

“‘You must hold another council and select the one you would have as master over you instead of the Buffalo.’

“So they returned to the lake in the mountains and sat down to counsel amongst themselves. The pipe went round many times and nearly every one made a speech, but it was no easy thing to select a Chief. Finally, however, the Indian was chosen. Then they went back to the Old Man and told him what they had done.

“For a long time Napi sat still, thinking. Then he said: ‘My children, I am very sorry you have cause to complain of the Buffalo, for he has been your Chief since the ancient days. It would grieve me greatly to decide between him and the Indian. Know, however, that whichever of them is the more worthy shall be the Chief.

“‘You and your fathers before you have been wont for countless moons to play at Hands, or the Hiding of the Bone. It is well, for by a great game with these fateful bones shall it now be determined whether the Buffalo or the Indian shall henceforth and forever rule the world. Return to your homes and prepare your medicine against the day when you shall array yourselves against your Chief.’

“Soon thereafter Napi sent his courier to notify the Buffalo and all the animals to assemble at the next full moon near the meeting of the rivers.