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Notes on Arapaho customs and beliefs by Jesse Rowlodge,
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Arapaho customs and beliefs.

1. When any one, woman or man is ailing or has an intense pain on any part of body, not private, he or she can go to a warrior with a scar from wound received in a battle, and rub the part that may be paining against the scar expecting immediate relief. etc.

A murderer within a tribe either intentional or accidental is considered possessed of ill luck to any one he comes in contact.

No one cares to smoke with him, chump or travel with him, or should not associate with him on any journey.

Should not listen to his stories or dreams, or wear his clothes, or use his gun or bow and arrows, or ride a pony double with him or sleep in his bed or with him. especially during thunder storms.

He is otherwise an out cast. The only way he can redeem himself is, if the chance may ever be possible that some member of an enemy tribe may have been killed, to take the liberty and opportunity to practise cannibalism. dissect the body, cut the tip of the heart, eat it, the same with the liver, flesh, fat, blood, brain break a limb and eat the marrow, then he is reaccepted in any society of the tribe. One man is still alive at this writing who accidentally hurt and killed a child, a girl that had to go thru the above. He is now about 76 years old, in good health; his hairs as black as coal and otherwise a man of fine character.

3. In referring to any ^{one} one should never point to the one referred either with a knife, or any other sharp tool or weapon, as it is believed and feared the party referred

or pointed at will be harmed in some way.

4. Children of either sex should not play with fire or coals, ^{at night} as it will cause urinating in bed. This is termed, "chased by the rabbit."
5. Children should also never undertake to count the stars of the skies, if they do they are counting the years of their living mother's life. That is, the number they will count to, will be the year of death.
6. At bed time one should rinse their mouth, drink before retiring, rinse the mouth out upon rising before drinking.
7. Some children actually do not know the names of parents and grand parents until at a certain age, as they usually address them by relationship.

8. Children are taught not to kill, play with, or handle a toad as it will cause their hands to become spotted.
9. On the other hand, they are permitted to play with a horned toad as it is considered good luck to tie a red rag or string about its neck and liberated. The luck will come in a form of receiving a pony.
10. When a black bird or several of them lights upon your pony's back, you will be fortunate of getting that many ponies giving to you.
11. If a dog howls near your tepee, he is driven away at once as that is a sign of misfortune, especially if some one is sick in the tepee.

12. When prairie dogs are seen running along road away from their town of mounds it is a sign of flood especially in the spring of the year.
13. Carmine (dark red) and celestial blue are the favorite colors, also coal black and white clay.
14. Sage is used for all toilet purposes on account of its clean, softness and odor. Bathing wiping of sweat etc. as well as for ceremonial.
15. Women in family way are not to eat a rabbit as it is believed will cause their baby to born hair mouthed, neither will they eat of any vegetable or fruit or meats that is double natured or seed as they fear it will cause twins.

16. On account of uncertainty of nature

Arapahoes never camp near a water edge or directly under trees or bluffs or boulders. They fear also of rodents and reptiles near such places.

17. Whenever any clothing is to be cast away especially into the water, a supposed being named "Lost Child" is always addressed as to whom such clothes are presented. This is considered for good luck.

18. The children are taught names of animals, birds and also trees and different species of stones; The following are a few.

Birds

hā'gē sāh = robin

gē'gē hē = sparrow hawk

bē tā ē = dove or pigeon

sē'hēi = snow bird

ja'oo jē nāhē = meadow lark

hē'ā nāā = black bird

hō = crow

gā'gā xwā hēi = red hummer

bā'tā bā tā = wood pecker

hā'fā sō wō = buzzard

hā'oo tī = chicken hawk

19. Children were also taught not to follow or step in ~~the~~ foot prints of others.

20 It is always the custom of a sick or dying person of either sex to plea to the nearest relations for the care or attention of his survivors less able than others; this is usually promised and often carried out.

21 Young women at the age when learning to slice meat for jerking are taught by older women relatives the names of parts of an animal, and are identified even after sliced as to part of carcass; A few are as follows.

hē'ā hōu

hē'nā tāt - flank

hē'gē yā -

hē'nā ā nā -

hē'nā hēj quail

hē'tā yā ā shoulder

hē'jā = ribs

hē'gē ēth = coef of leg

hē'jā nā' plural ribs

hē'jā = hind quarters

hē'jā wā brik " "

hē'sā nā = neck

hē'thā bā = ~~xwa~~ = utter flank

hē'thā nā = utters

hē'sā jaw ā = basket

hē'sā ā = ramp

names of trees have been given before

22 If there has been a fog or mist which
is called ^{turtle or terrapin} for a few days, and a clear day
is wanted, one will clear or smooch
off a patch of ground just big enough
to draw an out-line of a terrapin about
four inches in diameter with legs
tail and head showing; then the terrapin
is asked to leave, mutilating the picture.

23. Any one of unusual small shins or part
of legs below the knees is called Jack snipe
legs. Name of Jack snipe is (Té'té hē) or (Té'té hēi)

Southern Arizona
April 1933
Rowledge

lose their trails which
in a way teaches people
to know their directions
by various indications.

If they neglect that
they will lose the path
and even in broad day
light they will get lost
for the period of the
fog or mist. This has
happened in many
instances and many
stories are told of British
soldiers of being lost.
The conclusion however is
that the Fog turtle is
not snared by the rain
bow as is the case of
the Thunder bird.

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