

OTTER PAINTED LODGE CEREMONY

The Takers of the Buffalo Stone Bundle and Lodge are dressed up in Indian buckskin costumes.

The lady wearing the Lady War Bonnet which can be worn only by Medicine Men's Wives. All attendants are dressed in simular clothes.

All go in the Painted Lodge and all sit around close to the walls of the Lodge. The Medicine Taker Woman is seated at the right side of the Medicine Woman, while the Man Taker is seated at the right side of the Chief Medicine Man.

Then comes the starting of the Ceremony.

BUFFALO STONE CEREMONY

The giving away of the Painted Otter Lodge and Buffalo Stones is started by the singing of the Lodge Song. After the Song ends, then comes the praying by both the Chief Medicine Man and his Wife. Praying for all their fellow men, but mainly for the Takers of the Medicine Bundle and their relations and their children.

Then comes the burning of the Holy Sweetgrass in which the Medicine Couple both purify themselves, and instructs the Takers to do the same.

Now more singing and praying is done. Time comes to take down the Medicine Bundle whis is hung above the Medicine Woman. She did this by spreading both hands out towards the Sweetgrass which is being slowly burned on small pieces of live coals. All the while asking the Woman Takers to do the same. Which they held hands to the smoke made by the burning Sweetgrass and back to the chest, all the while praying. This is done four times before getting up and taking the Medicine Bundle down.

Then comes the singing of the Buffalo Skull Song in which both the Woman and Man Takers is instructed to pat slowly. After this is done the singing and praying continues.

Then the Buffalo Stone Song is sung, while the Chief Medicine Man takes out the ~~stick~~ of Sacred Paint. Then the Medicine Woman paints the Woman Taker while the men do the same. The the Medicine Woman and Man paints the rest who wish to be painted

Page 2: Otter Painted Lodge Ceremony

with the Indian Sacred Lodge Paint. More singing and praying is done before taking out the contents of the Medicine Bag which contains the Sacred Buffalo Stones. Then the Woman Taker is instructed by the Medicine Woman to pick up each Buffalo Stone out of the Bundle and place in a row in a small calfskin. All of which is done by the Medicine Woman holding the Taker's hand and proceed in placing the Buffalo Stones. Then the Medicine Man takes the Man's hand and both pick up the largest Buffalo Stone. Then the Man Taker is asked to put Sacred Paint on the Buffalo Stone. It is then placed with the rest of them. Then the Ceremony continues with the singing of six different Painted Lodge Songs. All the Songs are sung with the beating of the Sacred Rattles on the ground in time with the singing.

"Time off for Lunch"

The Ceremony continues with another Song and praying. Time comes for placing the Buffalo Stones on some Buffalo hair then wrapped in a small calfskin then put back in the Medicine Bag. While once again the Pipe Man passes around the Peace Pipe for all to puff on a few times while more singing and praying is done. Then ends the Ceremony by packing the Rattles and rest of the things in a parfleche.

P.S. Singing and praying is done all through the performance of the Ceremony. With the Chief Medicine Man starting off all the Songs, then accompanied by the rest of the Medicine Men.

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