

opens its eyes, there is a flash of lightning. Its voice is the thunder. When it presses the bags it begins to rain. It is as large as a house.

5. THE FLOOD.

Once upon a time a man, his wife, and his mother-in-law went up the mountains to hunt marmots. When they had reached the higher parts of a hill, they saw the waters rising. They climbed higher and higher, but the waters rose steadily. All the people fled up the mountains. Finally, when the water was about to reach them, they resolved to inclose their children in hollow trees, hoping that there they might be safe until the waters would retreat. They hollowed out two trees, in one of which they placed the children of the eagle clan, while in the other one they placed the children of the wolf clan. They gave them an ample supply of food, and then closed up the trees with wooden covers, which they caulked with pitch. The water continued to rise, and all the people were drowned. The children who were inclosed in the trees heard the waves breaking in the branches and felt the swaying of the trees. Finally, the trees were entirely covered by water. After a few days the water began to retreat. Again the trees were swaying. The children heard the waves breaking, first in the highest branches, then farther down, and finally everything was quiet. They went to sleep, and when they awoke one of the boys opened the hole. They saw that the water had disappeared, but the branches were still dripping. The ground was wet and soggy, and everything was covered with seaweeds. Then the children came forth from the trees, but the ground was so wet that they were unable to start a fire, so that many died of cold. Finally the ground dried up. They made a fire, which they fed with their supplies of mountain-goat tallow. They married, and became the ancestors of the Ts'ets'a'ut.

6. THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The grizzly bear used the fire-stones (pyrites) as ear ornaments. Therefore he was the only one to have fire. A small bird (ts'ōx'ē) desired to have the fire, and flew to the house of the grizzly bear. When the latter discovered him, he spoke to him: "Please, come here and louse me." The bird complied with his request. He alighted on the crown of his head, and began to pick off the lice. In doing so he came nearer and nearer the ears of the bear. Finally he bit through the thread from which the ear ornaments were suspended, and took them away unobserved. Then he flew away. When the grizzly bear noticed his loss he grew angry, extinguished his fire, and tried to catch the bird. The latter teased him, saying: "Henceforth you will live in the dark. You will not have any fire."