

Mythology of the Blackfoot Indians



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"Mythology of the Blackfoot Indians", originally published in 1908 by the American Museum of Natural History, introduces such figures as Old Man, Scar-Face, Blood-Clot, and the Seven Brothers. Included are tales with ritualistic origins emphasizing the prototypical Beaver-Medicine and the roles played by Elk-Woman and Otter-Woman, and a presentation of Star Myths, which reveal the astronomical knowledge of the Blackfoot Indians. Narratives about Raven, Grasshopper, and Whirlwind-Boy account for conditions in humanity and nature. Many of the stories in the concluding group, such as "The Lost Children" and "The Ghost-Woman," were tales told to Blackfoot children. These narratives were collected early in the twentieth century from the Piegiens in Montana and from the North Piegiens, the Bloods, and the Northern Blackfoot in Canada. Most were translated by D. C. Duvall and revised for "Mythology of the Blackfoot Indians" by Clark Wissler. Darrell Kipp provides a preface to the new Bison Books edition.

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