



HEROQUEST



HeroQuest Voices *Peoples of Glorantha*

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A Personal View of Life as a Puma, Tradition of the Bush Voice
Greg Stafford



*Legion are the peoples of the world, many and varied are their ways.
All are connected by the cosmic webs of Arachne Solara
Who brings and binds all together, in life as in this book,
Who takes and rends apart those who would tear her webs.*

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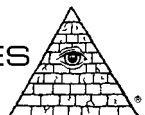
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A Personal View of Life as a Puma

What My Grandmother Told Me

Who are you?

I'm your grandmother.

Who are we?

We are the Walen family of the Puma People, members of the Blacktuft lineage.

What makes us great?

The Walen family are great because I am the smartest and most clever of all the puma people, who are the smartest and most clever people in the whole world.

Where do we live?

Anywhere that we want. We live here, in Gelerfield, because I chose it. I chose it because the hunting is good, no evil lives nearby, the days are long and warm without much snow in the winter, and it is close to our ancestors.

How do we live?

We are hunters of the wild.

What is important in my life?

Your ancestors are most important, because they made you. You can't live without them. They taught us to be independent. Your independence is the most important thing. Never submit to anyone or anything, unless you have something significant to gain from it. Even then, make it temporary if you can.

What is the difference between males and females?

The females are more important because we are the progenitors who extend the ancestors into the present and future. As our Ancestors made Us, I made You. Males help feed you cubs sometimes, but we can do just fine without them. Except for the Great Pleasure we have once per year, they are useless.

Who rules us?

No one, ever. Once you become an adult and leave, you are free and independent.

What makes us great?

We are the smartest, most clever and most beautiful creatures in creation. We are perfect, free and powerful. We can be whatever we wish to be, and what we are is what we are supposed to be. No one else can claim that.

What is evil?

Chaos is evil because it destroys without creating, because it sucks up life without rebirth, and because it so readily helps everyone else against us.

What is my lot in life?

Your lot is to be yourself. To live with pleasure, to mate someday for men and to litter for females. You are to roam the world enjoying what you wish, seeing the wonders and sights and supporting the ways of the ancestors.

How do we deal with others?

Carefully, of course, and never so as to compromise yourself and your freedom. They are all lesser beings than we, so be careful with them. But you can cheat the cheaters, lie to the liars and always, always kill the killers.

Who are our enemies?

Anyone who wants to reduce us or our ways are our foes. First is Coyote who stole from us, then are Wolves that killed everyone. Our foes are also the settlers who keep trying to move into this forest. Then anyone who dislikes us, which includes many folks. Of course, Chaos the destroyer is our foe.

Who are my spirits?

The Ancestors are first. Without them we wouldn't be, and they are always happy and available to help us out as long as we remember and revere them. There are also a variety of inferior gods, spirits and essences that you can use as you wish, but you don't need them. Just use them when you want to.

What is there to do around here?

Play with your litter mates, for now. You are a child. When you are an adult, maybe when you are ten, then go and wander, look around and fill your belly.



Tradition of the Bush Voice

The Skull Crusher Speaks

Where did the world come from?

SheHe was the Creator, the first Puma who made the earth, sky, rivers and sun, plants and animals for fun. But SheHe grew lonely and looked into Mirrorsea one day and liked the view. So SheHe made itself into two beings, Most Ancient First Grandmother and Most Ancient First Grandfather, in order to enjoy itself to the fullest. They made the Great Pleasure, littered, and we superior beings spread throughout the world to overlook it and enjoy it.

Where do we come from?

Most Ancient First Grandmother and Most Ancient First Grandfather indulged in the Great Pleasure whenever they could, and each time the result was a litter. We, the Blacktufts, were from the sixth litter. That was long ago, and now we are all over the world.

Why do we die?

Most Ancient First Grandmother and Most Ancient First Grandfather had a secret power given them by Creator. He intended it to let us visit Creator in the Big Wide Hunting Land. Everyone wanted it too, though they did not deserve it. At last Coyote put Most Ancient First Grandmother and Most Ancient First Grandfather to sleep, woke them in a dream and tricked them to share it. It was Death, and Coyote ran away with it. Of course the Ancestors chased him, so he gave it to the Wolf Brothers, who killed far and wide. Now Death is everywhere, and takes everything.

What happens after we die?

Most Ancient First Shaman was one of the Spotted Cubs, who were the First Litter. He made the way open for us to go to Big Wide Hunting Land, and also sent everyone else to different places after death so we can hunt them.

Why are we here?

We are here to live and to love, to enjoy and to be loved. We are here to partake in the Great Hunt and the Great Pleasure, to play in the wide world and to do whatever the Ancestors tell us to do to continue the Creation.

How do we do magic?

We are magic itself, thanks to the Ancestors. You see that because we can change our shape. Every one of us has some kind of innate talent, simply because we are Pumas. Finally, various Ancestors choose to help us and so we can use their magic as well, which we keep in these little bones.

Always ask your ancestors for help first. Here are some that I have known to be useful: Grandmother Hide Tracks, Far Uncle Fix Up, Auntie Stone Chipper, Third Uncle Carver, Great Great Aunt Call Deer, Single Uncle Climber, Uncle Strong, Lost Cousin Fix Wounds, and Second Cousin Blinding.

I have heard of other powers. Can you tell me the truth about...

The powers and entities that SheHe made have many names, for no one, not even us, can see them in their entirety. Many of them are not our kin, so when I speak of them I use the names given to them by the humans of this area.

...Aldrya?

That is the name of the Plant Being that was made by SheHe. It provides us with cover and hiding places, with shade to sleep in and with wood to make our tools.

...Chaos?

Chaos is evil, a force that destroys Life. It was made to destroy the Wolf Brothers, who were so fierce everyone had to either run and hide or make things to defend themselves. It destroyed them, and then began to destroy everything. Most Ancient First Shaman got the Three Friends and together they sent it away, to its own world. Now it only sneaks in sometimes, but it must be removed immediately.

...Gods?

Some beings did not want to go where Most Ancient First Shaman wanted to put them, so they made their own place. They call it God World, and the beings who go to or come from there are called gods.

...Kyger Litor?

After the wolves ate the Sun this being ruled the world. It made trolls to destroy Chaos and us, and it made the Underworld to live in when Most Ancient First Shaman sent it away.

...Magasta?

SheHe made waters to surround the world, but this one was not content and kept flooding over the lands. Now it rules a vast salty sea to the south of this land, and it has a huge following of beings that it drowned and brought back to life as slaves. Avoid water if you can.

...Mostal?

SheHe appointed many overlords, such as Aldrya for the plants and Magasta for the waters. Mostal was appointed to be overlord of the rocks and metals, and it lets us use stone to make our tools.

...Orlanth?

Orlanth is overlord of the airs. His winds ruffle our fur most pleasantly, but his rain soaks us. He can never be trusted.

...Sedenya?

That red spot in the sky is her. She was always up there, after SheHe made the world. When Death was being used by everyone she was killed, and Kyger Litor took her to the Underworld, or maybe we just couldn't see her. But she is clever and escaped, and took back her place in the sky.

...Sorcerers?

When Most Ancient First Shaman was putting the dead in their places some people made their own world, and then crashed it into ours. They were these, the sorcerers. They made beings to fight us, but they failed. Now they have their own world, and anyone who comes from it is called a sorcerer.

...Yelm?

Yelm is the name that some men call the Sun. It is also called by other names, but there is one Sun, the bright orb overhead that heats us and gives light. SheHe made it.

