

The Wolf Trail Makoiyoh'sokoyi By Carl Brave Rock



The Wolf Trail, Makoiyoh'sokoyi, is what people call today the Milky Way Galaxy. Our people believe that is where we came from and that is our gateway to the sky. The grandfather sun, **Napi Natosi**, and the grandmother moon, **Ko'komikisoom.**

The Wolf Trail is how we got here. A long time ago the people were starving. It was just before people knew how to hunt. One particularly harsh winter, people could not find any food at all. They knew they were going to die. One young man didn't want to die and decided that he was going to go out on his own and determined not to come back without food. People knew this was going to be a suicide mission. The young man went out and set up camp. The wolves, **ma-koyii**, were the first animals to approach him and saw him as human. They went to his camp and brought some meat, some food.

The wolves, **makoyii**, told the boy to take some food for his people, feed your people and come back. So, he did that and told the elders what had happened. The elders told him you have to go back to your camp. Sure enough, the wolves came again. They came and said, "now we are going to take you to our camp". When they got back to the wolves' camp, they told the boy how to hunt.



They talked about bison, *iinii*, and showed the boy how to hunt as a com munity. That is how we got started with the Buffalo Jump.





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Everyone had an intricate role to play while hunting. If one failed the entire Buffalo Jump failed, so we had to work together as a community. That's what the wolves taught us. Other animals began to show up at the boy's camp and taught the boy different hunting rules. One rule was "paws and claws are bad; hooves and horns are good". That's how we hunt on the prairie. We don't hunt big cats, but we will hunt elk and deer. Those are some of the rules that were taught to the young man. When the young man went back to his people's camp, he taught them what the wolves taught him. The wolves stayed for the season but come spring they said they had to go. The people were very sad and didn't want to see the wolves leave.

The wolves said, "we are going to go somewhere, and it will be where you can see us". They went to the sky and created what we call Makoiyoh'sokoyi, The Wolf Trail, and what others call the Milky Way Galaxy today. This story is to remind the people of how to live in balance and harmony with each other.

