

So much ritual has reference to this myth, and so many observances are founded upon it, that the student of Indian religious thought may accept it as one of the most significant and instructive legends possessed by the Blackfoot tribes.

The following is the Blood version as translated from the Blackfoot by the writer in 1890. In the translation of the myth the Indian mode of expression has been adhered to as strictly as possible.

Long, long ago there lived a very beautiful young Indian woman who declined to marry. Her parents tried to persuade her to choose of the many marriageable young men in the tribe, but without success. Chiefs sent their relatives to her family with proposals of marriage, and many wealthy people desired her for their sons, but she would have nothing to do with any of them.

Among the many who wanted this girl was a young man who had a bad scar on his face which made him appear ugly. Three times she refused him, as she had refused every one else, but at a fourth request she made this reply, "Many chiefs have wanted to marry me, many rich and handsome men, and I have said no to them all. I will marry you when that scar disappears from your face."

After hearing the words of the young woman, Scarface's heart was on the ground. In great distress he went away out on the prairie, far from the camp, to fast for several days and dream, thinking that the dream person might tell him how to get rid of the scar. He was very anxious to marry the girl.

One night he slept near a large stone and in his sleep the stone said to him, "The Sun can cure you. Go away far to the east, to the place that he rises from in the morning and there you will find his lodge." Scarface thought that this advice was good and at once determined to follow it. He went home, procured a large number of moccasins, packed a bag of food, and started on his long journey. How long he travelled we do not know. It was many days, and always in the direction of the rising Sun.

He met many people who asked him why he was so far from home. To some he replied that it was to get rid of his scar that he had gone so far from home. To others he said, "It is because of a woman that I travel." He inquired of every one the whereabouts of the Sun's home. They all pointed to the east and said that it was in that direction.

Scarface was assisted on his journey by four different mysterious beings who spoke to him in his dreams and encouraged him to keep on towards the rising Sun. The fourth and last of these told him, one night when he was sleeping, to cover up his eyes and not look until told.