

the woman to be his wife, but drove her off because she bore him no children. He then betook himself to heaven for the purpose of stealing a heavenly woman for his bride. All the inhabitants of heaven, being gods, were able to transform themselves into birds and animals. The raven on gaining admittance to heaven, espied a party of bears sporting in the woods, and knowing them to be children of a great chief, he turned himself into an eagle and captured one of them and flew off with it, at the same time appropriating the celestial sun and fire stick. He was discovered and pursued, and in his hasty flight let the child fall into the sea near the raven's newly made home. When the child fell unto the sea he called aloud for help, and immediately immense shoals of little fishes came and carried it to the shore on their backs. This species of fish is very numerous around Rose spit, a projection of Graham Island, and their forms are indented in the blue clay of that district. The natives will tell you that those indentations have remained in the clay since the time when the fishes bore the abducted child ashore. It transpired that the raven had mistaken the sex of the child he stole, who turned out to be a male, and who grew to be very powerful and a famous hunter. He took the raven's female slave to wife, much to the chagrin of the raven, who disowned them and sent them away. They wandered many miles, and were on the verge of starvation, when they fortunately discovered a whale stranded on the beach. The man encircled the whale with rocks to prevent it escaping, and, curious to relate, that circle of rocks may be seen to-day at low tide. The wanderers feasted on the flesh of the whale for weeks, and it came to pass that a daughter was born to them. This daughter grew to be a most lovely woman, but her parents were sorrowful because no husband could be found for her. The raven's male slave endeavored to woo her, but his suit was indignantly spurned. He became enraged at his treatment, and discovering where the raven had concealed the sun and fire stick, stolen from heaven, he broke open the strong box, in which they were kept, and kicked the luminary into atoms. The fragments flew into the sky; the

largest piece became the sun, a smaller piece the moon, and the chips became stars scattered upon the face of the heavens, and thus the ancient Haidas believed the solar system of their country was created. Fearing the wrath of the raven the slave fled in dismay, but he was determined to secure a wife, and the happy thought struck him of imitating the exploit of the raven and seek a wife among the daughters of heaven. He made a bow, and one moonlight night shot an arrow into the moon, where it remained. A second arrow he shot into the notch of the first, and a third into the notch of the second, and so he continued to do until the arrows reached from the moon to the earth. Up this ladder of arrows he climbed, and passed through the moon into heaven. There he saw a beautiful woman bathing in a crystal lake. As she emerged from the water, he seized her and dropped into the sea. The raven happened to be flying about during the descent of the slave, and noticing the commotion, waited to discover the cause. When he found what a prize the slave had obtained he took the heavenly maid for himself, and turned the slave into a wandering spirit. From the two families thus established, the race of the Haidas was supposed to have sprung. It is interesting to note, that the heaven born chief was allowed to marry an earthly slave, but the earth born slave was not permitted to have a heaven born woman for his wife. This principle is adhered to among the tribes at the present day. A chief may marry a female slave, whilst a male slave is not allowed to marry a free born woman, thus following the supposed laws of the Creator Raven.

In studying the legendary stories of the deities worshipped by the pagan Haidas, we find some phantasmagorical conceptions of the savage mind. The Haidas believed in the transmigration of souls and in a purgatory. They had two principal gods—the god of light and the god of darkness, which bore the same relation as the Christian god and the devil. They had also numerous other gods of good and evil tendencies. They attributed fevers to the god whom they supposed lived in the sun, and who visited pestilences on them when they gave him