

Honeeshgish Baahane'

Honeeshgish baahane originates at the beginning of time and during the post era of the emergence at Hajínéí and about. The story and the discovery and coming of Fire is told in the myth and legends, as it relates to the Stars in Tséghádi'nídínii during the journey from the four worlds. It was not until the emergence and settlement in the fourth world that Haashch'ééłti'í decided to perform the initial Hózhóǵjii Ceremony, somewhere in the vicinity of what is now known as Dził K'ehózhónii and Tsé Digóni in around the Sanostee and Mitten Rock, New Mexico area of the Diné reservation. It was during this time that fire was put into place as a substance and a life sustaining element by Haashch'ééłti'í. Tséghádi'nídínii was used to initially start the fire. Thus, start of Fire known as Hajilgish kọ' and Haalkał kọ' and Nanise' kọ' was initiated. When the initial fire was lit and started, they noticed that the fire couldn't start properly. The Holy People wondered why it was doing that, as Haashch'ééłti'í and Coyote finally determined that it was a wrong procedure, so they figured it was due to the laying out of the firewood and its type and species. At that instance, they decide that it required a crisscrossing / dihidii'áago of the female and male species in the logs used, where initially they were trying to start the fire with one type of firewood, When that was finally figured out that it required both elements in female and male firewood, they laid out the female and male logs in a combined crisscross manner and the fire started, but when the fire started, it started crackling out of control and shooting sparks in all directions. As the Holy People watched the fire burned, they began to noticed that the hot ember and the ash was beginning to pile up and widening out. They didn't know what to do to control it and it was getting really hot, so they conferred with Haashch'ééłti'í once again. Haashch'ééłti'í decided at that time that they needed something to control the fire and the forming of the ember and ash pile, so he went and fetched a particular wood and brought it back. This was the founding and the introduction of the Honeeshgish and the life of fire ignited and started to burn as an element of life. It is from here and through the Holy People that the use of Honeeshgish was founded; they learned how to use it in controlling the fire and the fireplace. Honeeshgish is recognized and identified as "Honik'ehgish" in Beauty Way terminology; whereas, in Naayéé'jii Way of Ceremonial use it is termed as "Honeeshbaah Náhookosi". Furthermore, Fire as an element of life serves us in many ways and considered very sacred because of its origin and empowerment, a reason why grandparents' teachings stress the importance in respecting fire as a household element; that you always acknowledge the fire on a daily basis, in your prayer, upon cooking and that you don't play and fool around with fire, because fire is life, it serves you as an element in life, yet it can also burn you if you misuse and abuse it.