

was above the rising waters. Many of them lost their lives before they reached the mountain, because their canoes were broken by the floating drift wood. Those who were fortunate enough to reach the mountain remained there until the waters dried up. Then they ventured down again and tried to find the homes they left, but all was so changed no trace of them was to be seen. Being few in number, the survivors became quite disheartened. Seeing them in such a state Ne-kilst-luss, in shape of a raven, appeared to them and advised them to be of good cheer, saying if they would do as he told them they would soon have plenty of company. They replied they would be glad to do anything for the best. Well, then, all of you gather together a pile of stones. Then stand with your faces toward the pile. Then all of you pick up the stones and throw them over your head backward, and await the result. This they did, all of them. Each stone as soon as it touched the ground jumped up either a man or a woman. So they soon had plenty of companions and felt much better.

Yehl, or Ne-kilst-luss, himself, in shape of a raven, was preserved during the flood by sticking his beak into a cloud and holding on until the waters left.

For a long time the people lived in fear of another flood. As time passed onward without another visitation, they felt more comfortable, and soon everything went on as before, always getting better as time passed.

When Yehl wished to regulate the seasons, he called together in council all the animals, in order to have their opinion with regard to the number of months in each of the four seasons. There was a deal of argument as to the length of the summer and winter quarters; some wanted three months of winter and four of summer, others of them, more especially the sleepers, wanted three months of summer and four of winter. While the subject was being discussed Yehl asked Saugh the (raccoon) for his opinion. Holding up his hand with his five fingers upward, he said, "I want five months of winter and four of summer." As soon as the Saugh expressed his opinion Yehl took a hold of his thumb and wrenched it off, saying, "four months of winter we shall have forever." And so it was decided. Of course, this refers to Southern Alaska.

When Yehl had finished his labors he retired to the east in order to have a long rest. In the far east, near the source of the river Naas, there is a very high mountain with a large hole in it. He lives in this hole, from which he often flies when the east wind blows. The name of this mountain is Naas Shieky Yehl—that is, Yehl's dwelling on the Naas.

This is all I can say about the raven as a crest or clan and phratry. In my next paper I shall take the Sun clan and tell its story.