

Fire Coal and Sinew  
Told by Buffalo Calf  
recorded by James Owen Dorsey  
January 1894

1)  
**Coal and Sinew lived together, they say.**

*ta-xde ta-ka<sup>n</sup> e-na<sup>n</sup>-pa*  
*taxdé ttakká enapá*  
coals, charcoal, fire coal, ember/deer's sinew; thread/both, that one too

*ti-kda-wi i-ya-we*  
*ttikdawi iyáwe*  
they live together in same tent, they set up housekeeping, they dwelt together, they kept house/they say

2)  
**They had been living together for a while, they say.**

*ti-kde na<sup>n</sup>*  
*ttikdé nq*  
to live together in same tent, set up housekeeping, dwell together, keep house/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*ko<sup>n</sup> ni-k<sup>h</sup>a na<sup>n</sup> i-ya-we*  
*kó nik<sup>h</sup>á nq iyáwe*  
as, since, so, like/they, 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural continuative sitting/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/they say

3)  
**After they had been living together a while, Coal went to get water, they say.**

*sho<sup>n</sup> ni-k<sup>h</sup>a ta-xde*  
*šq nik<sup>h</sup>á taxdé*  
and, still, yet; the end, enough/they, 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural continuative sitting/coals, charcoal, fire coal, ember

*ni a-ki-de i-ya-we*  
*ni ákidé iyáwe*  
water, liquid, stream, lake, river/to fetch, to go for something not one's own/they say

4)  
**When Coal returned, he sat and cooked for himself, they say.**

*kdi na<sup>n</sup> o-ki-ho<sup>n</sup>*  
*kdi nq ókihq*  
to have come back here/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/boil or cook food for oneself

*ko<sup>n</sup> ni<sup>n</sup>-k<sup>h</sup>e i-ya-we*  
*kó nḱ<sup>h</sup>é iyáwe*  
as, since, so, like/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

5)  
**When Coal had finished cooking his food, he sat and ate, they say.**

*o-ki-ho<sup>n</sup> ti-te na<sup>n</sup>*

*ókihø títte nq*

boil or cook food for oneself/ripe, cooked, well done/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*wa-na<sup>n</sup>-bde ni<sup>n</sup>-k<sup>h</sup>e i-ya-we*

*wanq̄bde n̄jk<sup>h</sup>é iyáwe*

eat, eat a meal, dine; food/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

6)

**Then, at that time, Sinew went to get water, they say.**

*e-ti ta-ka<sup>n</sup> ni a-ki-de i-ya-we*

*ettí ttakká ni ákide iyáwe*

there, then/deer's sinew; thread/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/fetch, go for something not one's own/they say

7)

**Sinew had got water and returned, they say.**

*ni a-ki-hi na<sup>n</sup> kdi i-ya-we*

*ní akihí nq kdí iyáwe*

water, liquid, stream, lake, river/to have been there for something/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/to have come back here/they say

8)

**Sinew said to Coal, "Friend, beware when you stand on the point of land!" they say.**

*sho<sup>n</sup>-hi-te, "pa-si-kde na<sup>n</sup> a-da-na-zhi<sup>n</sup> na<sup>n</sup>-ha, ko-ta!" i-ke i-ya-we*

*šq̄hitte, "ppásikde nq ádanážj nqhá, kotá!" iké iyáwe*

anyhow, at any rate, despite, notwithstanding/point of land/only, just, alone/you stand on/prohibitive, beware lest/friend/to say the preceding to someone/they say

9)

**Then, Sinew sat cooking with the water that he had brought back, they say.**

*ko-i-sho<sup>n</sup>-ta<sup>n</sup> ta-ka<sup>n</sup> ni a-ki-kdi o-ki-ho<sup>n</sup> ni<sup>n</sup>-k<sup>h</sup>e i-ya-we*

*kóišq̄ttq̄ ttakká ní ákikdí ókihø n̄jk<sup>h</sup>é iyáwe*

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/sinew/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/to have brought back something boil or cook food for oneself/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

10)

**When Sinew had finished cooking his food, he sat and ate, they say.**

*o-ki-ho<sup>n</sup> ti-te na<sup>n</sup>*

*ókihø títte nq*

boil or cook food for oneself/ripe, cooked, well done/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*wa-na<sup>n</sup>-bde ni<sup>n</sup>-k<sup>h</sup>e i-ya-we*

*wanq̄bde n̄jk<sup>h</sup>é iyáwe*

eat, eat a meal, dine; food/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

11)

**Then, at that time, Coal went to get water, they say.**

*e-ti ta-xde ni a-ki-de i-ya-we*

*ettí taxdé ni ákidé iyáwe*

there, then/coals, charcoal, fire coal, ember/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/fetch, go for something not one's own/they say

12)

**When Coal arrived there, to the small point of land next to river where they had been getting water, he thought to himself, “What did he mean by that?” when he said to me, “Friend, beware when you stand on the small point of land!”**

*hi na<sup>n</sup>, “pa-si-kde zhi-ka*

*hí nq, “ppásikdé žiká*

to arrive, reach there, have been/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/point of land/small, little; young

*a-da-na-zhi<sup>n</sup> na<sup>n</sup>-ha, ko-ta,” a<sup>n</sup>-na<sup>n</sup>-ki-ye na<sup>n</sup>,*

*ádanáži nqhá, kotá,” qnqkiyé nq,*

you stand on/beware lest/friend/he, she, it say to me/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*‘ha<sup>n</sup>-te e wa-k<sup>h</sup>e ni<sup>n</sup> e-ta<sup>n</sup>,’*

*‘hátte é wak<sup>h</sup>é nǐ ettá,’*

why, how/mentioned, that, he, she, it/to mean something, refer to something/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular moving; the singular moving/interrogative, conveying a question

*i-ni<sup>n</sup>-a<sup>n</sup> na<sup>n</sup> a-na-zhi<sup>n</sup>*

*ínǐq nq ánaži*

to think what precedes/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/to stand on

13)

**Then, young Coal was floating about in the water, young Coal was floating along, adrift in the water, they say.**

*ta-xde zhi-ka ni o-ka-ha-ha na<sup>n</sup> i-ya-we*

*taxdé žiká ni okáhaha nq iyáwe*

coals, charcoal, fire coal, ember/small, little; young = young fire coal/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/float along, float about/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/they say

*ta-xde zhi-ka ni o-ka-ha de ni<sup>n</sup> i-ya-we*

*taxdé žiká ní okáha dé nǐ iyáwe*

coals, charcoal, fire coal, ember/small, little; young/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/to float, drift in water, adrift/to go/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular moving; the singular moving/they say

14)

**Coal had not returned at all, they say.**

*kdi-zhi i-ya-we*

*kdíži hí iyáwe*

to have come back here/not, negation/very = he had not come back at all/they say

15)

**Sinew thought, “Why has my friend not returned at all?” Sinew went to look for Coal, they say.**

*“ko-ta ha<sup>n</sup>-ni<sup>n</sup>-ta<sup>n</sup> kdi-zhi hi a-ta<sup>n</sup>,” i-ni<sup>n</sup>-a<sup>n</sup> na<sup>n</sup>*

*“kóta haŋıttq kdızı hí áttq,” inıq nq*

friend/why, how/to have come back here/not, negation/very/interrogative, conveying a question/to think what precedes/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*i-to<sup>n</sup>-we de i-ya-we*

*itôwe dé iyáwe*

to look for/to go = he went to look for him/they say

16)

**When Sinew arrived there, to the point of land next to river where they had been getting water, Coal was floating along in the water, they say.**

*hi na<sup>n</sup> ta-xde*

*hı nq taxdé*

to arrive, reach there, have been/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/coals, charcoal, fire coal, ember

*ni-ti o-ka-ha-ha ni<sup>n</sup>-k<sup>h</sup>e i-ya-we*

*nıtti okáhaha nıkhé iyáwe*

water, liquid, stream, lake, river/at, by, in = in the water/float along, float about/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

17)

**Sinew said, “Although I warned him to be careful when fetching water, he was sure to end up so, floating along in the water,” they say.**

*“ko<sup>n</sup> e-ko<sup>n</sup> te e-ta<sup>n</sup>*

*“kq ékq tte etq*

as, since, so, like/that sort, like, thus, like that, so/shall, will/because that = as he was sure to be so

*i-da-ki-ho-shi ni-t<sup>h</sup>e,” i-yi i-ya-we*

*idákihoşı nit<sup>h</sup>e,” iyı iyáwe*

I discourage, inhibit, forbid my own relation/although, though/to say/they say = they said he, she, it said

18)

**Then, Sinew started for home, they say.**

*e-sho<sup>n</sup> kde i-ya-we ta-ka<sup>n</sup>*

*éşq kdé iyáwe ttakkq*

then, at length, and/go home, to start homeward/they say/deer’s sinew; thread

19)

**When Sinew returned home again, to the fireplace, he circled it, he went around the fireplace and stood, they say.**

*shi-na<sup>n</sup> o-te-de t<sup>h</sup>e-ti*

*şınq ottéde t<sup>h</sup>étti*

again/fireplace, hearth, place to build a fire/the singular standing/at, by, in = at the

*k<sup>h</sup>i na<sup>n</sup>*

*k<sup>h</sup>i nq*

arrive back at one’s own/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*o-ka-ki-xe t<sup>h</sup>a<sup>n</sup> i-ya-we*

*okákixe t<sup>h</sup>q iyáwe*

go around something, going all around in a circle/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular standing; the standing/they say

20)

**Then he sang, they say.**

*ko-i-sho<sup>n</sup>-ta<sup>n</sup> xo-ka t<sup>h</sup>a<sup>n</sup> i-ya-we*

*kóišóttq xókka t<sup>h</sup>q iyáwe*

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/to sing/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular standing; the standing/they say

21)

**Friend, you went to get water and went tshoo! Friend, you went to get water and went tshoo! Friend, you went to get water and went tshoo! After he said this, he kicked a burning log out of the fire by stepping on it, they say.**

*“ko-ta ni a-ki-de na<sup>n</sup>*

*“kóta ni ákidé nq*

friend/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/fetch, go for something not one's own/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*tshoo hi na<sup>n</sup>!*

*tšoo hí nq!*

tshoo, the sound made when Coal fell into the water/arrive, reach there/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*ko-ta ni a-ki-de na<sup>n</sup>*

*kóta ni ákidé nq*

friend/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/fetch, go for something not one's own/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*tshoo hi na<sup>n</sup>!*

*tšoo hí nq!*

tshoo, the sound made when Coal fell into the water/arrive, reach there/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*ko-ta ni a-ki-de na<sup>n</sup>*

*kóta ni ákidé nq*

friend/water, liquid, stream, lake, river/fetch, go for something not one's own/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*tshoo hi na<sup>n</sup>!”*

*tšoo hí nq!”*

tshoo, the sound made when Coal fell into the water/arrive, reach there/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*i-ye sho<sup>n</sup> t<sup>h</sup>a<sup>n</sup>*

*iyé šq-t<sup>h</sup>q*

to say/and, still, yet; the end, enough/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular standing; the standing = after he stood awhile

*ta-i<sup>n</sup>-xe na<sup>n</sup>-si-ka i-ya-we*

*táŷe nqšiká iyáwe*

a piece of burning wood, firebrand/to knock or kick by stepping on, lifting or kicking aside with the foot/they say

22)

**Then, when Sinew kicked out a burning log, the sparks burned and blistered him all over, they say.**

*ko-i-sho<sup>n</sup>-ta<sup>n</sup> ta-i<sup>n</sup>-xe*

*kóišóttq tájye*

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/a piece of burning wood, firebrand

*na<sup>n</sup>-si-ka na<sup>n</sup>*

*nq<sup>s</sup>iká nq*

to knock or kick by stepping on, lifting or kicking aside with the foot/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

*ta-ka<sup>n</sup> ni<sup>n</sup>-k<sup>h</sup>e*

*ttakká n<sup>j</sup>k<sup>h</sup>é*

deer's sinew; thread/3<sup>rd</sup> person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting

*ta-bna<sup>n</sup>-bna<sup>n</sup>-se na<sup>n</sup> i-ya-we*

*tábnqbnqse nq iyáwe*

by extreme temperature, by heat/pustule, boil, blister = burnt him in many places, the sparks burnt him in many places/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/they say

23)

**The end.**

*ka e-she-t<sup>h</sup>a<sup>n</sup>-ki*

*ká-ešét<sup>h</sup>qkí*

about that length would be long enough, no longer, the end, that is the end