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XXCree speechXX. This is an attempt to to record the ancient Cree history of the Hudson and James Bay area. This type of narration has been passed on by by mouth for ages before the white man amongst the Indian people. The original native Cree traditional culture as most of us scholiasts today are aware the North America's native had never developed their written history. The only means for them to pass on their culture was by stories about their past. For example, for education, physical training, spiritual teachings, survival education was elevated with the spiritual belief and practices. The young children grew up with practice of survival activities along with the spiritual beliefs and practices which the elders, with parents and grandparents and so on. There was a system. There was an education system and that education system for the young people everything was included. Our ancient Cree Crees of the area must have had a role to follow. They have a spiritual beliefs and practices and they had the rules to follow which requires for them to survive. In them system they also have a moral laws which also covers the a social regulations whenever the society existed previously in a temporary communities, temporary villages, wherever the natives happen to come together. This is this was prior to the European contact of North American Indians. Listening to the elders today we can trace these things in parts of the actual histories, events which took place a long time before the white man. And another part is by listening the Indian legends. Legends may be looked at as folklores today or they can be looked at as fantasies, fairy tales or whatever the name can be used to try to describe them. These these method of teaching or passing on information to the proceeding generations before the white man amongst our natives in North America had been going on for ages. As we have said before our our American our North American natives had never developed their written communication therefore could not preserve their history in in paper or in books. The only way they can preserve these histories is by stories passing on by mouth. And also in legends. I am going to try to try to repeat what I have heard of different elders that I've talked to and my grandparents that I listen when I was a young boy. As anybody as anybody else as any young kid they do not seem to aware what is going around going on around them. They go on amazing themself with the little things in their hands whatever it is they do. Meanwhile the elders, the parents, the grandparents may be talking around them but they do not stop to stare or to listen or actually stay quiet. But all these voices that comes into their ears registers some somehow in their small brains and it sticks there for years to come. I would imagine that our native, our ancestors must have aware of this and therefore have telled stories to their young ones knowing that in the future in the years to come all these what they have told the young ones will be useful for them once they have passed away. So the legends were applied in this way for this reasoning according to my understanding. Because it has it has happened to me as a young boy I have I used to listen to my grandfather studying the legends. At times I was bored because the story was so boring. There was no action. There was nothing interesting really because I heard it almost everyday and I just keep on playing and amaze myself with the little things I may do. Still I was listening. And sometimes when I find it to be exciting and extraordinary part in that story I would stop and ask question to the storyteller and say, "Why was it? Why did it happen that way? So what happened then and then why?" And all these little questions that the little children do. These these indicate that they do listen. At times the whoever tells the story

even if it's a an old man or an old lady will not stop to explain. They will just keep on telling stories which keep the young children suspense sort of. The story became suspense and and kept alive that way. And the children always wanted to hear some more a bit more explanation to. That is, that was part of the traditional culture. That was traditional education system which was not written but it was practiced from age to ages. Generation to generation. This has happened a long time before the white man came in to North America. I am going to try to tell a small story briefly what makes me wonder today. Many stories any any national nationality have their folklores have their legends, have their fantastic stories, the mystery stories, the horror stories, the terrible stories, the love stories, the sad stories, the enjoyable stories, sympathetic stories. All these human senses which create excitement have existed amongst our North American Indians. Because our ancestors were human also same way as the Europeans. They have all those stories to to cover every aspect of the human nature. There was a story that I want to touch on very very briefly. It has it was a legend. It's not a story. It's a legend. Before I begin I want to I want to mention something which I have getted from the European teaching from the white man's teaching. The modern technology, the modern science have come to conclude that in a theory of evolution the creation begin in very small. The first living organism that were found was supposed to be in water and then eventually became animal or fish and finally came to have vertebrate to multiple organism finally came to emerge into the land into a period of a dinosaur, the age of dinosaurs they tell us. And then another period of which came about then finally the human being emerged out of it. That's a quick version of the evolution theory. Well, this was the modern science a modern teaching. Now let me get back to the the the ancient Cree legends. This is a legend about the skunk a giant skunk. The story begins is the story began as once upon a time in a time when there was no human being existed on earth only the animals. There were land animals especially in the story. There were all kinds of animals that we have known in the past or still existing today in North American. There were wolverine. There were wolves and there was caribous, moose and foxes and and lynx and otters, beavers, minks, weasels and the small animals. In those different names of animals all of them had their communication. All of them were able to speak to each other the animal language. And they each have the intelligent opinion or in them. Apparently in this legend there is only one threat. There was only one animal that was a threat to all and that was a giant skunk. A giant skunk skunk was most feared animal amongst them. And therefore for years for time period every animal were very threatful to encounter such fierce animal. They been slaughtered by it. They been threatd by it. Finally they got tired of for this threat constantly. Then once upon a time the rule was that there was a rule that was to be followed in order to be safe amongst the animals. The rule was that every animal that walks on on the land must always be careful not to cross the track of the giant skunk. No matter how big how small they must follow this rule. That they should never cross trail with with the giant skunk. Because the giant skunk skunk apparently had the mystic powers and was able to to detect any animal that crossed its trail. Therefore one day a weasel was traveling hunting by himself in the winter time. And he was tired and he was he was anxious to get home. As he travels on top of the snow he slides and all that he saw a huge track a snow being plowed aside and a large creature has passed through it. And then he look at it from afar and he saw it was a giant skunk. Because it being tired and anxious to get home he decided to to burrow under the snow under under the snow under the track which he figured he could which he could do without being detected. So he he burrowed under the snow right under the giant skunk trail right close to the ground emerged from the other side on his way home. At the same time as he go under the trail the skunk was sitting on his own home relaxing. All of a sudden he says, "Um, somebody crossed the trail." For some reason he had detected the small animal being crossing trail under the snow. So we leave that in part. What I am going to go fast is this. He went home and then he went to bed. And then the next day he tells the story that he that he had crossed the skunk trail and everybody as today as like today the news travel fast. All the animals started to hear that and then they find out the skunk must have known and he will begin to follow the trail and finally ended up catching up to the weasel and whoever was is associated with him and he will be killed. And therefore for this reason the weasel and the other animals started to travel because they know this is gonna happen and they start to flee. And they met another animals,

wolves, foxes, everything, every animal they start to gather and start to travel and begin to figure out in how to lose the skunk. They know they could not lose him but they have to try to tire it now. We all know how skunk travels very slowly and also he's not a fast traveler. He they figured he will be tired and give up his trail. Anyway they go on and on and on go on to all kinds of terrain and the land and to the highest mountain to a snow covered mountain, to the lakes and to the rivers and to the gulleys and to the valleys anywhere. Finally they know that they were still followed. Some of them have sense a sensory vision whatever it is that animals develop that hunts whatever this that skunk was behind. So they finally give up because many animal families were not conditioned to travel so for extensively. So they figured to to encounter the giant skunk to try to fight him off it's a it's a matter of survival and death for all of them. So they they gathered all the elders and and leaders and asked them their opinion and their advice and their direction. And finally the elders of the animal groups decided to face the skunk once and for all. Life and death struggle. So they do they choose the place where they can find him also where they can detect him not to surprise them. They choose behind the high high mountains the Rocky Mountains which snowy covered and also they choose the place where they could find the giant bears and also the the giant cats. I don't know if it's a lion but it they say a big cat. They they depended on him in case if they could not overcome the giant skunk. So they did it. Eventually the skunk came in and they choose the they choose the they opened their tracks into the lake into the great lake and they stop at the other end at the suitable place and they wait for him there. And then one day the the sentries the lookout animals you know detected that skunk has stepped on the on the ice of the lake because as you can see the water was squirting up the squirting up from the holes of the ice because the weight of the giant skunk. They sail and sound the alarm that the skunk has arrived. So everybody got ready and take all the children away and elders back a little ways and all in the male and strong and wait there on the trails to attack the giant skunk. So they did. The instruction was that the wolverine would attack the giant skunk to try to close to close to close the opening of the XXsuitXX from the skunk. That's smelly smelly thing that comes out in between somewhere around the their rectum area. So he was instructed to jump right there and close it while the rest of the animals jump on the big animal and try to kill it some way somehow. So they did. Finally with the help of the big cat as they call him when he finally got to the to the struggle so he managed to jump on the giant skunk on the throat on the throat and eventually kill it and the wolverine had to let go the the real end of the skunk and he was spewed all over into his face and he became blind and we leave that off. What the elders and the wise animals said was that let us cut the giant skunk in pieces a smaller pieces. The size will be agreeable when the when the human race emerge. That is the story part of it. So they cut up the animal in a very small piece as the size of the skunk today and they they spread it out into the land threw it all over and they say this will be the size of the skunk when the human when the human being emerge on the land. That is a very significant story in my mind. I would compare that legend as an evolution theory. Was it not our ancestors aware of the evolution and how do they come about to talk about animals being first and then the human being to emerge later? That is the part that I have listened, that's only one part of the Indian story, the legends that I am interested in. There are man other legends which touch which touch the topics of today's mystery. There were many mysteries amongst the Indian people in North America. The mysteries which they never understand which they never did try to understand or try to explain because they never did have any scientist amongst them. They did not develop any further than just survival skills. They did not construct any permanent settlement. They did not venture out to be modernized as the European did. We will come to that later. For the time being I want to touch on to the other subjects which I want to work at. That is the legends. I am not gonna tell any lengthy legends but I'm gonna name all the stories that I've heard which today I began to related to a modern or today's histories of other nations in the English language, not only English peoples, Europeans but also other parts like Chinese, Russia, the Near East, the Far East whatever you want to call it and the Middle East and their spiritual practices, spiritual teaching, spiritual beliefs, their gods, different gods. These are the things that I want to related to our Indian legends and then Indian stories. Now what I'm gonna do here in this tape only is to it's to mention every story that touched my interest when I was young, not when I was young but that I am

beginning to in to be interested in my age after after forty years later probably fifty thirty-five years later. I am 51 years old. And just recently probably five five years probably ten at the most I begin to aware about these things. The similarities are there of what I learned from the European teaching, European histories or other other parts of the world teachings, spiritual beliefs and practices. The ancient practices and the modern practices are not applicable to these for what I'm going to talk about because the religion seems to dwindle down decline because of the modern science because of the modern technology. Now let me briefly mention the stories which interest me the Indian legends and the Indian stories whether they are legends or histories of such individual or a group of individuals or a group of our ancient Indian people in not only in the Hudson Bay, James Bay area but also amongst the other tribes of Indians in in North America. But most most the the ones that I am going to mention these are the ones that I have listened when I was young. These stories were told by my grandfather. They are the elders that I associate with when I was young and the other the other group my age who are repeated the stories they have heard amongst their elders between the Hudson and James Bay area even as far east even as far up as the York Factory people those who live in the Churchill area today. These are the things that I want to mention. Now to begin with I want to mention about I want to mention a few what did I hear when I was young young people young person. There is a story about the stories the Indian stories are always contain shamanism. That is the most interesting part of the story especially when the young person is listening because shamanism is it's not obvious. It was not obvious amongst the people. You do not see the shaman. You cannot recognize them the shaman when you see see him or see them at the first glance. Only those people who associate with them. Only the their relatives know whether that person is have a part part of the shamanism and practice. Shamanism was not evil a long time ago before Christianity. It was a necessary a necessary teaching system in order for an individual to survive on the land. The only problem was that just like today if you are if you if you consider yourself best and better than the other guy or or better than the next person you tend to over over confident and you would you would threat you would threat somebody else with your powers, with your skills, with your acquired powers in shamanism. It depends on individual characteristics of a person. If his character is oppressive or aggressive his shaman acquired power usually uses it with his characteristic. Therefore became a very bad person to associate with. Became to be mis he began to misuse his powers and subdue of his fellow man or people even began to be feared and disliked even despised amongst his own people. But there were those who have acquired the shaman power totally and master it and those who mastered the shamanism were the best people. They were the most kindest and respected people. They were respected and admired.

XX reading something not related XX.

They were they were respected because they they did not misuse their acquired powers in shamanism. They were not they did not they did not take advantage their their power in shamanism. Rather they put they put it into good use. That depends on the character of a person as I said before. If the person has a good character and kind and all that kind disposition he uses his power for the good purpose uses to some of them to use it as a medicine man for medical purposes and also use it some of them use for the to be a good hunter, good provider and good defender for the for his family and also for his group or his band or it where the band where its belong where he belong or where she belong. It didn't necessarily have to be a man. At times it was also the the woman who had acquired such such shaman power and put it into a good use. These kind of people were were depended upon. They became what what the English people term is a medicine man. Actually they were not actually practicing no medicine but they were that was only a classification. That was made by the Europeans But the Indian themselves they have such a word what they call mitewiwin. They call him Ketastotinewan. That's a great shaman or a grand shaman with dignity in it. And these kind of people they they became leaders amongst the the families and amongst the group of people and they were looked looked up to. People usually go up and ask them to assist them whenever there is necessary or if it's if it's possible. The shaman power was not total total power. It it didn't have much not every shaman had a power to restore life. Not all shaman have the

power or a skill to heal. Not all the shamans master for shamanism had acquired mastery of shamanism to be a medicine man or to be a healer or like some of them were specialized in a different way. Some of them uses the shaman power to for the good hunter, good provider and at times a good leader. That is as much as I can tell about shamanism. These were the good shamans. Let's say they were they were the good guys. Of course there were the bad guys. The shamans who would take advantage of their own weaker fellow man or threaten them with their power. You can take advantage to gain possession, a small possession that is. Because of their power they misuse their power. They take advantage of it so they they applied to acquire something which in themselves could have get it with them physical effort and then they they make other people obtain these things for them. And some of the shamans did did acquire something to be specialized in the shaking tents. We will come to that to the shaking tents about about the the speciality for shaking tents. At this moment I just want to talk about these things. Some some individuals who have acquired the shaman powers and skills were good defenders as I said before. Let me touch of stories the histories or whether if it's a whether if it's a legend Indian legend or just a history. I think I would I would consider it as a history a verbal history. It was said that long time ago before the white man or before the Europeans ever contacted North America amongst the natives of North America they didn't have too many diseases. It was known then amongst them to have them for them to have mostly rheumatism, arthritis and that is the most common disease I think they developed due to the type of life they led because they didn't have no comfort in their life. Because they didn't they did not manufacture protective material like boots or anything like that as young people. They grew up to walk on waters and they grew up to use only moccasins and therefore in during different seasons they have to forced to walk on ice water and cold water and extreme conditions and therefore they eventually as they get older they developed the the bone disease or whatever you want to call it arthritis probably polio. I don't know if it's polio but it is arthritis they had and and rheumatism. Now, these were the common disease that was known. They knew other diseases that was communicable disease which was which is today we we know as a as a syphilis probably gonorrhea. This was very rare because the Indian people being isolated amongst the families they didn't have much of a social diseases this sort of thing the sexual social disease. They did acquire this kind of disease not through by the human people by the human bodies or something like that. They contacted this because the animals they probably diseased animals they work at by touching them and the sores or the open flesh you know transfer transferred in their their system and then acquired the the animal disease somehow. And then also there's I'm I'm not gonna touch this thing you know because there is actually there was existing what they called a bestiality a human being having a sexual relationship with the animals. Probably this is where the social disease developed in their time before the Europeans. We will touch that I'm going to touch that later. Now, the only major killing that they have they usually encounter was the starvation. Because due to the poor seasons or years the food provision was not readily available amongst the groups or the bands of Indians especially those who are weak who did not master the the survival skills or hunting skills or the land area knowledge or or been a limited to a traveling travel area a limited migrating migrate migrating areas therefore when the when the land animals were declined their area of migration became poor and therefore starvation results amongst them. These were the these were the most most known eliminating processes which is exist before the white man. The brief story that I tell in the in the last part which has take the lives of the ancient Cree history or Cree Cree Indian people in the in our known area these were a few of them. Now let's get back to the list of stories that I have listened. These stories that I'm going to listed here or mention they were the stories that more like a short stories of today. The true stories probably or they became legends in generations past or later on in time from the time they occur or the time the event took place or the incidents. There was a story that I used to I used to be so fascinated is about the cannibalism. We have touched a little bit about the facts of starvation. What brings the starvation amongst the first natives of North America before the Europeans. When the starvation occurs as we know it today some people can endure the pain which kills them eventually. Some individuals cannot tolerate the pain or severe starvation and therefore became insane and they began to eat the human flesh usually after it has died. And it was said it was known

amongst the Indian people before the white man if a human eat the human flesh which has been died has been dead usually became a poisonous nature into his system. If a person eat the human flesh which has died by starvation the flesh itself became a poison into his system and became puffed up an insane state does not develop. The the brain probably damaged already by starvation, by lack of oxygen, by lack of nutrition and it never regained its former status former state of proper consciousness and therefore if an individual have eaten the human flesh begins its habit of needing to eat again. Thus emerge the cannibalism. And the cannibal itself once it be be became inhuman, unnatural human person by wanting to eat some more human flesh they could not neutralize the ordinary food items such as animals as what they used to eat before. Thus they became cannibals. The story says there was such incidents in the past and such individual or individuals a group of individuals became a family of cannibals amongst the Cree people or the native people in North America. And these people who have become cannibals could not associate properly and naturally with the rest of the of the natives who did not had such tragic incident. They could not associate peacefully with the rest of the human of of their own family. They became feared. They became despised disassociated. Therefore they're a threat to the normal people those who lived normally. And it was said this occurred time and time for periods of generation until such time there was no more tolerance to the to the proper and natural natives of the land. And this is where the shamans shamanism came to benefit amongst their fellow men of the Cree people or it is the Cree XXOjibwayXX. I will not talk about the different tribes of people but I would talk about which has been passed on to me by the Cree language only. It has happened here right here where I'm sitting in this river Winisk River in the area of the Winisk area band and also in James Bay and further up north up to the York Factory area. This area was covered by the Cree people as a and they have inter migrate amongst each other and there was no place on the land that was not known and who lives there and what what families of people are living there. Everybody known to each other because the word the news travel fast related to one another into into another band. And so when this occurs when there are too many cannibals existed in the land the elders of the ordinary ordinary people those who did not become a cannibals would seek the seek the solution to these problems to the area problem or territorial problems which became a territory problems amongst them. So they have to have a decision made because this unnatural behavior amongst the tribe amongst the groups amongst them or amidst of them. It was said in the times when this happened in this particular story which I have listened to my grandfathers said that when once upon a time when the cannibals were too many there was a cry for a solution of from the area people. So the the elders and the wise men amongst the group got it together in such area and discussed the situation and seeks solutions and then make the resolution that they must seeks help from amongst them if it's possible or amongst other tribes if it's possible. Being in the state of being most of the elders had acquired some shamanism the communication part of the their activities was a shaking tent. So thus they they decided to set up a shaking tent to communicate outside help or to communicate outside tribe seeking the person or somebody with the shaman power and capable of overcoming their problem, the area problem overcoming the cannibals. Because the cannibals were once ordinary people with the shaman power. Once they became the cannibals they became most feared people in the area so they were not easily get rid of because they had the power also. So some expert has to found have to be found in the area or outside of the area and therefore the wise men, the wise shamans have to apply their skill to seek help the outside help. And this story and this particular story I'm going to tell is called Ayaas Ayaas no not Ayaas Anwe. Anwe was the name of the person that was found amongst other tribes. It's supposedly it was apparently it was he was in the area of the prairie plains Indians plains Cree. Whichever it was whichever province today was he was located he was contacted through the through the shaking tent and was or shaking tents or by a runner or a communicator whatever it is or liaison person amongst the tribes to contact such a person and asked or begged to come to the area to get rid of these cannibals for the people in the area. And so the guy was found by the name of Anwe. He was an expert exterminator of cannibals. He was he was at that was his profession amongst the Indian tribes. Therefore he agreed to come with I guess with some price. I don't know what his fees was but he agreed to come to the to the area where this existed where this problem existed amongst the tribes. So he came in and well

prepared and with his expertise and and contacted the natives who have required his assistance and he went around and talked with the elders and asked them how many groups are they and where were they where would they be located. And all the information that he required was readily made available to him and from then on decided strategies. What to go about eliminating these cannibals. So the story goes that he did. He did his job and he eliminated all the cannibals in the in a district and therefore the Crees or whatever tribes there were lives normally after that. That's the end of the story about the cannibalism. One part of cannibalism story. Another cannibalism story that was very peculiar peculiar was that once upon a time it was probably before the Anwe story. Anwe is a person the exterminator a professional exterminator amongst the tribe. Whether it was before this or after once upon a period in the past amongst the Indian people there existed a a band of cannibalism cannibals the natives whether they were Cree or other tribes it doesn't say. But these particular groups were very fantastic. They were more fiercesome than the ordinary cannibals that are that we just mentioned. These particular cannibals it's said were were hard to get rid of. Many a times a proposed exterminator of the cannibals had failed to get rid of them because he could simply couldn't kill them. These cannibals had have acquired somehow to take their heart out of their body and somehow preserve them. And the heart pulses separately from their body. And it is said that they had a special basket a special scaffold was made where the camp. A special basket was made containing a feathers a down feathers very warm and well insulated and this is where their hearts are kept and they live around this scaffold. And they lived just like an ordinary person but they do eat the human beings besides eating the ordinary animal food. They look to be exactly like the normal people but they do not. And every chance they got every chance they get they would whenever it's necessary whenever they want to eat the human flesh which has been a habit to them they would kill the the next the next neighbor or next door neighbor or whatever it is if it's if it's happened to be living with them without without without their knowledge. Of course, the cannibals knew but the the ordinary person without shaman power would not know readily. He would think that these people were just ordinary people and so happened the story goes on it existed for some years. Finally the finally the finally the rest of the groups of families and plans whatever it is they began with with restricted their movement and they avoided the area where those people are are camping or located and they have a certain districts there's certain areas where they stayed. They do not associate with the ordinary people as I say before but they all were known amongst amongst the tribes and they could not be killed. Once again the situation was getting so so tragic and fearsome and once again the elders and wise men of the of the tribes has to gather and have council. The council of elders and shamans were gathered amongst the ordinary people and they discussed the situation and the matter. And therefore decided to eliminate these cannibals extraordinary cannibals. There is a special name for these cannibals. It's something to describe as people who left their hearts apart from their body. They say that if you kill one with an arrow or with an ax or anything you will you would inflict the damage all right but that later on that it would get up and walk away alive because you did not actually kill it. Its heart it's still alive. Its body mends itself. And that is why it's fierce and XX XX and therefore there exists the man. It was not Anwe. It was one such a young man who was an orphan and had acquired a powerful shaman acquired powerful shaman skills and was asked to take over responsibility of exterminating for the benefit of the rest of the tribes. And the district tribes whatever they are and then he agreed to to proceed and to kill him. What he did was it was very fake we it's more like a fiction the way he did it. It was said that he went right up to the camp and turned himself into a small a small baby, a baby that crawls on the ground walk in to the camp when the when the young men were hunting around. The young men these people act as normal people. They hunt, they trap, they kill animals and all that for everyday life but they usually venture out and just special hunt for a human being for them to eat at least one a month or once a week or one whatever it is whatever the period they required to do so. Once they were this young man studied their habit and he find out most of the young men were out and only the old people live and the old person is usually the leader of the of the groups and he went directly into the into the heart of the problem and he went to visit the elders. When he went when he went to this camp he found an old man and his wife and there were no no no young men they were out hunting. This

exterminator first has studied the surrounding of the camp and he know that the the old man and his sons were out hunting. Only the women were at camp and the old man who was actually a leader a director for the group only his wife. So he walked in he walked in as he crawled in as a baby. As those two elders were sitting in their home in come in roll in the baby, a crawling baby. And they're so startled they just grab the baby the old man.

Tape ends