

# **United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya nation offering tribal handmade traditional Red Cedar and Hickory wood longbows.**

Long ago, there were two worlds. One world was the world of magic, filled with spirits, being without any physical form. The other world was the world of science, filled with dust, physical forms that lacked being. Then these two worlds combined into one. There was a very strange reaction between the spirits and the dust. Some burst into flames because their energy was so great that the dust burned brightly with their life force; we now call them stars. Others were not so lucky; they dried up into giant rocks, which we call asteroids, planets and moons. However, not all planets suffered from their existence, some became even more lively than stars. As far as we know, there is only one like that; Earth.

Earth burned strongly at first. Then out of the flames came the air, and in the air were the wind spirits. First came Gaoh, then his four children, Yahogah the North Wind, Oyandone the East Wind, Neagoh the South Wind, and Dajoji the West Wind. Then there were many other minor winds that would blow briefly, than vanish. These were Tornado, Hurricane, Gale, and Breeze, just to name a few. These winds quelled the flames and more spirits came out.

The next spirits were the rocks, which combined to form the land. Around the land, the water spirits came, and they proved to be far too powerful for the Fire, and it became sealed deep within the Earth. However, some flames still managed to stay above the surface and these little spirits became the most marvelous of all, for they became the first spirits of life.

These little spirits were so interesting to the Great Spirits that they guided them through evolution until they reached the point of resembling the Great Spirits themselves. In fact some were made in their images. Yahogah made the bear, Oyandone made the moose, Neagoh made the deer, Dajoji made the panther, Thunder made the eagle, and Earth made the turtle, just to name a few. Then there were other animals that showed great virtue and were promoted to being Great spirits, such as wolf for his loyalty, coyote for his humor, owl for his wisdom, and many others.

These Animal Spirits are very special, because they are all the animals that have been created, including the ones that are alive now. They watch over all their children, not only their animal children, but also their adopted children, the shamans. They also have other responsibilities, and they are with each of us whenever we need them. Bear, Snake, and Crow are with us when we are sick and need healing, and when we heal others. Eagle is

with us when we are afraid and need courage. Wolf is with us when we need loyalty and friendship. Coyote is with us whenever we laugh.