

But not content with the idea were they who wished to be the eldest. Therefore then they said that now from different places they wished to go out. One saw where there was light. "Now, straight by this very way do I wish to go." And so while they were debating among themselves as to who should be the first to go out, then was when they burst open their mother.<sup>1</sup>

After a while at a certain place where round about the old woman was looking she found a clot of blood. Thereupon some birch-bark she began peeling (from a tree). And now, after she had put the blood upon the bark, she then folded the bark over it, and laid it away. Naturally, by and by she looked at it. Now, once when she opened the bark she beheld a babe, whereupon she was addressed, and this is what she was told: "O my grandmother!" she was told at the time that she was addressed. So now this was what she was told: "Do you know who I am? Why, I am Nānabushu."

## 2. THE THEFT OF FIRE.

So accordingly then did the old woman bring him up. And so by and by he said to his grandmother: "Don't you know of a place where there are some people?"

"Yes," he was told by his grandmother. "In yonder direction on the farther shore of the sea are some people."

"I am curious to know if they do not possess fire."

"Yes," he was told by his grandmother; "truly, they do possess some fire."

Now, this was what he said to his grandmother: "Please let me go fetch the fire," he said to his grandmother. And this was what he was told by his grandmother:

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the deer, the chickadee, and the Sun. It is said that the deer was one of the very first animals to be created.