

in quite a different category from that of Turtle's War Party. The similarity lies solely in matters of war procedure.

Bluejay dances the war-dance, sings his war song, sets out on the warpath with his brothers, kills the water monster, and dances the dance of victory (MAM 4:665).

38. Two-Headed Snakes

Women gathering camas encounter snakes with two heads on each end
A flood reaches the snakes' hole in the cliff and destroys them

Directly north of the old church at Cataldo there is a flat where many camas grow. Women gathering camas would hear teeth knocking together, *otsax tsax*, and would see something coming over the grass. It was a two-headed snake which had to go flat over the grass like a scraper so as to keep its heads in place. Some of the women ran, but some were not quick enough and were struck. Some were knocked down because it was so strong.

There came a rain. Snakes' house was high in a hole in the cliff north of the camas flat. It rained so hard the flood reached the hole and killed the snakes. They were never seen after that.

When I was a little girl I used to hear of snakes with heads on both ends.¹

The Coeur d'Alene narrator of the Two-Headed Snake story claimed it was a true story. The double-headed snake or serpent appears in stories of other tribes as an avowedly mythological being to which supernatural power is commonly attached.

Four myths may be noted for the *Kwakiutl* in which the double-headed serpent puts in an appearance:

A man sees a double-headed serpent and kills it (MAM 5:60); a woman finds the scales of a double-headed serpent and rubs her son's arrows with them (MAM 5:138); a boy washes his hands in the slime of the double-headed serpent and becomes Stone Hand (MAM 5:146); a man rubs his son with the salmon, the double-headed serpent he has killed, and the boy becomes Stone Body (MAM 5:197).

A number of further references to the fabulous snake may be found distributed among the *Lower Fraser*, *Squamish*, *Comox*, *Kwakiutl* and *Newetsee* tribes:

A man safely passes the double-headed snake (*Lower Fraser* IS 41); a boy kills the double-headed snake with a head at each end (*Squamish* IS 58); boys in

¹ Dorothy's father saw these snakes. Each was about three feet long, as thick as an arm and had two heads at each end. Their den was a hole in the cliff which could not be reached by man from the top or the bottom.

heaven catch the double-headed snake and instruct it to eat their father-in-law, one head eating at each end (*Comox* IS 68); a man sees a fiery two-headed snake, hurls his spear at it and receives supernatural power for catching seals from it (*Comox* IS 81); men test their power by feeding each other a double-headed snake but they both survive the test (*Kwakiutl* IS 134); two transformers see the beautiful two-headed snake, one kills it and takes its skin and eyes which help him in great displays of power (*Newetsee* IS 195). In still another *Kwakiutl* myth some of the beams of the hero's house are represented as being double-headed snakes; these come to life upon festive occasions and kill any evil person who enters the house (IS 166).

In the Coeur d'Alene myth there is no such supernatural adaptation of this alleged natural phenomenon.

39. The Dwarf

A man out hunting loses his powderhorn
A dwarf hangs it on a stump
The man's wife is injured by a dwarf at a waterhole

Once a man went hunting. He had a bandolier with a powderbox of buffalo horn. As he walked along he noticed that the box was missing. He turned back to look for it. He thought, "It must have fallen on the trail whence I came." He searched a whole day without finding it. The next day he saw it hanging on a stump. That's where a dwarf had hung it.

That same man went hunting another time. His wife stayed home. She went to a hole in the ice for water. Far off the man heard screaming. It was the woman crying. He thought, "I wonder what is the matter." He turned back and went past his house toward the water. He saw his wife standing on the ice and there was nothing but blood around her. He said, "What is the matter?" The woman said, "A dwarf hurt me." That's all.

40. Man Caught in a Fire Corral

People impound animals in fire corral
Fire gets beyond control and people rush out
One man is missing
The people look for him at night
They find something in the dark and wail over it
It turns out to be a grizzly bear
The man is found alive, but badly burned

They tell about a time when the people made a fire corral near Sand Point. The grass was burned in a large circle and a small opening was