

An Arickaree Legend.

Long, long ago there lived two pretty Indian maidens who thought a great deal of each other. Their names were Buffalo Woman and Deer Woman.

One summer night Deer Woman came to stay with Buffalo Woman. After they had combed their hair they fixed a bed out in the open air. It was moonlight but the stars were shining brightly. As they lay there telling stories Buffalo Woman exclaimed, "That star yonder is the one I adore most!" and the other one said, "Like that one that does not shine so brightly," pointing to a little star. Soon after this the maidens went to dreamland and then the bright star that was admired so much came down and took Buffalo Woman up into the skies.

The next morning when Deer Woman awoke she saw that her friend was not there so she got up and went to see if she was with the rest of the family, but no, she was not there and they said they had not seen her since the night before. They searched for her but she was nowhere to be found. But all this time Buffalo Woman was safe, up in the sky. When she awoke she found herself in a different place but the kind star told her not to be afraid and then he told how he went down and got her because she admired him. So they were married and lived happily together.

Star used to spend most of his time hunting, while Buffalo Woman would dig Indian mounds.

One day as she was starting out on her usual trip for mounds her husband told her not to dig mounds in the valleys but to dig them in the high hills. For many days she wondered why he told her this and she said to herself, "Next time I shall try it."

The next day Star went on his hunting trips and when he went out and before long she came to a broad valley where mounds grew in abundance. She thought of what her husband had told her but she went on and she dug one large mound. As she was removing the dirt she saw that she had made a hole through something. She kept on removing the dirt until at last she

made a hole large enough to look down through. As she looked down she saw the world below and she spent nearly the whole afternoon looking down. At last she made up her mind that she was going back to her own home again.

At this time she had a baby boy who had the figure of a star in the middle of his forehead. Every time her husband went out hunting she told him to save the marrow of the buffaloes he killed and this he did. So Buffalo Woman made a rope of all the marrow he saved for her and when she thought it was long enough to get her down to the world below she stopped.

One day she took her little boy and the long rope she had made and went into the valley where the hole was. Then she tied the rope around a stick to put across the hole, she tied herself to the other end and lowered herself, her little boy on her back. But alas, the rope was not long enough to get her down.

When Star came home from hunting he wondered where his wife was and he went out to look for her. He came to the broad valley and there he found the hole, so he looked down and there he saw his daughter below him. He was so angry that he got a large rock and threw it down and that was Buffalo Woman.

The little boy was not killed but slipped down to the ground with his head down. Near where they fell was a pocket which belonged to an old woman. Her little boy used to go into the pocket and spend his time in playing.

The old woman began to wonder why she was doing so much damage in her pocket. She knew it was a small pocket because she saw his footprints on the soil. So she made a bow and arrow and a ball, which she put in herself. "If it's a boy he will shoot the bow and arrow but if it's a girl he will take the ball." The next day when she went into the pocket she found that the bow and arrow were gone. Then she knew it was a boy. She felt much to grieve for and grieve some she made a mound. She got out of her mound and went in the little hole and pressed her way to her home and then she began to be told her the story of his mother.