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THE HEAD STORY.

Seneca Version.

The three brothers, the youngest of three brothers living together was sitting on a couch in their lodge with his head down and he saw a bloody head lying under the couch on the opposite side of the fire. It appeared to him like his own head, and it was covered with blood; and he concluded something was wrong and so he was greatly disturbed by the gruesome sight and tried to make up his mind how such a thing could be. While standing there with his head hanging down in serious thought his elder brother came in and asked, what ~~matter~~ troubled him so much. At last after he had asked him twice or thrice he said "Look at that bloody head". The elder brother looked at it, and then at his brother and he saw that there was a different bloody head under the bed and still he had his head on, and they began to shed tears as they sat there and were astonished and frightened by their own awful thoughts. Their tears were blood and so both had streams of blood trickling down their cheeks. They felt very bad. Then the eldest brother returned, and his brothers told him the cause of their grief, and then they all began to cry.

At last the eldest brother said "Let us stop crying and let us instead hold a council". This they did and they talked a long time, finally they decided that it

it has befallen them because they were wicked and because they had killed many persons and had eaten their bodies, and they agreed that perhaps it was wrong to do so, and they decided to go out and consult with other people. So they started off and sang as they went along, and thus the people learned that they were coming and nevertheless they decided to destroy them, but the brothers made them understand that they wished to lay an important matter before them to see what they thought of it. So they told the people that they had very important proposals to lay before them; and how they themselves had reached the conclusion that they had done very wrong, in that they had killed many people and had eaten their bodies; and that now they had decided that it was wrong that they had hitherto done so, and they told the people that they had come to inform them of this conclusion and that as they should take this matter into consideration and resolve as they had they would all quit that way of living. That they would all join together and live right. The people took the matter into consideration and they decided that it was wrong to eat human flesh. They all joined together in a union and the three brothers said that they would go off and consult with other people to see what they also thought about it. When they came in sight of another smoke, that is village, they would give notice of their peaceful intention and when these all joined with them they would go on and so they went on until the three brothers came back to their starting place. Then all

all went into council and they concluded that in every village that they must have a leader to whom all the people could look for advice and so they commenced by giving names to the leaders of every village. After this when they were all joined as one body they decided to live in peace and their old way of living was abolished.

After they had come to this agreement they found a man by the name of Dehadodaho.

It so happened that one of the Chiefs of the people spoke before them saying to them that they should not go to a certain place where there was an island, it would be wrong for them to go there. But there was a company of the people who said "We will go there and see what is there that we should not see and which the people of that place had forbidden to us." They were not many. So one morning, in spite of all, they started; but the rest of the people followed them to see that the result would be. They stopped when they reached the lake shore and there they made a canoe and all who were determined to go got a board and started for the forbidden island. While the rest of the people stood on the shore and watched; but after a while these went home.

The others went over to the island and nobody ever heard from them again. One day a hunter was going along by the shore of that lake and he saw near the shore a snag of flood root or wood. As he stood looking at it to see what it really was

was, he spoke saying to the snag of flood wood the words of greeting. The snag said in reply that he hoped that they would find him and take care of him. The man who was looking on became afraid and started away and ran off. Then a voice called out of the snag "The man has fallen down," and as the voice said this "The man fell to the ground". He got up again and ran on and finally reached home.

Then he told the people what he had seen and they said it was perhaps some of the men who tried to go to the island and that perhaps this was the way they got punished for going there. Then all the people started and went off to the spot where the man had seen the great stump or snag and he said "It was right there".

But nothing was to be seen there. They went to the place and they saw a blood trail where it had dragged along on the beach and they followed the trail and finally reached the place where it was. Then the voice said "I want you to take care of me", and they concluded to do as the voice had directed. So they carried him, the snag, home and put the snag inside of the council lodge and told it to stay there and there they left it.

After wards people would come along and look in to see what they could and then the voice out of the snag would call out and the persons frightened would

would start to run off, and then the voice would say, "and he is falling", and the person would fall down to the ground.

Even when wild geese flew over head the voice of the snag would call out "They are falling," and all the geese would fall down to the ground dead.

Hayawentha, a man living in another town, had lost his child and he began to feel lonely and made up his mind to leave the country, so he started off, and went fast to the Salt Springs, then he went into the country. People began to find that a stranger was stopping in the place and they concluded to invite him to come over to the council lodge. After he was invited he replied "all right" and the messenger went home but the ~~man~~ went on his way to the place calling "Horn in the water".

Finally he reached the place where ~~there~~ was a lake covered with ducks. When he came near the shore of the lake the ducks flew up and dried up the lake by carrying up all the water in it, and he walked around and he found a quantity of shells and he put them in a piece of skin and wrapped them up and then he went on until he came to a place where there was a stopping place in an opening or clearing. While ~~he~~ was there he was busy stringing shells he placed them on a pole and continued to string more. While so engaged a man passed and saw him and went home and told the people that he had seen a man in the woods busy stringing shells. And they

they told him to go back and invite him to come over to their council lodge.

So he went back to the place and found the man singing and his song was, "If there were a wise and good man then he would obtain and cut up a jointed plant "ohsinoda" and then string the pieces and he would send these strong pieces to me and then ask me to go to their council lodge. I would then accept the invitation." The man went right back home and repeated what the man was saying in the clearing. Then this man and the others went to work and cut up and strung the pieces of the plant with joints and then the man carried the strung pieces to the man who was stringing shells in the clearing and the man gave the strung plant joints to the man with an invitation to come to their council lodge and the stranger replied that he would go when he was ready and the messenger returned home.

The people waited anxiously and soon they saw the stranger coming towards the council lodge and he finally entered it and it was the usual salutation and they gave him a seat and then he told them what he thought of their difficulties and that he was then anxious that they should all come together in one body politic and live in peace. The leading man and his people agreed to this and said we will send out a general invitation to all peoples and invite them to come together".

They appointed two men to go on this errand. They departed but never came back ~~to~~ the people decided that they had been waiting too long for them.

The two men that last came to the Oneida, there was a big log in their path and they took it along and they began singing, saying "Hai, Hai". The two men went to the council and the old leading man was Dehadodaho. When Hayawentha arrived there he kept walking up and down in the council lodge and saying "Hai, Hai" . While Dehadodaho was sitting there he did not mind anything; he seemed to wake up and the man thought was a bony face (A sort of piece hanging down) and as Hayawentha came along he pressed Dehadodaho's head right down on unto his knees and he cried out. Hayawentha said "There that is enough you look more like a human being now". Over him were serpents and snakes and they were sticking out of his head in every direction and Hayawentha said that this would be all right now and so pulling out one of the snakes and this act drove all the rest away. Hayawentha then told the people that they had accomplished what was done. They had joined the Five Nations he said now "We have concluded to keep the council fire at the lodge of Dehadodaho the leading chief of the Onondaga. When we reach the Seneca, we shall find

find what they think about this matter."

The Seneca joined the Confederacy and Hayawentha issued a proclamation to the Five Nations saying that all fighting was abolished. That there would be one council fire, one people, and that they would love one another, and live quietly and peacefully; that no one should take the name Hayawentha thereafter; that every one should do so that would be the end of the League". After that Hayawentha disappeared and was never seen again. No man knows what became of him.

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