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# HOPI TALES

From HAROLD COURLANDER'S Book

"PEOPLE OF THE SHORT BLUE CORN"

TOLD BY JACK MOYLES



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Told by  
**Jack Moyles**

FROM

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BOOK "PEOPLE OF THE  
SHORT BLUE CORN"

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The four stories on this record are from the book, PEOPLE OF THE SHORT BLUE CORN, by Harold Courlander, © 1970, published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. They are, read by Jack Moyles, "The Sun Callers," "Coyote's Needle," "Honwyoma and The Bear Fathers of Tokonaua," and "The Journey to the Land of the Dead."

The traditional stories of the Hopis include many epic tales of migrations, settlement and abandonment of villages. Such stories are considered "history," not as entertainment. They tell of the coming of clans out of the wilderness, the origin of clans and tribes, and going back to the misty beginning of time, of the creation of the human race. There are also many tales about Coyote the trickster and other animals.

The Hopis, like the related Eastern Pueblo peoples, are among the few American Indian groups that remain on lands that they claimed before the arrival of the Europeans. Spanish soldiers and missionaries sought to "reduce" the Hopis, as the euphemistic phrase went, in the seventeenth century. But unlike the Eastern Pueblos, who were close to the Spanish settlement of Santa Fe, the Hopis were remote from the centers of Spanish authority and were able to maintain their traditional values and ways. They joined in the general Pueblo Revolt in the seventeenth century, at which time they killed the Spanish missionaries then present in the villages and destroyed the churches. In the year 1700 there was an abortive attempt by missionaries from Santa Fe to reestablish their influence, but it resulted in violence in the village of Awatovi which not only ended the Church efforts but also wiped out the Awatovi population.

The Hopis, usually classified by anthropologists as Western Pueblos, occupy an area of northeastern Arizona which they have inhabited for approximately eight hundred years. They are considered to be primarily descendants of the Basketmaker people, called Anasazis (Ancient Ones) by the Navajos, who roamed through the San Juan Valley a thousand years and more ago. Around the end of the twelfth century there was a general movement out of the San Juan Valley toward the south. Some of the Anasazis eventually settled along the Rio Grande in what is now New Mexico and became the Eastern Pueblos. Another branch of the southward migration settled on and along the edges of Black Mesa in northeastern Arizona and became the Hopis. Today's Hopis are clearly an amalgam of different tribal and linguistic stocks, some of which came out of the Little Colorado River Valley and from other regions farther south, possibly from as far away as what is now known as Mexico. They mainly occupy villages within the Hopi Reservation, though the western village of Moencopi is situated in Navajo territory. A number of the Hopi villages are very old, among them Oraibi, which is believed to have been settled seven or eight hundred years ago. In all directions around the existing villages are ruins of ancient settlements. The abandoned cave villages of Keet Seel and Betatakin, not far from the town of Kayenta, are claimed by the Hopis as ancestral villages. Likewise, many ruins scattered around the San Francisco Peaks and through the Little Colorado River Valley are claimed by the Hopis as former dwelling places.

STORIES OF THE HOPI INDIANS  
Told by Jack Moyles  
from the book, PEOPLE OF THE SHORT BLUE CORN,  
by Harold Courlander,  
Published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, © 1970

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