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## Annihilate Raw People

**Edward Sapir** The following information on Chicken Hawk is all from Sapir's *Takelma Texts*.<sup>1</sup>



**The Takelma Myth Number 15.** “Chicken-Hawk Revenges Himself Upon Medicine-Men.” is part of *Takelma Texts* by Sapir (pages 142 - 149).<sup>1</sup>

A house there was; Chicken-Hawk did have a woman, a wife he had. For a long time he did not know about medicinemen. Then, when a long time had elapsed, his wife did die, and all alone he became. Then, 'tis said, he slept, sick had his heart become. “Who did it? Who caused my wife to die? Somebody indeed did do it. Would that I knew who did it!” he said, thinking. He slept, how long did he not sleep? “Would that I knew who did it!” he said; sick had his heart become, ever thinking of his wife. “Would that I knew who did it!” he said. A long time elapsed. How long did he not sleep? Then, 'tis said, a certain time came and he arose. “For what reason did my wife die?” he said, thinking.

Out of the house he went. On either side was a mountain; he looked, medicine-men, indeed, in great numbers had their hair tied on both sides of their heads. Now again on the other side did he look, on top of the mountain. “So those it was that did it, those did eat up my wife?” he said, thinking; to no one he talked, all by himself thus he thought. Then, 'tis said, a stone knife he took as he returned into the house. “So those it was that did bring it about that this wife of mine, indeed, did die?” he said, thinking. Then “Wilik lisi!”<sup>1</sup> (saying this), over their necks he swung his knife,<sup>2</sup> their necks he cut. Then again on the other side that same thing he did to them, with his knife he cut their necks.

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1. Sapir, Edward. 1909. *Takelma Texts*. Anthropological Publications, Volume 2. University of Pennsylvania.

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## Chicken-Hawk Revenges Himself Upon Medicine-Men

Then, 'tis said, on both sides he looked. Wherever he found people, now also their necks he cut with his knife, that to all raw<sup>4</sup> people he did. Now the people he annihilated, exterminated he made them. Then, 'tis said, just all by himself he was. Then on either side he looked, for people he looked; there were none, nowhere did people come. Then, 'tis said, a long time elapsed; off to the west, right over there were seen the Crows, covering the land.<sup>5</sup> “For what reason did Chicken-Hawk, for his part, do



*Salmon*

that? For what reason did he annihilate raw people?” He was spoken of, the Crows covering the land said so. “Well, let us in our turn pass over him,”<sup>6</sup> said the Crows covering the land, and they prepared themselves. “Over his head let us pass,” said the Crows covering the land. Then there, 'tis said, they proceeded, in long rows they flew by. Moving his head slightly from side to side did Chicken-Hawk keep looking, there he stood. “Just when they touch the nape of the earth's neck,<sup>7</sup> just then shall I put an end to them,” said he, thinking.

Not yet did he annihilate the people. All by himself he stood, moving his head slightly from side to side he looked. Still the people were coming, in great number the people passed there. Then, 'tis said, he kept looking above himself as there they passed. When a long time had elapsed, they struck against the nape of the earth's neck; while these people were passing there, his knife lay here at his feet. Then, 'tis said, he took it up; just then “Wiliklisi!” (saying this), right over himself he cut their necks with his knife, and the people fell down in great numbers. Then, 'tis said, from either side they were coming crowded together; hither they were returning from the east, still they were coming from the west. Then, 'tis said, they were assembled together all about him.



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## Chicken Hawk

Then great Chicken-Hawk was spoken to. “For what reason did you do that? Not thus shall it be when the world goes on. Not thus will it be,” he was told; he stood, listened. On all sides was he surrounded, right in the middle he stood. “Should he do away with<sup>1</sup> one whose body is good,<sup>2</sup> then the medicine-man shall be killed, but now you did not do well,” he was told. “Raw people you have destroyed. Should they take revenge for<sup>3</sup> a medicine-man, then indeed shall raw people lie down,”<sup>4</sup> he was told. “Thus shall it be when the world goes on,” he was told. He listened to them, the Crows covering the land said so, that speech they addressed to him. Then he was told, “But now since the medicine-men did eat up just this wife of yours, all the people did you destroy. Just the medicinemen alone are<sup>1</sup> to be killed.” Then thus the world was fixed, the Crows covering the land did so. “Do not again do that,” he was told; he did not answer them, to the people he kept listening. “Thus will it be when the world goes on, when people grow up. And no one shall slay raw people, just medicine-men only shall be slain,” was he told.

Then, 'tis said, they all went off, now back to their land they returned, and he was left behind. For a long time had Chicken-Hawk done that, so that for that reason the Crows did come; as he had been destroying the people, therefore did these Crows come last of all, just for that reason the Crows did see him; as the people he had been destroying, thereupon these for that reason did come. Now yonder they all returned, after they had been slain; half the Crows had been destroyed, therefore these for that reason did address him. From off yonder they had returned hither, while from down river they were coming, so that these were then crowded together; at that time was he told that, when they here were crowded together. Now for that reason are raw people never slain, only medicine-men are slain; but when medicine-men are avenged, for that reason are raw people slain. 'Tis finished. Go gather and eat your ba<sup>u</sup>p'-seeds.

## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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## Sapir's Chicken Hawk: *Takelma Texts*



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*Edward Sapir: 1910'*

October 5, 2011

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