

to her feet. "O my mother, behold the state that I am in! It may be that what you told me of is the matter with me."

Then spoke the old woman to her daughter, saying: "Exceeding harm have you done to yourself." So therefore then did the old woman weep. "Now therefore, my daughter, have you done yourself a hurt. You shall learn what will happen to you. Certain beings have entered into your body: therefore, my daughter, you are in a pitiable state. They are not human beings that have gone inside of you there. The time is not far distant before they will be born. Therefore it was they whom I feared."

Now, lo, in the course of time did the old woman hear the sound of beings that were quarrelling one with another. She knew by the sound of their voices that they were inside. And so without ceasing did the old woman weep. It was true that then was she sure that her daughter would not live. Now she heard them quarrelling one with another, there in her (daughter's) belly the sound of their voices could be heard. This was what one was heard to say: "I wish to be the first brought forth."<sup>1</sup>

"No," one was heard saying, even did one say, "you cannot be the first-born. I am the one to be the eldest."

It was natural that all the while the old woman should weep as she listened to them quarrelling one with another. Knowledge of them had the old woman as to how many would her grandchildren be.

Hark! this was what they said as they pushed one another back from the place where they tried in vain to go out. But others of them tried, but to no purpose, to say: "Don't, please! We shall surely do injury to our mother. In proper order please let us go out," (thus) in vain they said.