

## THE YUMAN HERITAGE

# Sipa and Komat - Cucapá myth

Sipa and Komat, the creator gods, were under water and in the ground, living the way a child lives in its mother. All the earth was covered with water. These two creators were twins.

The twins began talking about coming out. There was no ground, so they had the ants dig out hills of earth to make the ocean go down and to supply the land. Then Sipá and Komat started making humans. They made all kinds and did not agree on what they should look like. Sipá invented a bow and arrow. When he shot it in the air, the falling arrow hit Komat, so Komat decreed that bows and arrows should only be used for hunting.

Everything was dark, so Sipá attempted to make a sun. He made a very small one, and the light was no better than the moon. Komat did not like it so he started making a sun by easy stages. When he had finished, he threw the sun into the east and after that it traveled east to west so that the people could know when to get up, when to work, and when to go to sleep. Sipá was going to throw his sun away, but Komat said: "No, let it stay, it will be the moon." The people can then tell the seasons, the months, and the days by the moon.

Sipá then started giving other things to the Cucapá tribe, he gave them bows and arrows, two kinds of fishing nets, pottery jars, clothes, and all the things they used in the old days. When all this was finished, Sipá took the people to the sacred mountain and built a big house. Everybody went into this house and began playing games, singing, and having a good time. Sipá stretched out at the door to watch them.



*H. Kelly, William (1977). Cocopa Ethnography.  
Tucson, Arizona: The University of Arizona Press*