

AM UR-QUELL.

MONATSCHRIFT FÜR VOLKSKUNDE.

Herausgegeben

von

Friedrich S. Krauss.

„Das Volkstum ist der Völker Jungbrunnen.“

1. The Origin of the Pleiades: an Arapaho Myth.¹⁾

By James Mooney.

The Arapahos number in all about three thousand, and liv in three divisions: 1, the Gros Ventres, associated with the Blackfeet and Assiniboins on the British border in Montana; 2, the Northern Arapahos, considered the mother tribe, in Wyoming; 3, the Southern Arapahos the largest division, six hunderd miles farther south, in Oklahoma. The three divisions formerly livd together in the north, but hav drifted apart. The following myth was obtaind among the Northern Arapahos in 1892. In several points it resembles the corresponding Kiowa story. It is somewhat remarkable that in Cherokee, Arapaho & Kiowa mythology, as in that of Europe, the original number of the Pleiades is given as seven, altho the unaided eye can usually discern but six. The Arapaho name is Bänikuth, "The Sitting Group."

There wer six brothers whose father was dead and who livd in a tipi by themselvs apart from the rest of the tribe. Five wer grown up and used to go hunting every day, leaving the youngest one at home to play at shooting birds and squirrels with his little bow. One day while playing he ran a large thorn into his foot. With much difficulty he pulld it out and ran and put it away in the tipi to show to his brothers when they came home. As he turnd to come out again he heard a cry, and looking back he found that the thorn had become a baby girl. When the brothers came home and heard the story they wer very much surprised, but finally decided to adopt the baby as their sister. So she livd with them and grew up to be a young woman. Now in these old days the animals wer just like other people, so when the buffalo chief "Long Eye Teeth," heard of the young girl who had appeard so mysteriously he wanted her for his wife. But she was afraid of his shaggy mane and rough voice and would not go near him.

¹⁾ Zum Vergleich möge man Andree's Studie heranziehen: Die Plejaden im Mythos und in ihrer Beziehung zum Jahrbeginn und Landbau, Globus 1894, Nr. 22 und bei Krauss in den Sagen und Märchen der Südslaven I, Nr. 32, S. 120—123 (Das Siebengestirn).