

As soon as he got home, he ordered his two little children off, and before they went, he gave to the eldest one, a child of five or six snows, a stone arrow-head, a *sivastco*¹ thorn, a red woodpecker's² tail and a stone dagger. At the same time, he loaded the eldest child with his little brother who was still in the moss³. He finally passed his hand over the little one's mouth, and thenceforth the babe could talk as a grown up child.

The two children, the elder packing the younger, had no sooner departed than their father killed his wife by hurling at her the two big serpents' heads. But as often as a well-directed blow had cut her body asunder, the disjointed parts immediately reunited themselves, so that he could not tear her up to pieces as he wished. Therefore he had to give it up. He simply cut her head off and threw it out of the lodge. Her body he dropped in a rapid near by.

While the two brothers were going on at random, the younger, who was packed by the other⁴, saw of a sudden their mother's head coming out after them. Then he said: "Elder brother, mother's head is pursuing us". Whereupon his elder brother threw out behind himself, without turning back, the stone arrow-head which his father had given him. The arrow-head became at once a mountain which, for the while, cut them off from their mother's pursuit.

But their mother's head was changed into wind and continued to pursue them. "Elder brother, mother's head is still after us," said the little one in the swaddling clothes. Thereupon his brother threw behind him, without looking back, the *sivastco* thorn handed him by his father. The thorn transpierced the head and set it bleeding, after which it was transformed into a thorny bush. The bush grew to a prodigious height, and for a moment it barred the passage to their mother's head. But the head finally jumped over it and continued to pursue them.

Therefore, the child in the moss said again: "Elder brother, mother's head is still coming after us." Then the eldest child threw behind him

¹ *Crategus tomentosa*.

² *Sphyrapicus varius*.

³ The Carriers use moss as swaddling clothes. See "Notes on the Western Dénés," Trans. Can. Inst., Vol. IV.

⁴ The reader should also remember that our aborigines always carry their babes on the back with their face turned in an opposite direction from that of the packer, and that the child is carried in an upright position.