

A Paiute Creation Story Involving a Wild Horse

The Nevada Paiute story *The Milky Way*, begins with the sentence “Years and years ago Deer and Wild Horse were people and they spoke the same language.”

It tells about the creation of the Milky Way and involves Lady Deer who has an affair with a beautiful white stallion. Her husband leaves her and takes his two sons with him to heaven. The regretful doe tries to make them come back.

What did Helen Stone’s elders say in their native Paiute language formed the Milky Way?

COYOTE TALES and Other Paiute Stories You Have Never Heard Before



by Helen Stone

“. . . the three deer following each other, running toward heaven. The one lonely star following the three stars is Lady Deer following her husband and children. Under the running deer are the arrows Mountain Fly shot toward the running deer. The dusty trail under the three deer is the dust the arrows scattered. This is the stardust which we see at night.”



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