his grief, all the time scheming and looking for an opportunity to get the Sun Disk for himself. "Ah I know what I'll do."

Coyote went to the Antelope lodge and pleaded to see and feel the Sun Disk. "I want to see and feel it. I want to see the Sun Disk that was responsible for the loss of my sons. If I could just have a moment alone

immediately spat on the ground. The spittle carried on the sobbing, while Coyote rolled the disk across the prairie. The Antelope wondered why Coyote's yelping got farther and farther apart, so they decided to have a look outside of their lodge. No Coyote! No Disk! Looking around they could see the Disk and Coyote getting further and further away. The two little Antelopes started after Coyote, but he had a good start and was

doing his best.

Coyote had decided that he would get rid of the Disk. He headed toward the Falls in the River. He could see that the Antelope could outrun him, so he had to get rid of it quick. He reached the bank of the river just a few feet ahead of the Antelope just far enough to roll the Sun Disk into the River.

As the Sun Disk hit the water and sank the Great Spirit announced in a loud voice that the animal supremacy was at an end and that from that moment on a new being would be master of the Universe.

If you should take a walk across Monroe Street Bridge today, at the north end of the bridge below little park, you will see a whirlpool. When the water is low and the sun is out,

the boys departed for the prairie country, the twin Antelope and the four Coyote.

They traveled for days crossing bodies of water and mountains and valleys until they reached the plains of the Blackfeet. They rested for two nights, watching the Blackfeet Braves playing and racing with the Sun Disk. They noted the course and made their plans for taking the disk. Early on the second morning they took up their positions as planned. The oldest of the Coyotes concealed himself where

Coyote and Antelope had finished their evening meal and had curled up by their lodge fires warming their backs, when all of a sudden out of the stillness they heard a loud voice say, 'Antelope, your sons were slain by the Blackfeet'. Coyote and Antelope were startled, but again the voice repeated the message. This time there was no doubt as to what the message meant. Coyote was overjoyed his sons had returned. He picked up a burning limb from his fire and entered his

do."

Coyote went to the Antelope lodge and pleaded to see and feel the Sun Disk. "I want to see and feel it. I want to see the Sun Disk that was responsible for the loss of my sons. If I could just have a moment alone with it, it would be such a comfort." Antelope, feeling sorry for Coyote, had his sons to let Coyote have the Sun Disk for a moment if it would ease his sorrow a little. The moment that Coyote had the Sun Disk in his hands, alone outside of the lodge, he

moment on a new being would be master of the Universe.

If you should take a walk across Monroe Street Bridge today, at the north end of the bridge below little park, you will see a whirlpool. When the water is low and the sun is out, you will always see rainbows, the reflections from the Sun Disk. Before the railroad bridge was built, you could have seen Coyote and a few feet behind him the Antelope, where they had all turned to stone at the Great Spirit's voice.