This Red Bird was a gambler and spent all the time gambling. He would win all the games; there one certain man who played with this Red Bird. The other young man would bet things that were liable and he kept looking out and at last Red Bird won everything that his opponent had. The unfortunate young man sought for a way to win the game. He took his pipe and filled it with tobacco and went to Old Brown Man for Old Brown Man was considered a holy man and he represented the fowls of the air. Old Brown Man took the pipe and said, “What do you want?” The young man said, “I have been gambling with Red Bird and he has won everything that I had. Now that I have nothing, and knowing that you can help me, is the reason that I came over to you.”

Old Brown Man took the pipe and smoked it and he said, “Alright, young man, I will help you. You stay here tonight and by the time everyone goes to sleep. You will take everything off, moccasins, and you go over to Red Bird’s lodge and tiptoe when you go into the entrance and you will put your hand under the buffalo robe and gather some dirt and bring it to me.”

The young man waited until everyone in the village was sound asleep; he walked over silently to the lodge where Red Bird’s lodge stood. He went into the entrance and before he knelt down he heard a voice in the lodge saying, “Hey, what are you doing there?” The young man rose up and went out quietly. He went back to Old Brown Man who was still up and waiting for him. when the young man entered the lodge, Old Brown Man said to the young mans, “What luck did you have?” The young man said, “As I entered the lodge, and before I got down on my knees to crawl over I heard a voice saying ‘What are you doing’ so I knew he was not asleep so I left the entrance and came back.”

The next day the young man was told by O.B.M. not to go to the gambling grounds but to stay in the lodge. The second night Old Brown Man said to him, “You will go again tonight and you must be careful not to make any noise and crawl into the entrance and if he is asleep, be sure and bring me dirt and other things you can pick up; bring it to my lodge.”

They waited; there were singing through the village as the custom was and the young men going through singing and when the singing stopped, they knew that all the people had gone to bed for the night. It was late in the night and the young man tiptoed on until he came to the entrance of Red Bird’s lodge. He got in the entrance without making any noise. When Red Bird spoke and was angry, the young man left the lodge and went back to Old Brown Man. They went to bed and the third night they stayed up until everyone went into the lodges and went to sleep. Again it was getting late in the night and young man left the lodge and walked over to Red Bird’s. He got into the entrance and tiptoed towards the door. Again he heard the voice of Red Bird scolding him and he went back to Old Brown Man. He said, “He is not asleep yet.”

Old Brown Man said, “You have one more chance” so the two rested. Night came again and the young man walked over to Red Bird’s lodge. It was nearly morning. Red Bird had gone to sleep so when he entered he went down on his hands and knees and crawled to the door. He put his hand between the threshhole and buffalo hide door and gathered the dust on the dirt floor and he took that and went back to Old Brown Man’s lodge. “Did you have any any luck this time?” and the young man said, “Yes, I have some dirt here.”

Old Brown Man had incense and he took coals and incense and burned them. O.B.M. said, “You may throw the dust into the incense and make a wish and the young man threw the dust in and wished that he would win back his property and much more valuable material besides. The young man left thanking the old man and Old Brown Man was well rewarded for the help he gave to the young man.
The young man went out after that; Red Bird came and as usual there were many people there to look on at the game. The Old Brown Man was sitting in the group looking on. The game began and the young man bet and Red Bird bet too, betting some of the things he won from the other man. They gambled for some time and the man won all of his stuff back that day. The next day, they went out again and they played; this time Red Bird was betting some of his own things and the young man was lucky and he won all the things that Red Bird had. Red Bird got angry and said to Old Brown Man, “You are the cause of this; you helped him, you good for nothing man and you are a bird eater; you eat all kinds of birds” and he insulted Old Brown Man. Many people were there and they heard it.

The game was over and Old Brown Man said to the boys, “I am going to teach you how to trap eagles” so he made his selection of boys and told each one to take roasted corn, raw corn, and each one make cornballs and be ready so they could start out. Everything being ready, he took the boys out. It was about a day’s travel. O.B.M. stopped and they put up a lodge for eagle trapping. Back of the lodge he fixed a place where they would place the eagles and the other valuable big birds; when he finished that, he took the boys out and made the holes. When they finished the holes, they made the frames to cover the holes with and they sticks and grass were used and they told the boys that they must get in the holes and stay there.

He made baits for them and then he brought some of the wood vine and tied the baits to the vines and picket pins of ash stuck into the ground and the vines tied to the sticks. O.B.M. had a hole of his own and his was a chunk of meat with legs on for bait. He had the vines made into a strong cord and he tied his bait securely and tied to the snakes in the holes so nothing could move it. While he stayed in his hole, all kinds of birds came and wanted to seize the bait and fly off with it; they could not get it loose. There was a large red bird which had a round white spot on the throat; he was sitting on the hill and said to the eagles and other birds, “You have tackled that bait; you could not get it loose. If I go I can take that bait and carry it off” so Red Bird flew and circled around a while and he came down and light on the bait and put his claws into the meat and was on the point of pulling it up and flying off with it. He could move so O.B.M. reached up, seized the bird by the feet and pulled him into the hole. The way they did in catching eagles or other birds was to cut the cords on the bird’s legs and they tie their feet running through the cords and they would also tie the wings. They would pull the wings back onto their back and tie them tightly.

By that time there were several other birds and they were kept back of the lodge tied to stakes. O.B.M. took Red Bird back and the bird was placed at the back of the lodge with the other birds. A strong cord was tied to his feet and to a stake. He kept the Red Bird there and he knew that this red bird was the one that blessed the good gambler whose name was also Red Bird.

Old Brown Man sent some of the boys back to the village to bring some tobacco and a clay pot. He said “When you bring the clay pot, I will kill Red Bird and cook it in the clay pot and I will eat it.” The boys went back to the village and they brought back the things that were wanted. Red Bird the gambler came along with the boys because these boys had told the people that Old Brown Man had caught a red bird and was going to eat it. That was why Red Bird the gambler came along to see Old Brown Man and to plead with him to spare his father, the Red bird’s life.

Red Bird came and he went to Old Brown Man and laid his hand on the man’s head and cried and cried; he plead with him to spare his father’s life. Old Brown Man said, “All right, I will spare his life and let him go.” Old Brown Man had a long strong cord and he tied that to
Red Bird and Brown Old Man

around the red bird’s neck and he fastened the cords that were tied around the red bird’s feet and he let the red bird loose. Old Brown Man said to the bird, “I am going to turn you loose and when you go you must not say anything” so the red bird was turned loose and he flew up and he went up high and turned around and said, “When I travel, southward, I go along the mountains and I eat nothing but big prairie dogs; these p. dogs are much larger than the ordinary ones. When I travel going north I live on nothing but male rabbits; I have never travelled along the river. This my first experience and I have been caught by Old Brown Man and he was going to eat me up.” When he said that Old Brown Man pulled the cord and jerked down the red bird and he fell to the ground and he put him back where the other birds were kept for future use. Old Brown Man said, “I shall eat him tomorrow.”

So Red Bird, the gambler, hurried back to the village and he gathered many valuable things and he brought them back and cried around and he again was pleading and asking old Brown Man to spare his father’s life. So finally, Brown Old Man consented to that and let the red bird go.

So red bird flew up and went off and never turned around to look back. Old Brown Man said, “I shall keep my ears open and if you make any remarks I will get you back and Red Bird the Gambler, after he saw that his father’s life was spared, went back to the village and he quit gambling. Nobody told him that he must stop but he stopped. The people from that day on always say “There is a limit to everything and this pipe of peace is something to be honored and respected” so whenever trouble breaks out, they are pacified by the pipe, because the pipe of peace had been brought to Old Brown Man at the time the Red Bird brought the goods to him and in that way he was pacified.