CEREMONIAL DANCES

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During the last dance, they have a Medicine Woman that makes the medicine for the Brush Dance. A girl and a young man have two packs of medicine, and they dance in front, then go by, then come back, then they stop. They do that five times. Then the singer sings a medicine song for them. The singer will continue two more times, just to finish it up. He has to sing seven times. After that, anybody can sing.
CEREMONIAL DANCES

by

Herman Sherman

Ceremonial Indian dances are still held in Hoopa. There is the Brush Dance, which is held in June. In the summer, there is the Deerskin Dance. That lasts for ten days. Then ten days later the Jump Dance takes place.

All of these dances are held at Hostler Rance. We all take part in it. Fred Davis, Ruel Leach and I all sing in the Brush Dance and Deerskin Dance.

Deer are skinned out and put on a pole. We dance with that. We use White Deer and Black Deer. Then four guys pack flint while they dance back and forth in front of the singer. They have long black flints and red flints.

There will be a Deerskin Dance in September and after that there will be a Jump Dance.

We all stand in one place, ten or twelve in a row. There is plenty of food to eat, like acorn, fish and eels.

The End
COYOTE AND CEREMONIAL DANCES

by

Ruel Leach

This story has been handed down for hundreds of years. In the Deerskin Dance, these men pack the flint. They have a whistle. They go past the singers, cross, then they don't cross further back. Then they make a turn, bring their rock down, go back, and then meet. They go on past three times, and then the singer stops. Then they sit down.

This is the way they used to do it, hundreds of years ago. God was there then, and he sat and watched how they dance.

Coyote was there then, too, and he said, "I want to pack the flint." They told him he could do it.

When Coyote started in, he like to show off. When the deer went by, he packed that rock and moved his head just like he moved his horn. He came by and moved his head around. When he made that turn, he went in and just kicked the dirt back. A lot of people were watching, and they laughed at him. They asked each other, "What do you think?" "Well," said God, "it's a ceremonial dance, but the people are supposed to be happy. I think that's all right." So now, when the dancers dance, they make that same turn and kick the dirt.

In the Brush Dance, they used to dance in this pit. They'd go right around the pit. So Coyote got in there and he sang. He jumped and sang right along. He made the dirt fly, because the had
big feet.

Coyote sang three songs. Then somebody else sang. The deer started singing, and everyone started dancing and moving along.

Coyote got the arrow sack and he stuck an arrow under his arm. He made an angry noise and started jumping in the middle. He made yipping moises like the other dancers did. Everyone clapped their hands and laughed.

Somebody said, "What do you think of that?"

Someone answered, "Well, it's a fun dance anyway. We'll let it go." So that's why they jump in the middle when there is a Brush Dance.

The End
COYOTE GETS PITCH FOR HIS HAIR
by
Ruel Leach
April 1984

Coyote wanted his hair to be shiny. He saw different ones who had shiny hair, and he asked them how he could make his hair shiny too.

"Well," one said, "We take deer bones, we crack them, and we get all the marrow out of it." Then he said, "We get this deerhide, the same deerhide we have worked up, we put the marrow inside of that, and we roll it and we work it till we get it just about like hair oil." "So," he said, "then you put it in your hair and you work your hair until it's kind of dry. Any your hair is oily, and it shines nice."

"Ah," he said, "I don't believe it."

"No," one fellow said, "I'll tell you what we do. We go up on the hill and we pick up a lot of pitch," and he said, "We take it down to the river, and then we boil it." Then he said, "We put that on our head."

Old Coyote, he went in there, and he said, "Grandma, I want your wood basket."

"What are you going to do with the wood basket?"

"I'm going to fix my hair up," he said, "so it looks like those other fellows," he said, "nice and shiny."

"No," she said, "my grandson, no. They're lying to you." she said, "They don't do it that way."
"Huh!" he said, "You don't want me to look good. You want my old mangy hair to stick out now."

"Well," she told him, "go ahead."

So she got a basket. She said, "What are you going to get?"

He said, "I'm going up on the hill, I'm going to get a lot of pine pitch."

"Oh," she said, "that would be nice."

Now all those words were said in Indian. "That would be nice," she said. "We can fix the boat up, patch the boat up where it's cracked."

"Huh!" he said, "We're not going to patch any boat up." He said, "That's going to be for my hair."

She never said anything else.

So he went up there and he got a whole bunch of pitch, and he took it down to the river, and he got her Indian basket. You know, they cook in their baskets, because they use rocks. They put that pitch in there, and pretty soon, he went and dropped the rocks in there, and things began to boil, you know, like water boils.

And he went over here and he put another rock in and, I think it was just boiling hot. Old Coyote, he took that pitch you know, and he got it up you know, and he went on the edge of this rock. He jumped in this deep hole.

When he jumped in this deep hole, he pours that pitch on his head, and jumps in. When he comes out of there, he's supposed to have that nice, shiny hair, that fellow.

Well, he dumped that pitch on his head, and down in the water he went. When he came up he was all bald headed, there was nothing
on his head but his ears.

He was just like some of these people. You've seen some people who have awful big ears. Well, his ears were a little bit big, they stuck past his head a little bit.

Now that's the story. A Coyote story. This has been handed down for years and years. My grandparents told me that.
XONTESTO (COYOTE) NO'ID*L (STEELHEAD)  
COYOTE AND STEELHEAD  

Fred Davis  
Hupa 9/26/84  

XONTESTO (Coyote) was walking. And then HA NO'D*L (that 
Stealhead) came along. He wanted to trade eyes.  
XONTESTO (Coyote) thought about it. He knew that HA NO'D*L 
(that Steelhead) could see anything. He could even see through 
murky water.  

They were playing sticks, and XONTESTO (Coyote) said, 
"Can you see them way down there?" XONTESTO (Coyote) said,"They're 
playing sticks way down there." XONTESTO (Coyote) said, "You see, he 
flipped him over, he turned him upside down. So, they couldn't 
see him. But XONTESTO (Coyote) could. So anyway, MANOD*LWOTB 
(they talked about this). He could see so good. And none of those 
others could see. So, they said, "If he can see that good, we'll 
trade him."  

So, finally, he said, "Well, go ahead you guys and jump back 
in the river." SWO'AD*LON (they traded) YOXONO (their eyes).  

So, XOTAD*HLE (they jumped back) TAYOW*LON (they dove in the 
water) XUN (the river) DUW' (just got muddy). Just nothing but mud 
They couldn't see. Their vision wasn't as good as they had before 
when they traded. They had Coyote eyes, and his weren't so good as 
they thought.  

That's why XONTESTO (Coyote) has such good eyes. He can see 
you for a long ways. He's got HA NO'D*L (that Steelhead's)eyes  

That's why XONTESTO (Coyote) such good eyes. He can see 
you for a long ways. He's got HA NO'D*L (that Steelhead's)eyes  

NO'D*L (Steelhead) can see you out of murky water. You walk 
by him, and he'll see you. He'll take off.  

HA*YONONO+K  
That one is finished.
COYOTE STEALS DAYLIGHT

by

Fred Davis, Hupa
April, 1984

XONTENT® (Coyote) was coming along, they were digging potatoes, you know. Indian potatoes? There were a whole bunch of them there. It was dark. You couldn't see. D® M+J1+BXÁ (There was no daylight)

So anyway, what he did, he made himself old. Gee, XO+CDÁ (the old man), he was staggering around you know, and they told those younger people, "Take XO+CDÁ (the old fellow) up to the house."

It looked like he was starving. Staggering around. So they grabbed him, and took him up to the house. Oh, it was a big long house there. There were K+LEX+J NO'N+NN (two little boys) in there, they were about four or five years old. They were watching in there. They had everything in there hanging up on that roof there. He asked those boys, "What's in that bag there."

"Oh," he said, "that's TECJE (the wind)". He asked about the other boys, and they told him, "K+TDH(lightning), KENDH (thunder) and NO'+YO (rain)"

Pretty soon, he said, "What's that one in the center there? This bag."

They said, "Oh, that's M+J1+BXÁ (daylight)". That's what he was after. That M+J1+BXÁ (daylight).

So anyway, he thought he'd get rid of those kids, get them out of the house. He told them to go get some water.
So the kids grabbed a M+UTG(big cooking basket), and they brought the water in. "Oh," he said, "that's not cold enough." He said, "Get some that's real cold."

So he was making them stay out there a little longer, a little longer. Finally, he wished those boys would find something to play with. And that would give him time to steal that bag. They didn't come back for a long time. So finally he got up there and he got that bag.

He ran with it.

K+LEX+J NO'N+ (these boys), when they came back in with that water, he was gone. First thing, that little fellow looked up where the bags were, he said, "That fellow stole it. He stole that M+JI+BXA(daylight)."

So they went on down there where they were working there, and they got DOHKYO (grouse), D+J (quail), XGYONT (pidgeon) XOCOC (hummingbird). They were the trackers. They got on this trail and they took after him. Finally, they got pretty close, so he thought he was going to get away with it. So he made a little old (house) there. He hid that bag. XO+CD (the old man) was sitting out there, and they asked him, "Did anybody with a bag come by here?"

"No," he said, "I didn't see nobody."

So they left, they took off. He grabbed that bag and he took off himself. Finally, DOHKYO (grouse) you know, he said, "I think that fellow, he stole M+JI+BXA (daylight)".

So they waited for him. There he comes. There he comes there. He had that bag on his back. So they caught him. "Oh," he said, we're going to kill you now."
He still had that bag.

"All right." There was a big flat rock there. He said, "Throw me down there on that rock there, and kill me that way."

So they picked him up, he still had that bag, you know, so they picked him up and they slammed him down on that TCE (rock). But he was too smart. He jumped, and he threw that bag and he busted it.

M*J*I+B*X* (daylight) came then. That's how we got M*J*I+B*X* (daylight). Otherwise, it would be dark yet. That's a story that has been handed down.

HAYONGND*K
That One Is Finished
A long time ago, there was no daylight. Everything was in darkness. One day, Coyote came along to where some Indians were digging potatoes. He decided to fool these people, so he made himself look really old and thin.

The Indians saw this old man staggering around, and they told the younger people, "take that old fellow up to the house."

They took him up to a big, long house. There were also many bags hanging from the roof of the house. The old man was left in there with the bags.

Finally, Coyote pointed at one of the bags and asked, "What's in that bag?"

"That's the wind," said one boy.

Coyote asked about two other bags, and they told him, "Those are thunder and rain."

Then Coyote pointed to another bag and said, "What's that one in the center?"

"Oh, that's daylight," one of the boys said.

That daylight was what Coyote wanted. He needed to get rid of the boys first, so he sent them out to get water.

The boys grabbed a big cooking basket and they used that to bring some water in.
Coyote said, "That water isn't cold enough. Go get some that's really cold."

He kept sending them out again and again for cold water, making them stay out longer and longer. Finally, he wished that the boys would find something to play with while they were gone. This would give him time to steal the bag.

The wish worked, and the boys were gone for a long time. Finally, Coyote climbed up, took the bag of daylight, and ran away with it.

When the boys came back, they saw that he was gone. One boy looked up where the bags were and said, "that fellow stole that bag of daylight!"

The boys rushed down to where the Indians were working and told them what had happened. They needed trackers to help them find Coyote, so they called together Graouse, Quail, Pigeon and Hummingbird. They got on Coyote's trail and took off after him.

When they got close, Coyote thought he might be caught, so he made a little house appear. He hid the bag and then he sat down in front of the house.

While he was sitting there, the birds who were tracking him came by. They asked him, "Did you see anybody with a bag come by here?"

"No," said Coyote, "I didn't see anyone."

The trackers left, and Coyote got the bag and left the house.
While he was sitting there, the birds who were tracking him came by. They asked him, "Did you see anybody with a bag come by here?"

"No," said Coyote, "I didn't see anyone."

The trackers left, and Coyote got the bag and left the house. The trackers kept going until the grouse finally stopped and said, "I think that was the fellow who stole the daylight!"

The trackers decided to wait for him. Finally they saw him coming with the bag on his back, and they caught him. "Now we're going to kill you," they told him.

Coyote saw a big, glat rock, so he told them, "Throw me down on that rock and kill me that way."

They picked him up while he still had the bag and they tried to slam him down on the rock. But Coyote was too smart for them. He jumped away from them and threw the bag on the rock. The bag burst open and daylight came out. There was daylight everywhere.

That's how daylight came to be. If it wasn't for Coyote, it would still be dark today.

The End
XONTETØ (COYOTE) GETS PITCH FOR HIS HAIR

by

Ruel Leach, Hupa
April 1984

XONTETØ (Coyote) wanted his hair to be shiny. He saw different ones who had shiny hair, and he asked them how he could make his hair shiny too.

"Well," one said, "We take deer bones, we crack them, and we get all the marrow out of it." Then he said, "We get this deerhide, the same deerhide we have worked up, we put the marrow inside of that, and we roll it and we work it till we get it just about like hair oil." "So," he said, "then you put it in your hair and you work your hair until it's kind of dry. And your hair is oily, and it shines nice."

"Ah," he said, "I don't believe it."

"No," XQ+CDÅ (one fellow) said, "I'll tell you what we do. We go up on the hill and we pick up a lot of pitch." and he said, "We take it down to the river, and then we boil it." Then he said, "We put that on our hear."

XONTETØ (Old Coyote), he went in there, and he said, "HW+JWO, (my grandmother) I want your wood basket."

"What are you going to do with the wood basket?"

"I'm going to fix my hair up," he said, "so it looks like those other fellows," he said, "nice and shiny."

"No," she said, "HW+TCG (my grandson) no. They're lying to you." she said, "They don't do it that way."
"Huh!" he said, "You don't want me to look good. You want my old mangy hair to stick out now."

"Well," she told him, "go ahead."

So she got a basket. She said, "What are you going to get?"

He said, "I'm going up on the hill, I'm going to get a lot of pine pitch."

"Oh," she said, "that would be nice."

Now all those words were said in Indian. "That would be nice," she said. "We can fix the boat up, patch the boat up where it's cracked."

"Huh!" he said, "We're not going to patch any boat up." He said, "That's going to be for my hair."

She never said anything else.

So he went up there and he got a whole bunch of pitch, and he took it down to the river, and he got her M̕{W̕ Basket (Indian basket). You know, they cook in their baskets, because they use rocks. They put that pitch in there, and pretty soon, he went and dropped the rocks in there, and things began to boil, you know, like water boils.

And he went over here and he put another rock in and, I think it was just boiling hot. X̕O̕ente (Old Coyote), he took that pitch you know, and he got it up you know, and he went on the edge of this rock. He jumped in this deep hole.

When he jumped in this deep hole, he pours that pitch on his head, and jumps in. When he comes out of there, he's supposed to have that nice, shiny hair, that fellow.

Well, he dumped that pitch on his head, and down in the water he went. When he came up he was all bald headed, there was nothing
on his head but his ears.

He was just like some of these people. You've seen some people who have awful big ears. Well, XØJO(his ears) were a little bit big, they stuck past his head a little bit.

Now that's the story. XØNTEBTØ J+XØLØWE (Coyote Story). This has been handed down for years and years. HW+ØWO (my grandmother) told me that.

HÌYØNØND+K
That One is Finished