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**THE THUNDER BIRD
TOOTOOCH LEGENDS**

W. L. WEBBER

THE THUNDER BIRD TOOTOOCH LEGENDS

FOLK TALES OF THE INDIAN TRIBES OF THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS

BY
W. L. WEBBER

1936

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The Thunder Bird Totem Pole

Should the first-born child be a son, the value of the gifts would be increased many times. This would give the wife the privilege of being independent, and of returning to her former home if she desired, or if the Chief requested. She was also required to send her children to live with their grandparents that they might learn their customs. Her eldest son would finally inherit the chiefship of her brother.

Tsona's eldest son dwelt in the home of his grandparents until he had attained manhood. He then began to build his own lodge and erect a totem pole as a crest, one that could be handed down to future generations in remembrance that it was Tsona who was the first man in the tribe to symbolize the Thunder Bird and bring peace and good will among all people. Accordingly he placed the Thunder Bird on the top, while beneath it was the Grizzly Bear holding the captive slave.

When the lodge was completed, a big feast was held. Presents were given to all the invited guests, who extended to him more favors of importance.

Two totem poles, symbolic of this ceremony are now erected in Stanley Park, close to the Lumberman's Arch. They may be seen from passing ships that ply the ocean's lanes. Strangers from many lands stand before this shrine of a fading glory gazing at these wooden carvings, these customs of a changing race.

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