

CULTURAL NEWS

The Creation Story - Part 8

Thoronhiawakon arrived home and decided to continue the work he set out to do, "Now I will make human beings to live on this island called Earth." Taking up some of the earth, he said, "The Earth that I have in my hands is alive and that means that humans can live here on this island and get life from it."

Then he molded the flesh of the first human being. When this was done, he meditated and said, "This human shall have life that is equal to mine."

Taking a portion of his own life, he placed it inside the body of the human. He also took a portion of his own mind and placed it in the head of the Earth figure. He took some of his own blood and enclosed it inside of the Earth figure. He gave the human the power to see and placed it inside the humans head. He also took a portion of his power to speak and placed it inside the Earth figure's throat. Just then, the Earth figure came to life. The human looked around and got to his feet.

Thoronhiawakon was quite excited about his first human creation. As the being gazed at him he instructed, "I made your body and have given you life here on this Earth. As the youngest form of creation you must always give thanks for the gifts and wisdom of the life around you. All of the other forms of creation will bring you happiness and peace. I want human beings to beautify the earth by cultivating it and living well in its environment. Wander the land and discover what else lives here. As for me, my job has been completed."

Just then, Elder Brother, the Sun, broke over the horizon casting his warm and magnificent rays down on earth for the first time. Thoronhiawakon said, "Look at the Sun coming over the horizon. It's beauty will inspire all life and bring warmth to the Earth forever. The sun will allow all plants and animals to live and grow on Earth."

The he turned to the human he had made and said, "It's ok for you to trav-

el around the Earth as long as it's daylight. At night you will rest. This is what I want for the animals, the plants and every living thing." I have created everything I was supposed to and life here has started. Now I know the Earth will continue."

Kahnia and his grandmother were sitting in their lodge when the Sun rose for the first time. At first they didn't know what was happening then Kahnia realized that it must be another one of his brother's efforts. Curious to find out how he did this Kahnia told his grandmother he was going to Thoronhiawakon's.

When Kahnia reached the lake, he looked at the island where his brother lived. It had floated away until it was just barely visible to the eye. Then Kahnia said, "Hum, How can I solve this problem and get to my brother's island? I know! I'll make myself a canoe and then I'll be able to get to his island."

Looking about, he searched for something to make the canoe and found a birch tree growing nearby. Stripping off the bark, he made himself a canoe and started to cross the water.

When he arrived at the other shore Kahnia was shocked to see the human being his brother had made. Kahnia circled the being and examining everything asked, "Who made you?" The human answered, "He lives over there. Let's go and you can see him yourself." Kahnia nodded in amazement and they went to the lodge of Thoronhiawakon.

When they arrived there, Kahnia was so excited that he ran inside asking, "Brother, are you the one who made this being?" Thoronhiawakon cautiously nodded, "Yes, I did."

Kahnia remembered the reason why he came to his brother's and questioned him, "What has caused there to be so much sunlight?" Thoronhiawakon answered, "The older brother of our grandmother has agreed to come to Earth and give us light." Kahnia was astonished at what he was hearing.

Thoronhiawakon spoke, "Let's walk around together

and I'll show you the things that I have placed on Earth." The two walked about looking at the various fruits on the island. Later, they went to look at the game animals in the area. Wherever they went, many different kinds of game animals roamed about.

Kahnia was surprised by what he saw, "Everything that you have planted on this Earth has become so numerous! How did you do this?" Thoronhiawakon answered, "The Earth that we are living on continues to grow, and soon it will be very large. At first, there were very few living things here. It's the same for the human beings. In time, humans and all living things on this Earth will all grow in numbers."

Kahnia looked at everything and touched all he could. His brother's creations were so beautiful that he wanted to stay and walk among them forever. But, his time was running out and he needed to go home.

He looked at Thoronhiawakon and told him, "I have to go home but, please, when you have time, come and visit our lodge."

Returning home, Kahnia said, "Grandmother, my brother has some really astonishing things going on where he lives. I saw a human being that my brother made and I asked him about the sunlight. He said that it was your older brother." The grandmother jumped in shock, "So, your brother has done what he said that he would do! My older brother really did return when he was asked. I don't think you know him. His name is Tehatohwentsientons."

Kahnia wanted to be able to make the same being as his brother. He told his grandmother, "I'm going to make a human being just like Thoronhiawakon's. The next time my brother visits, I'll have one ready." He left the lodge to think how he would begin his creation.

As he started his work, he made what he thought was a human being. As soon as he was finished, he told his being, "Stand up and walk!" Jumping from his resting

place, the new creation landed in the water and swam around. Sticking his head out of the water, he looked over at Kahnia. "Come here," Kahnia ordered, but the creature did not respond nor did he move.

Kahnia said to himself, "I think I made a mistake. I did something wrong in making his body. I'll make another." He molded the earth again and when he was done, he said, "Can you stand up and walk?" Standing, the being walked to a tree, climbed it and sat at the top of the tree. Kahnia looked at the being and thought about it, "I made another mistake. It looks like its mind is too small and his tail is too long." Then he said, "Will you come down out of the tree?" The being just sat there.

Kahnia shook his head, "I'll make another one that's the same size as I am." He made another one and told it to stand up and walk. "You will wander the Earth." Kahnia watched him and the being walked, "Could I have finally done it right? I'm going to try to make another animal." His next creation was finished and it rose and walked away.

Kahnia was so wrapped up in making his new beings that he was surprised to see Thoronhiawakon walking towards him. As soon as his brother was close enough, Kahnia took him by the arm, "I'll show you the things that I have made." They started walking and eventually arrived at the lake shore. Kahnia pointed to an ugly creature, "There is the body of the first being that I made." Thoronhiawakon looked in shock, "What kind of being are you that you sit at the shore's edge?" It answered by crying out. "Let's see you walk!" It leaped and disappeared in the water, after awhile its


head came up again. Thoronhiawakon said, "That thing is not a human being. It's something that will be known as a frog."

Kahnia was a bit disappointed, "I made a second human being." He took his brother to a nearby tree, "The next being sits on top of the tree. See up there." Thoronhiawakon looked up into the tree, "That's not a human being. He has a tail and fur all over his body." He yelled, "What kind of creature are you to sit on top of a tree?" Then the being cried out and wept. Thoronhiawakon said, "Since they cry so easily, they will be called monkeys."

A short distance away sat another being. Kahnia pointed, "There sits the body of the human being that I have finished." As soon as Thoronhiawakon saw it, he said, "What kind of thing are you to sit on the ground?" The being made a loud noise and started to weep. Thoronhiawakon looked at his brother, "You're not very good at making human beings. It would be better if you didn't make any more. This one here with the loud screech will be called the great ape."

Kahnia still had two more to show his brother. He thought Thoronhiawakon would approve of these. The two brothers went to see the others. They found the two animals nearby. Kahnia said, "This one here is called a deer, and the other one, a bear." Thoronhiawakon looked at them and wondered how his brother could make such a mistake. "This is not a deer. This one will be called a wolf. The other one will be a grizzly bear."

Not quite sure what to make of his brother's work, Thoronhiawakon said, "I'll meet you and our grandmother back here tomorrow." With that, he went back to his lodge.



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