

## CREATION

### **This Is the Tradition of How Marumda and Kuksu Made the World**

1. He lived in the north, the Old Man, his name was Marumda. He lived in a cloud-house, a house that looked like snow, like ice. And he thought of making the world. "I will ask my older brother who lives in the south," thus he said, the Old Man Marumda. "Wah! What shall I do?" thus he said. "Eh!" thus he said.

2. Then he pulled out four of his hairs. He held out the hairs. "Lead me to my brother!" thus he said, Marumda the Old Man. Then he held the hairs to the east; after that he held the hairs to the north; after that he held them to the west; after that he held them to the south, and he watched.

3. Then the hairs started to float around, they floated around, and floated toward the south, and left a streak of fire behind, they left a

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streak of fire, and following it floated the cloud-house, and Marumda rode in it.

4. He sat smoking. He quit smoking. And then he went to sleep. He was lying asleep, sleeping ..., sleeping ..., sleeping ..., sleeping. ... Then he awoke. He got up and put tobacco into his pipe. He smoked, and smoked, and smoked, and then he put the pipe back into the sack.

5. That was his first camp, they say, and then he lay down to sleep. Four times he lay down to sleep, and then he floated to his elder brother's house. His name was Kuksu. This Kuksu was the elder brother of Marumda.

6. The Kuksu, his was like a cloud, like snow, like ice his house. Around it they floated, four times they floated around it, the hairs, and then through

6. The Kuksu, his was like a cloud, like snow, like ice his house. Around it they floated, four times they floated around it, the hairs, and then through a hole they floated into the house, and following them the Marumda entered the house.

7. "Around the east side!" said the Kuksu. Then around the east side he entered the house, and he sat down, he sat, and he took o the little sack hung around his neck. He took out his pipe and filled it with tobacco, he laid a coal on it, and he blew, he blew, and then he blew it afire. Then he removed the coal and put it back into his little sack. After that he smoked, four times he put the pipe to his mouth. After that he o ered it to his older brother the Kuksu.

8. Then Kuksu received it. "Hyoh!" he said, the Kuksu, "hyoh! Good will be our knowledge, good will end our speech! Hyoh! May it happen! Our knowledge will not be interfered with! May it happen! Our knowledge will go smoothly. May it happen! Our speech will not hesitate. May it happen! Our speech will stretch out well. The knowledge we have planned, the knowledge we have laid, it will succeed, it will go smoothly, our knowledge! Yoh ooo, hee ooo, hee ooo, hee ooo, hee ooo! May it happen!" thus he said, the Kuksu, and now he quit smoking

9. Then Marumda sat up, he sat up, and then they both stood up. They stood facing east, and then they stood facing north, and then they stood facing west, and then they stood facing south, and then they stood facing the zenith, and then they stood facing the nadir. And now they went around each other both ways, they went around each other four times back and forth. Then Marumda went to where he had been sitting

before, and he sat down; and then Kuksu went to where he had been sitting before, and he sat down.

10. Then Marumda put tobacco into the pipe that he took out of his little dried-up sack. He felt in his little dried-up sack, he brought out some tobacco, and filled the pipe with it. Then he felt in his little driedup sack and brought out a coal, he put the coal on top of the tobacco, he put it on top and he blew, he blew, and blew it afire. Four times he drew, and then he offered it to his brother Kuksu.

11. Four times he made as if to take it, and then he received it. Four times he drew, and then he offered it back to Marumda. He received it, and put it back into his little dried-up sack. He blew out the smoke four times. First he blew it toward the south, then he blew it toward the east, then he blew it toward the north, then he blew it toward the west. Then he blew it to the zenith, then he blew it to the nadir.

12. Then turning to the left, Kuksu gave an oration: "Ooo!" thus he said, "it will be true, our knowledge!" Then Kuksu poked him with the pipe, and Marumda received the pipe, he received it and put it back in his little dried-up sack.

13. And then the Marumda scraped himself in the armpits, he scraped himself and got out some of the armpit wax. He gave the armpit wax to the Kuksu. Then Kuksu received it, he received it, and stuck it between his big toe and the next. And then he also scraped himself in the armpits, he scraped himself, and rolled the armpit wax into a ball. His own armpit wax he then stuck between Marumda's toes.

14. Then Marumda removed it and blew on it, four times he blew on it. Then Kuksu also removed the armpit wax and blew on it four times, and after that he sat down. Then Marumda went around the

14. Then Marumda removed it and blew on it, four times he blew on it. Then Kuksu also removed the armpit wax and blew on it four times, and after that he sat down. Then Marumda went around the Kuksu four times, and then he sat down. And then the Kuksu he got up, he got up, and four times around the Marumda he went. Then they both stood still.

15. Now they mixed together their balls of armpit wax. And Kuksu mixed some of his hair with it. And then Marumda also mixed some of his hair with the armpit wax.

16. After that they stood up; facing south, and then facing east, and then facing north, and then facing west, and then facing the zenith, and

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then facing the nadir: "These words are to be right and thus everything will be. People are going to be according to this plan. There is going to be food according to this plan. There will be food from the water! There will be food from the land. There will be food from under the ground. There will be food from the air. There will be all kinds of food whereby the people will be healthy. These people will have good intentions. Their villages will be good. They will plan many things. They will be full of knowledge. There will be many of them on this earth, and their intentions will be good.

17. "We are going to make in the sky the traveling-fire. With it they will ripen their food. We are going to make that with which they will cook their food overnight. The traveling-fires in the sky, their name will be Sun. The one who is Fire, his name will be Daytime-Sun. The one who gives light in the night, her name will be Night-Sun. These words are right. This plan is sound. Everything according to this plan is going to be right!" thus he spoke, the Kuksu.

21. With this song he traveled north, the Marumda, riding in his house,

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in his cloud-house. He was singing along, holding the armpit wax in his hand and singing the song. Then he tied a string to the ball of armpit wax, passed the string through his own ear-hole and made it fast. Then he went to sleep.

22. He was lying asleep, when suddenly the string jerked his ear. He sat up and looked around but he did not see anything, and he lay down again to sleep. It went on like that for eight days, it went on for eight days, and then it became the earth. The armpit wax grew large while Marumda was sound asleep, and the string jerked his ear. At last Marumda sat up, he sits up, and he untied the string from his ear-hole. Then he threw the earth out into space.

23. It was dark. "What shall I do about it?" said Marumda. "Oh! ... I know," and he took the pipe out of his little sack. He also brought out a coal, and applied it to the pipe. Then he blew on it, he blows, and set it afire. He sets it afire, and then he held the pipe to the south. Then he blew away the fire that was in the pipe. The fire traveled to the south, it grew large, and over the earth the sunshine spread.

24. Now Marumda walked around all over the earth. He walks around: "Here will be a mountain, here will be rocks, there will be clover, here will be a valley, there will be a lake, there will be crops, here will be a playground, there will be crops, here will be a clover flat, there will be a grain valley, on this mountain there will be acorns, on that one manzanita, juniper, cherries; on this mountain there will be potatoes, deer, hare, rabbits; on that mountain there will be bear, puma, cougar, fisher, coon, wolf, coyote, fox, skunk; on this mountain

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18. And now the Marumda made a speech. Holding the armpit wax, holding it to the south, he made a wish: "These words are right!" thus he said, the Marumda. And then he held it to the east, and then he held it to the north, and then he held it to the west, and then he held it to the zenith, and then he held it to the nadir: "According to this plan, people are going to be. There are going to be people on this earth. On this earth there will be plenty of food for the people! According to this plan there will be many different kinds of food for the people! Clover in plenty will grow, grain, acorns, nuts!" thus he spoke, the Marumda.

19. And then he blew tobacco smoke in the four directions. Then he turned around to the left, four times. Then he put the armpit wax into his little dried-up sack. After that he informed the Kuksu: "I guess I'll go back, now!" thus he said, and then he asked the Kuksu: "Sing your song, brother!" he said. And then the Kuksu sang: "*Hoyá, hohá, yuginwe, hoyá* [here comes a long SONG in archaic language] ... "

20. After that Marumda floated away to the north, singing the while a wishing song: "*Hinaa mahani ma* [another SONG in archaic language] ... " Thus he sang, the Marumda.

21. With this song he traveled north, the Marumda, riding in his house,

24. Now Marumda walked around all over the earth. He walks around: "Here will be a mountain, here will be rocks, there will be clover, here will be a valley, there will be a lake, there will be crops, here will be a playground, there will be crops, here will be a clover flat, there will be a grain valley, on this mountain there will be acorns, on that one manzanita, juniper, cherries; on this mountain there will be potatoes, deer, hare, rabbits; on that mountain there will be bear, puma, cougar, fisher, coon, wolf, coyote, fox, skunk; on this mountain there will be rattlesnake, king-snake, gopher-snake, red-striped snake, mountain garter-snake, blue snake, big gopher-snake."

25. Marumda then walked over the hill; on the other side it was dark; he sat down; there was no light. He went on. Up in the sky there was light. Then he rolled the earth over, it turned over, he pushed it over: "This is the way you will perform," said the Marumda, "now it is dark, and now it is light, and now it is sunlight." Thus now it performed.

26. Thereupon he went on: "Here will be a valley, and in it there will be many villages. Here will be a river with water in it wherein the fish will run." Thereupon he went on and made a big pond, and then he

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said: "Here the fish will come; this will be a fish-bend, a food larder, this pond." Thereupon he made a river: "This will be a roadway for the fishes," thus he said, the Marumda.

27. And then he went on and made a mountain: "On this there will be sugar-pine." And then he went on and made a pond: "Here there will be all kinds of fowl." And then he went on and made a mountain of flint: "This will be for arrowheads and spearheads." And then he went on and made a

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28. After this Marumda went on the other way, he went on and on, and then he thought of making Big Mountain. He makes it, and on each side he made a large river: "This will be for the fish to come out to the lake." Thereupon he went on and made a wide valley: "Here will be all kinds of crops," thus he said, the Marumda.

29. And now he arrived at the lake, and going along the shore he made rocks, he makes them, and: "This will be a playground for the waterbears." Thereupon he went on and made a sand-flat, and then: "This will be a playground for people." Thereafter he went on and made a mountain: "Here people will not come! Men! Never approach this place!" thus he said, the Marumda.

30. Thus he was going along by the shore, and he found a river barring his way: "Wah!" he said, "what am I going to do?" he said standing on the shore. "Eh!" he said, and laying his walking-cane across he passed over to the other side. "Eh!" he said, "that was the way to do it, there was nothing else to do!"

31. Thus he walked along the shore making rocks, making sand-flats: thus he went around the



31. Thus he walked along the shore making rocks, making sand-flats; thus he went around the lake, performing like that. Now he went back inland, and facing the lake he sat on a log. The water was calm: "Water! You will not be like that!" thus he called to the water. Then he went to the water and he splashed it toward the land: "This is the way you will behave!" he told her. Then the wind blew and the water became rough,

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it becomes rough, and ran in waves over the shore, it ran in waves over the rocks: "Hyoh! Good! That's the way you will do!" thus he said. "Hyoh! Now I will go across," he said.

32. "Wah! What am I going to do? How am I going to go across? Wah!" he said. "Eh! that oak over there ... " and going to a tree standing there he picked up from the ground an acorn shell, he took it to the shore and laid it by the side of the water. The water made waves and thereby the shell was pushed into the water. It floated, it grew large, it grew larger, it floated toward the shore and became a boat. "Hyoh! That's a good boat for us!" thus he said.

33. He felt around in his little dried-up sack and took out his pipe; he filled it with tobacco; he laid the coal on top; he blew on it; he blew it a fire; then he blew smoke in the four directions and a thick fog arose. He put the pipe back in his little sack and hung the sack around his neck, then he sat down in the boat and shoved o. It started to float away, it floated way o toward the center of the lake; then he whirled his cane in the air and that boat started to race, it went like a bird, and in no time at all it went across.

34. He sat down by the side of the water and he looked about, and then he thought to experiment at making people. "Wah! What shall I make people

34. He sat down by the side of the water and he looked about, and then he thought to experiment at making people. "Wah! What shall I make people with?" he said. "Eh!" he said, and he picked up rocks: "These will be people!" These rocks became people. They spoke a language. They were short-legged, these rock-people. These rock-people lived in the mountains only. They did not walk about in the valleys.

35. Then he experimented making other kinds of people. The rockpeople were mean, that's why he experimented making other people. He made people out of hair. These people were long-haired; the hair came down to their feet. They found the Old Man Marumda and came up to him: "What are you doing, Old Man?" they said. "I am eating food," he answered. He was eating clover. He also dug potatoes out of the ground, and ate them. Then the long-haired people took an object lesson and they also ate. "This is your food," said the Marumda, and then he went away.

36. Sitting down on a hill he looked back. After a while he went over to where there was a valley. And now the idea came to him to make another kind of people. He felt inside his little dried-up sack and brought

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out some feathers. He split them, he splits them, and he broke them into small pieces. These he scattered over the plain.

37. "These will grow into people!" he said, and he sat down with his back to the valley. Then people also came to life and they too came to the Old Man and asked him: "Where do you come from?" These people were covered all over with feathers, like birds. "What are you doing?" "I am eating," he answered. Then they also took an object lesson and started to eat. "Thus you will eat! This is your

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38. Then he experimented making more people. This time he went over to another mountain and he experimented making people out of wood. He gathered small sticks, he split them, and scooping out little hollows here and there, he planted them in [the ground]. "These will be people!" he said. Then he went on and turning his back to them he sat down. Soon he could hear them talking among themselves: "There is an old man sitting over there," they said.

39. They came over to him: "What are you doing, Old Man?" "I am eating," he answered. Then they also took a lesson and started to eat. "This is the food that you will eat! I made it for you!" said the Marumda. Then he departed and went around another mountain.

40. "Wah! This also looks like a good place for people." He pulled four hairs from his arm and scattered them over the plain, here and there, all over. Then he sat down on a knoll and listened. In no time they also turned into people. "Where do you come from?" they asked one another. The nearest one to the Old Man said: "There is a man sitting over there too," and they came up to him.

41. "And you, where do you come from?" they said. "Oh! I came from a distance," he answered. "Are there any other people?" they asked. "Yes, there are other people far away from here. You'll find them after a while." These people were hairy and cloven-hoofed, and they had horns. They were

41. "And you, where do you come from?" they said. "Oh! I came from a distance," he answered. "Are there any other people?" they asked. "Yes, there are other people far away from here. You'll find them after a while." These people were hairy and cloven-hoofed, and they had horns. They were the deer-people. He didn't like their looks. "Eh! Over there I will make another kind of people," he said, and went on.

42. Then he went on, northward, and in the hills, in a little hollow he sat down: "And now I will make other people again," he said, the Marumda. And feeling in his little dried-up sack he brought out some sinew. This sinew he broke into little pieces, he breaks them, and then

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he scattered them about over the hollow. "These will be people!" he said.

43. Then he sat down with his back to it. In no time they became people. Then the Old Man stood up: "Come over here," he said. Then the people came over to him. "This is your land where you will live," thus he said. These people were like ourselves; they had no hair, no feathers on their bodies, they were all slick. "Here you will eat your food! There is plenty of food on the ground over there; eat it!" thus he said, and he went away.

44. After this he went over to a hillock. There he took some hair out of his little dried-up sack, and this he scattered over the hill. Then he sat with his back to it and in no time they were people talking among themselves. Then he looked. They were big, hairy people, walking about. These were the bear-people; they had long claws.

45. And now he went over to them: "Here you will eat this kind of food," he said, and plucking some clover he ate it. Then these people they also imitated him and ate. Then he dug up some

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45. And now he went over to them: "Here you will eat this kind of food," he said, and plucking some clover he ate it. Then these people they also imitated him and ate. Then he dug up some potatoes. "These also you will eat," he said. "Oo! That's good! And are there any other people around?" they asked. "Yes! There are going to be lots of people!" Marumda answered.

46. After this he experimented making still another kind of people: "Wah! What shall I make them of now?" he said. He went to a big valley toward where the sun rises. Here he made people out of flint. These people were the Gilak people. He made this people on the mountain where there are nothing but rocks.

47. These people were like birds flying in the sky. They used to swoop down on people. They had not been taught to do that way. They were mean people.

48. All these were the first people that the Marumda made.