

Hearne represents the dog as the father of the Northern Indian race and of all creatures. Then he says: "The Indians have no religion, and though their sorcerers, by songs and long discourses, conjure beasts of prey as well as imaginary beings, by which they pretend to be helped in the cure of diseases, they are as deficient as their credulous compatriots of any religious system." He tells how his Indians had been rendered ceremonially unclean by killing the Eskimo, which condemned them to abstinence of many kinds. "When the time to put an end to these ceremonies arrived, the men, having carefully removed the women, lighted a fire at some distance from their tents and threw into it all their ornaments, their pipes and their eating utensils, which were soon reduced to ashes. They then prepared a feast, composed of everything that had been denied them during their time of expiation, and, when it was ready, they were all free to eat, drink, smoke and embrace their wives and children at will."

Mackenzie gives the story of creation somewhat differently, making the large bird, which, according to Hearne, produced all creatures from the fragments of the primitive dog, to call forth "all the variety of animals from the earth, except the Chipewyans, who were produced from a dog; and this circumstance occasions their aversion to the flesh of that animal as well as the people who eat it." The same author says: "They are superstitious in the extreme, and almost every action of their lives, however trivial, is more or less influenced by some whimsical notion. I never observed that they had any particular form of religious worship; but, as they believe in a good and evil spirit, and a state of future rewards and punishments, they cannot be devoid of religious impressions. At the same time, they manifest a decided unwillingness to make any communications on the subject. * * * They believe that, immediately after their death, they pass into another world, where they arrive at a large river on which they embark in a stone canoe, and that a gentle current bears them on to an extensive lake, in the centre of which is a most beautiful island; and that, in the view of this delightful abode, they receive that judgment for their conduct during life which terminates their final state and unalterable allotment. If their good actions are declared to predominate, they are landed upon the island, where there is to be no end to their happiness; which, however, according to their notions, consists in an eternal enjoyment of sensual pleasure and carnal gratification. But, if their bad actions weigh down the balance, the stone canoe sinks at once, and leaves them up to their chins in the water, to behold and regret the reward enjoyed by the good, and eternally struggling, but with unavail-