

HOW THE <sup>n</sup>CHEWANA WAS FORMED  
--Chief Waters. November 1918  
Story of a Lake on Mount Adams, and in the Yakima Valley.

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A man and his wife were living in the Klickitat country. They had a son who was married. The mother spoke harshly to the son; <sup>She</sup> scolded him for something, and the young man thought:

"I will go away; go far away. I will get lost same as dead!"

He took his bow and arrows and left the lodge; left his wife and parents. He went far into the mountains; near Pot'to. He looked at this big mountain, so high and standing alone. He thought:

"I will climb Pot-to! No man has climbed to the top of the big mountain. I will go see what is there.

The young man climbed up to the top of Pot-to; the first man ever to go there. ~~He~~ No snow, no ice on it then. He found a small lake on the top. He looks at this lake. He forgets about how his mother talked to him. The wind begins to blow. There is a comb near the water. He thinks:

"What's ~~is~~ wrong here?"

He picks the comb up. He lays it down again; for the fog comes up quick. It gets thicker and thicker; dark, for it hides the sun. The young man cannot see, ~~He~~ is lost five days.

Five days his parents miss him; do not know where he is. After three days they hunt for him; hunt for him on the fourth day. They cannot find him; find no trace of him. Then they think:

"He has killed himself".

Then they sweat in the wheacht. <sup>They</sup> ~~and~~ cry for their child. The young wife cries for her husband, ~~He~~ will not come back again. The mother and wife cut their hair. They cry loud and long. The next day comes; five days since the young man has gone. They ~~a~~ re crying for the missing one.

In the meantime the young man was lost. But on the fourth day he began to find himself. ~~He~~ thought:

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"I will go back to my wife! to my parents."

The next morning he starts back home. It is about noon when he reaches the lodge. He sees his father making sweathouse; making sweat. He hears his mother crying in the lodge. He goes inside. His wife is sitting on the left side of the lodge, sitting with her head covered, crying. He goes up to her; puts his hand on her shoulder and pushes her. She does not look up. He pushes her again. She sits with head covered crying for her husband. He pushes her a third time. She looks up. He says:

"I have come back."

He calls his mother: <sup>Pa</sup> "I have come back".

She goes out and tells everybody her sone has come back. Then the son lays down and sleeps rest of the day; sleeps all night. Next day he tells the people what he has seen.

Next year comes a big earthquake. The earth shakes and rocks. One man coming this way from out the mountains, heard a great noise; loud like thunder back of him. He looked toward Potto, and sees dirt, stones and water coming down from its side towards the sunrise. He climbed a hill on White Salmon River. The water raises up and comes closer to him. The water is dark with mud and dirt. Trees, logs and brush is on the water. He sees something like bear, deer, elk and other animals in the flood. People! women with babies on their backs he sees sweeping <sup>down.</sup> The lake on Potto had burst, coming down bringing the side of the mountain. The people and animals which he saw coming on the water, belonged there. Lived in the lake.

The Yakima country was drained. A dam where Alfalfa Station now is \* kn. the lower valley, burst and all the water; a lake covering the great plain of the Yakima reservation, poured out in a strong flood. All this water formed the nChewana, which, up to that time was only a small stream. At the Cascades it passed through the rocks, a tunnel forming a bridge. That place was torn away by the big water and the great river poured over the fallen rocks. Trees are yet to be seen there in the bottom of the river when the water is low and clear. The river has been large ever since that time. It was done by the big earth-quake.

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