

# Distant Time Stories Project

---

## **The Big Dipper**

**Told by Angie Joseph-Rear**

*Thought I'd share this with all of you. Archie Roberts used to spend a lot of time camping at Moosehide with us during the summer. He told me a lot of memories returned to him when he is down there. One particular story came to my mind. He shared a lot of legends with me and this one is of the big dipper. As told to me by Archie Roberts as told to him by Ntso ga (Gramma Ellen Wood).*

You see those stars up there that looks like a dipper? Sometimes when the northern lights are out watch and you will see them moving all over like it wants to come down. Our gramma used to tell us lots of stories long time ago (as Archie was sitting in front of our cabin he remembered where the furnishings were place in gramma's house). All the kids used to hang out at gramma and grampa's place. I was around ten years old when grampa Jonathan Wood died. Gramma told me this story.

That Big Dipper up there. Those seven stars are some young guys used to be in our village. Long time ago, Chief and Council were boss. They look after people good. All the people listen to them. I can't remember what my gramma said but Chief and Council called a meeting with the people. You know long time ago, people had to take good care of their kids, house have to be cleaned, you have to look after your dogs good, everything. I don't know what happen that time but this one young guy went against Council's order. They tried to talk to him but he turn against them. In those days Chief was powerful and everybody respect him. You have to because we need to look after each other. Anyways this guy went against the chief. You don't do that them days. The chief and council talk among themselves and decided to send that young guy away. They gathered all the people together to tell them what they will do. They asked if anyone else wants to go with the young guy.

The young guy called for anyone who wants to go with him can follow and they can make a new village. So six other young guys went to him. One young girl, she followed them. The people with the chief send away from the village because they turned against their chief and their people. After that at night they looked up into the sky and saw the seven stars that is shaped like a Big Dipper. Archie says gramma ntso ga told him those stars are the seven young guys that got send away. They always stay up there looking down at us because they have nowhere to go and want to come back but they can't. Sometime in the night you will see the northern light moving around and sometimes it

come down real close. The young girl who followed the guys is stuck on the northern light. She can't get to the young guys and when the northern light move down close to us that's her trying to come back but she can't. Archie says gramma and grampa always tell them you have to be good and listen to what is good for you.