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A STORY

There are many strange things in the world, often sad and pathetic. The "Story" which we shall print below was written by Mrs. Mary K. Hall, mother of Robert, who is a worthy member of our shop detail. The story which follows was written at a time when Mrs. Hall was lying on her death bed—it is an unusual story:

The Kadashan totem pole has some striking figures on it. The first, or top figure, represents the great chieftain; the second figure, the box containing the sun, moon and stars; the third figure, the daughter of the great chieftain; the fourth figure the raven, Yadi; and the fifth figure represents The Very Wise Man. The story runs thusly:

The whole world was in darkness and was populated by animals of all kinds, with one common language, who were able to change at will into human shape, or spirit, and yet always reverted back into whatever animal they were. Yadi, is a sort of god among the Thlinget, and whose English interpretation of name is Raven. He was the animal, Man, who came from "under the world" (meaning the east) and taught the animal people the ways of life.

Yadi wanted the box owned by the great chieftain, Nass-sha-gi-Yadi, but the Uninquisitive One always foiled him in his schemes. The great chieftain, Nass-sha-gi-Yadi, or Raven, set the Uninquisitive One to watch over the box containing the sun, moon, stars and Daylight, and over his daughter, for he did not want her to be seen of men and marry, for if she did he would have to give his choicest possession as her marriage dowry, which would be the box containing the sun, moon, stars and Daylight.

One day Yadi sat watching and scheming as to how he could get possession of this wonderful box. While thinking, in the line of his vision, came the daughter of the chieftain down to the spring. She and her maid servants were playing and Yadi noticed this princess stoop down to the spring and drink. The act gave him a thought. After this the schemer watched the movements of the girl and the very next time she came to the spring Yadi went to the spring and changed himself into a particle of the floating things and "willed" himself into her mouth. She swallowed this particle as she drank at the spring, and from this act we get the story of the Virgin Mother.

In the course of time Nass-sha-gi-Yadi became a grandfather. Further, he became very fond of this

child. The Uninquisitive One was ordered by the grandfather to devise things to amuse the child, but in spite of everything the child was strongly attracted to the box. The grandfather forbade him to touch it. More toys were made for him and everything was done to divert him from the box. It was this perversity of the child by which we came into the world with a definite thing for us to do, and which, in spite of everything else we are not diverted.

When the child couldn't get the box he began to cry. He cried, and cried, nothing would comfort him. Finally, in sorrow, the grandfather gave him the moon to play with. He rolled it, and laughed over it, and at once hurled it into space. Nass-sha-gi-Yadi was very angry. He was so grieved that he fasted for many days; still, the animal people were in darkness and the child's work undone.

The little one cried so much that he was taken sick, so the grandfather gave him the stars, and when he got the box of Day he opened and shut it until all of the Day was gone. That is why we have day and night. Box opens and shuts.

Nass-sha-gi-Yadi grieved; he sat on his mat of wonderfully woven grass, fasting. But the child cried himself sick and the chieftain sent for the Uninquisitive One to come and watch over the sun while the babe played with it.

Over the smoke escape sat the Uninquisitive One while the child played, ever watching his chance to escape. But the watchman was doubly careful for he was in great disgrace with the chieftain because of the loss of the other boxes. Looking into the child's eyes he had a great fear, for the child looked at him with the old, wise eyes like those of Yadi, and he was disquieted. So he watched with all his cunning over the Sun box.

The child was in great glee. He laughed, making others laugh, and poked fun at the little old man sitting over the smoke escape, with his stick ever ready to strike. All at once the child tickled the Uninquisitive One and in annoyance he moved to one side and so the child, who was Yadi, quickly flew into space with the Sun in his beak. When the wonderful radiance came the animal people were so frightened that some jumped into the water, some ran into the woods, some flew into the air, and those that stood still became man, and each became the inhabitants of the place where they went—of the earth, the sea and the air.

Some were so frightened that they lost speech and became just animal, fish or fowl. Those who re-

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