



Wolf Medicine means Cooperation.

Wolves used to roam throughout Cherokee country, as well as most all of the lower 48 states. Now, they are largely limited to the most northern states, Canada, and Alaska. And who of us can forget that noble wolf in the popular motion picture "Dances With Wolves"?

Our Native ancestors had great respect for the wolf and very rarely would kill one. They studied the wolf's "medicine" and learned many important lessons to help human beings live better lives. Wolf loves his family. Unlike the bear, Wolf is very socialable and they are so successful in their hunts largely because they hunt in groups and cooperate with each other and then share the proceeds after the kill.

It is unfortunate that in much of our literature that the wolf has taken on the role of a villain. We see this in the story of the three little pigs, and when a household is on the verge of poverty it is said "The Wolf is at the door". In reality the wolf is a noble animal, strong and beautiful and loyal. It is not afraid to attack any animal of any size, especially in defense of its loved ones.

At night the wolf, like his smaller cousin, the Coyote, will often howl as a means of communication. Some say that he howls at the moon. Some people have "Wolf Medicine". These are people capable of great love and loyal to their family and tribe. Wolves are protectors and guardians and so are people with Wolf Medicine.

The Wolves are the ancestors of dogs who are considered man's best friend. We cannot not help but respect Wolf.

Owl Medicine deals with prophetic vision and dealing with death.

The Owl is looked upon differently by different Native Cultures. In some he is feared as a symbol of death and nearness of death. In other cultures he is not so much feared as respected as being able to see "invisible things", as we all know how good he sees in the dark. Many say that if we see an owl in the day time near our home and he acts abnormally or appears frequently over a short period of time, that it is a warning that someone in the household will soon die.

Whatever one's personal feelings about the Owl and "Owl Medicine", there has evolved a whole system of medicine called "Owl Medicine" that deals with how we deal when somebody in our tribe, or band "crosses over" into the shadow land. One who possesses "Owl Medicine" was likely born with it and has the ability to help those who mourn at the loss of a loved one.

It is also said that one who possesses Owl Medicine can see things that others do not see, such as future events. Owl Medicine is strong and there is much secrecy attached to it. It is a medicine that must be used with caution.

The Cherokee word for the large horned Owl is "Ukuku". The Screech Owl is called "Wahuhu". One should not be concerned every time they hear an owl hoot. This is part of their normal behavior. It is common to hear them just after dusk and again just before daybreak. During the dead of night they are more silent as they are hunting. Just a few have Owl Medicine.

Even Beavers have Medicine.

Our Native ancestors studied all kinds of animals, birds, and plants. Even the Beaver has "medicine" that is worth understanding. Some of us may possess this kind of medicine as we were born with it and developed it, perhaps unconsciously during our life time.

Beavers are one of the only animals that can change his whole environment to suit his own purposes and pleasure. He gnaws down trees and makes them into building materials mixed with mud and twigs. He makes a dam on a stream of water until the water backs up behind it to make a suitable pond for him and his family to grow and thrive.

Beavers are hard workers and are wary and watchful of intruders who come into their "improved" environment. With a loud slap of the tail on the water it warns its family of danger or threats. Underwater they swim through the hidden entryway to their den made of twigs and mud.

Someone who has "Beaver Medicine" is inclined to like to build things. They are creative and hard workers. They like to stay close to home and like their open spaces and privacy. There are several Indian legends of various cultures that talk about Beaver and his medicine.

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