

Iniskim or The Buffalo Rock.

The Buffalo Rock is usually a small stone in the shape of small fossils. It is believed by the Black feet Indians that this stone has a great power with the Buffalos. The stone is generally found on the prairie. Sometimes a man riding along on the prairie and hears a peculiar chirp like that a young bird might utter. He stops and searches on the ground for the stone. If he does not find it, he marks the spot and returns the next day with his friends to help him to find the stone. If the stone is found there is a great rejoicing among the people.

The possessor of such a stone is generally considered very fortunate. How the first Buffalo rock is obtained is told in the following story. A long time ago in the winter time the large herds of Buffalos suddenly disappeared.

all other game was killed or driven away and the people began to starve.

One day a man killed a jack rabbit and ran home as fast as he could and told his wife to hurry up and get some water and cook it. While the woman was walking along the path, she heard a peculiar song which seemed to come from the cotton tree near by. The singing soon stopped. The woman saw a stone jammed into the tree where it was split. The stone said, "Take me along with you and teach your people the song which you have just heard and the Buffalo will soon return." The woman went along and got some water and took the stone when returning to the camp. She gave the stone to her husband and told him what the stone had said to her. In the evening the man called in the chief and old men to his lodge and told them what the stone had said to his wife. All the men prayed.

as the stone had said they should.
some time elapsed before they heard
a noise it was the tramp of Buffalo
coming back and there was a
great rejoicing.

Ernest Jacobs.

