

## II: THE SHADOW RIPENS

*THE SCENE: Night. The remains of an ancient adobe dwelling on the side of a hill. Downstage center, a can of sterno burns in an old ceramic pot. Upstage, right, SPIDER WOMAN sits on a throne made of tree stumps and rocks. Her attitude is one of majestic repose. Behind her, extending into the distance, are the dimly lit outlines of many skulls, bones, and black and white banners, like Tibetan prayer flags, fluttering in the wind—this is “The Land of the Dead.” Down right of SPIDER WOMAN stands the CLOWN in a small clearing of her own. Her posture is frozen, as though overwhelmed by a new, fearful responsibility. To the right of the Clown, attached by a line to SPIDER WOMAN’s throne, is another rope web in the trees and brush.*

*Once the Audience is settled, there is a long wait as CLOWN slowly rotates her eyes to look at them. Shocked, she slowly rotates her body to alignment with her eyes. She is paralyzed there, bent over with indecision— which way to run? Suddenly, she breaks across to downstage left and is stopped there. Nowhere to run. She turns to face the Audience. Mute, CLOWN talks only with her hands (in Standard American Sign Language), and SPIDER WOMAN translates most of what she says.*

SPIDER WOMAN: So. What’s your story, kid?

CLOWN: *(Signing)* I can’t talk!

SPIDER WOMAN: I know you can’t talk. But can you listen?

CLOWN: *(Signing)* Yes! I got good ears!

SPIDER WOMAN: You got good ears, eh? *(Indicating CLOWN’s progress)* What happened? *(CLOWN signs.)* You felt that when you moved your eyes, the air was disturbed? *(CLOWN nods vigorously.)* I see.

CLOWN: *(Signing)* I came into this life a human being, with parents!

SPIDER WOMAN: You came into this life a human being, with parents. Good for you.

CLOWN: *(Signing)* It’s not good and it’s not bad!

SPIDER WOMAN: Oh, it’s not good and it’s not bad.

CLOWN: (*Signing*) I got-got scared! I didn't know if I could do it! My parents expected me to do it!

SPIDER WOMAN: You got scared. You didn't know if you could do it. You're parents expected you to do it. (*Pause*) Do what?

CLOWN: (*Signing*) Be a human being!

SPIDER WOMAN: Be a human being. Well, that's a hard thing. Even Mr. Coyote might have to do that, when the time comes.

CLOWN: (*Making a face*) Coyote!

SPIDER WOMAN: Coyote.

CLOWN: (*Signing*) They expected me to get-get married! And have children! And make money!

SPIDER WOMAN: They expected you to get married, and have children, and make money! (*Pause*) And?

CLOWN: (*Signing*) I hit the road. I ate many powerful substances and took-took a lot of abuse from people. Now I can't talk no more.

SPIDER WOMAN: You hit the road. You took many powerful substances and took a lot of abuse from people, and now you can't talk... Someday you'll talk.

CLOWN: (*Signing*) I can't talk.

SPIDER WOMAN: You'll talk.

CLOWN: (*Signing*) I love Trickster. Don't tell him.

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Laughing*) You love Trickster! I won't tell him. What about Coyote?

CLOWN: (*Signing*) He's funny-weird!

SPIDER WOMAN: You're a little strange yourself.

CLOWN: (*Signing*) I am!

SPIDER WOMAN: You are what?

CLOWN: (*Signing*) Strange. Clown-strange. You teach me! You teach me to be divine! Clown-divine!

SPIDER WOMAN: Clown-divine... All right. I'll teach you.

CLOWN: (*Signing*) I'll work. You teach me!

SPIDER WOMAN: I'll teach you. (*CLOWN races happily back to her original spot.*) But don't interfere. One thing you have to learn is your place. Don't do anything unless you get a signal from me!

CLOWN: (*Signing*) Okay! But what do I do first?

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Reaching behind her for a Tibetan bell.*) First you get ready to hit this bell. When I say "LEFT HAND", you hit the bell.

CLOWN: (*Shows "Left Hand."*)

SPIDER WOMAN: Left hand. Right. (*CLOWN shows "Right Hand."*) Left hand! (*CLOWN switches hands. SPIDER WOMAN nods approval.*) Now you ought to know a little bit about how the world got made. (*Prepares to take the SPIDER WOMAN Posture, centerstage.*)

CLOWN: (*Signing*) What do I do after I hit the bell?

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Annoyed*) I don't know what happens after you hit the bell. We'll have to play it by ear.

CLOWN: (*Shows "Ear."*)

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Taking the Posture*) First, they say, there was only the Creator, Taiowa. So Taiowa created Sotuknang, in order to make things manifest, and to help carry out the harmonious plan of Creation. (*Proudly*) Sotuknang went to the universe, which was to be the First World, and out of it — he created ME, Spider Woman. When I awoke to life and received my name, I asked, "Why am I here?" "Look about you," said Sotuknang, "Here is this earth we have created, but there is no life on it. We see no joyful movement, we hear no joyful sound. What is life without sound and movement?" So I took some earth. (*She scoops up a handful. Spits into it.*)

And I molded the earth into two beings, twins. And one was Sound and one was Movement. Naturally, the two little critters sat right up and asked, "Who are we? And why are we here?" (*To her right hand*) You are here to help keep this world in order! (*To her left hand*) And you are here to send out sound! (*Indicates her left hand to CLOWN*) What are you waiting for? Hit the bell!

CLOWN: (*Signing*) You didn't say, "left hand"!

SPIDER WOMAN: I showed left hand! (*Demonstrates*) LEFTHAND! (*CLOWN hits the bell. COYOTE, wearing bells on his ankles, is seen and heard way off running towards us.*) And all the vibratory centers along the earth's axis from pole to pole resounded to the call! The whole earth trembled! The universe quivered in tune! Thus the whole world was made an instrument of sound, resounding praise to the Creator of all! (*She looks off.*) Here comes Coyote, running! (*She makes the posture and gesture indicating: "Fooling around with the gravity."*) Ha! Coyote is known as Imitator, because he only does what other people do! (*Scoffing, she returns to her throne. COYOTE arrives and stops short, declaring:*)

COYOTE: Coyote can run a thousand miles and never get tired! He is never even out of breath! Coyote can fly over the land in leaps and bounds! (*He tries to catch his breath.*) Wait a minute! This is a funny place! Someone has been fooling around with the gravity here! I don't like it! (*He breathes fast, resisting the pull of gravity. SPIDER WOMAN breathes with him.*) This place is like under water! (*He shouts, defiantly*) Coyote is great! He has attained life by his own powers! (*SPIDER WOMAN scoffs.*) I know what I'll do! I'll go fishing! (*Winking at the Audience, but still struggling with the pull of gravity, he points to a spot and seems to be fishing there.*) I'm an excellent fisherman! Actually, I do everything well — it's a gift from Taiowa! Coyote always catches something!

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Breathing intensely*) The shadow is ripening! The shadow ripens!

(*An old Buffalo head-bone appears out of the ground behind COYOTE.*)

COYOTE: I know you're down there, hiding under a rock! You'll make a fine dinner for Coyote!

SPIDER WOMAN: The shadow is ripening! (*TRICKSTER'S head appears under the buffalo head-bone— he has aged into an old man.*) The shadow ripens! (*TRICKSTER squirms partly out of the ground. COYOTE spins about to face it.*)

TRICKSTER: Coyote! Help me out of here!

COYOTE: Hoho! I knew you were coming up over there! I was only pretending over here!

TRICKSTER: Hey, what is this? What's going on here? I think the gravity is bad in this place! I'm having a very hard time of it! Even my bones are too heavy!

COYOTE: Well, what are you doing down there? Nobody told you to go down there.

TRICKSTER: I was sent on a very important mission by Spider Woman! Only a great warrior could accomplish such a mission! Do you think I was having fun down there? Look, it has turned my hair white! It was a very hard job!

COYOTE: (*As if under water*) Tell me about it!

TRICKSTER: Coyote, I don't like the sound of things here. The sound has weight. (*Pause*) Things are very thick here.

COYOTE: No doubt you have heard of me, Old Man. I am Coyote!

TRICKSTER: Who? (*Subsides into a trance*)

SPIDER WOMAN: Trickster!

TRICKSTER: (*Aroused*) There is a tribe! They live on a polar ice cap. Things were very clean there for a long time. And then something happened. It got all fucked up. A plague hit that tribe. There were accidents and tragedies and people were sad and they couldn't understand it. They called Spider Woman, and she called me! She knew I was the very man for the job!

COYOTE: Well, get to the main part. We don't have all night.

TRICKSTER: I had to sit on top of a hill by myself. I had to sing in harmony from that hill. Hey, it's not far from this place here.

COYOTE: I know that hill! I leave my scent there! That's one of MY places!

TRICKSTER: Well, I got to join that tribe on the polar ice cap! I knew I had to swim down through the bedrock. Heh, heh, I've been that way before.

COYOTE: You don't look well, Old Man. Have a Lucky Strike, it'll bring you luck. (*TRICKSTER breaks the cigarette and throws it at him.*) And if you need anything else, let me know.

SPIDER WOMAN: Trickster!

COYOTE: I'll try to do something for you — so long as it doesn't cost me any money.

TRICKSTER: An igloo was built! Seal skins covered the walls and the floors. I sat on a high stage. We all got our centers vibrating. We spoke in a language never heard before, and I began!

COYOTE: Let me talk now! I don't know about you, but I have had a great time myself! I have gone running! I ran all around this earth! I saw the holy mountain at the head-bone of the earth! It was next to a magical blue lake. You could look into that lake and see wonderful things — things of the future, things of the past, things of the upper world.

(*SPIDER WOMAN intensifies the gravity.*)

TRICKSTER: I think they gave me drugs, those strange people! I thought I was going to die! I was afraid to die! The gravity had changed! The center had changed! I felt fever! I felt trembling! I was falling! My blood stream was poisoned! The blood was pumping! I heard overwhelming sounds, like earthquake, like thunder!

COYOTE: I saw people who were beasts of burden. I saw them from my high place, where I sing my song. All around me they were building, building. They were making it tough for Coyote and

themselves. I could not sing there. I wanted to keep on running. I wanted to run high up into the mountains, high above the snow line... I saw children sitting on railroad tracks, in the snow, very sad... they were like sad little warriors in the snow...

*(SPIDER WOMAN takes off the gravity a little.)*

TRICKSTER: And then I heard the voice of Earth Mother. I knew that I would live. "Balance and breathing," she said, "balance and breathing, and you'll live for sure, Trickster." So I kept on swimming through the bedrock. Then I remembered Old Spider Woman. "Trickster," she said, "when you get to the place of Earth Mother, if there are no children playing, then don't go in there. That means she will be in a very bad mood, and you will never come back. But if there are children playing, then go on in, it's all right. Then you will come back, Trickster, back through the bedrock. And it will be hard but don't give up. You will hear a chant, and the chant is, 'The shadow is ripening, the shadow ripens.' This will help you. So don't be afraid."

COYOTE: It was that Old Spider Woman who fooled around with the gravity! She's made a trap for Coyote! *(Stalks a moment, then, to TRICKSTER)* By the way, don't give anyone my address or phone number. *(Stalks, pauses)* And don't try and take advantage of my great reputation as a warrior by mentioning my name around. *(Stalks)* That old bitch is around here someplace! If I catch her, I will have intercourse with her! I haven't had intercourse in a long time! I've been too busy running!

*(Fighting the weight of gravity, and oblivious to everything else, COYOTE continues to search for SPIDER WOMAN, slowly getting himself entangled in her web stage right.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: Trickster, I put the gravity on to help you remember. Have you forgotten?

TRICKSTER: Yes... No! I was sent to Earth Mother to ask a question!

SPIDER WOMAN: What was the question?

TRICKSTER: When I got to the place of Earth Mother, after swimming very hard and overcoming every obstacle, there were no children



playing. I got so scared that I ran away and hid in a cave. I don't know how long I sat in that cave. There was no Time in that cave. Then I heard the sounds of children playing and singing, so I came out. But meanwhile, I had forgotten the question. So I said, "Earth Mother, where have all the buffalo gone?"

SPIDER WOMAN: And what did she answer?

TRICKSTER: She said that they were in the Land of the Dead.

SPIDER WOMAN: And when will they return, so that the people can live?

TRICKSTER: In the next world. *(Pause)*

SPIDER WOMAN: In the next world... *(For CLOWN and the Audience)*  
In the First World, the people understood themselves. In his heart man felt the good of life, its sincere purpose. He was of one heart. The First People knew no sickness. But there were those who permitted evil feelings to enter. They were said to be of two hearts. Not until Evil entered the world did persons get sick in the body or the mind... The First World was destroyed by fire...

COYOTE: *(Breaking out of the "web")* Trickster, come out of there and help me find that Old Spider Woman! I want to have intercourse with her!

TRICKSTER: Coyote, come and pull me out of here and then I'll help you! Earth Mother has scraped away my youth! It is too difficult for me!

COYOTE: No! It's a trick! You'll drag me down into the world of the Ant People!

SPIDER WOMAN: *(Continuing)* In the Second World, the people built homes and villages and trails. They made things with their hands and stored food like the Ant People. They could see and talk to each other from the center on top of the head, because this door was still open. Everything they needed was in this Second World, but they began to want more. That was when the trouble started. They forgot to sing joyful praises to the Creator and began singing praises to their goods. This world was turned upside down. It stopped rotating and turned to ice.

COYOTE: I had to make a great effort in those days! I had to get the world turning again! I had to turn it right side up and get it rotating again in its proper place!

SPIDER WOMAN AND TRICKSTER: Coyote had nothing to do with it!

COYOTE: And then I brought a message from Taiowa: First, respect me and one another. And second, sing in harmony from the tops of the hills. When I do not hear you singing from the tops of the hills, I will know you have gone back to evil again. *(To TRICKSTER)* So you can come out of that Ant hill now! *(TRICKSTER throws dirt at him.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: Trickster!

TRICKSTER: In the Third World they advanced rapidly and built big cities!, countries!, a whole civilization! They got preoccupied! Some of them had the power to fly through the air on a shield made of hide!

COYOTE: Coyote can do that to this day! Only he don't need no stinking shield!

TRICKSTER: They could fly around and attack one another. So war and corruption came to this world too. That's why the world has to be destroyed once in a while, so we could have a fresh start. This particular world was destroyed by water.

SPIDER WOMAN: I had to save the people who were not yet cynical, sly, envious, lying sonsabitches! It was ME who saved them! The world was flooded! But to those who were not yet shifty-eyed, smart-assed, negative creeps, I said, "You must continue traveling on. Your inner wisdom will guide you. The door at the top of your head is still open, and your spirits will guide you."

SPIDER WOMAN AND TRICKSTER: *(As TRICKSTER, struggling against old age and the pull of gravity, tries to rise out of the hole.)* The name of this Fourth World is World Complete. It is not all beautiful and easy like the previous ones. It has height and depth, heat and cold, beauty and barrenness. It has everything for you to choose from, but it's up to you to carry out the plan of creation. And if you

don't want to, I'll start all over again. You will have help from the proper deities, from your good spirits. Just keep your doors open and remember what I have told you.

COYOTE: (*Pounding his head.*) I knew all that already! (*TRICKSTER falls back into the hole.*) I knew all that already! I knew all that already! (*Pause*) I know what I'll do, I'll ask my little sister where the Spider Lady is. (*Aside to TRICKSTER*) I'm gonna fuck the old broad's brain's out. (*He takes the plant posture*) Little sister...?

(*SPIDER WOMAN steps into the space and challenges COYOTE*)

SPIDER WOMAN: Here I am, Coyote!

COYOTE: Ha! (*He bends over, pointing his anus at her, ready to fire. She kicks him. COYOTE falls over, as if dead. SPIDER WOMAN steps center stage.*)

SPIDERWOMAN: That sky is too far up there. A person can't see the stars. (*She does the "bringing the sky down" movement, causing the strings of Christmas lights in the trees to come on. COYOTE wakes up and starts hitting and berating his anus.*)

COYOTE: You stupid anus! You are not my brother! You are a useless weapon! I don't need you anymore! Etc. (*He collapses from the effort, looks up and notices the "stars."*) I did that! That's MY work!

TRICKSTER: Spider Grandmother, Coyote said that if you would fix the gravity around here, he would have intercourse with you.

COYOTE: I never said that.

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Tempted*) Well... I don't know... it takes a lot of power. Earth Mother is not feeling well, her axis is under a lot of strain. And besides, the moon is wobbling... but if Coyote will have intercourse with me, I might be able to fix it for a while. (*She makes the "taking off the gravity" movement. Trickster—very old—scrambles out of the ground as fast as he can. SPIDER WOMAN lies down expectantly.*)

COYOTE: Wait a minute. I'm not ready.

SPIDER WOMAN: Why not? Let's go!

COYOTE: No, you can't rush these things. These are delicate matters. I have to talk it over with my member. (*SPIDER WOMAN sighs impatiently, while COYOTE addresses his penis. TRICKSTER speaks for COYOTE'S member.*) Little brother?

TRICKSTER: Yes?

COYOTE: Are you in the mood for intercourse?

TRICKSTER: No.

COYOTE: I think you better get ready. The Spider Lady is waiting. I think you are too soft now.

TRICKSTER: I'm not in the mood.

COYOTE: I think you should get in the mood pretty quick, or she'll put the gravity back on.

TRICKSTER: I don't care. I'm not in the mood. I think she has sharp stones in there. You better send someone in there with hammer and chisel first.

COYOTE: I don't like the way you're acting. You're going to get me in a lot of trouble.

TRICKSTER: You can't tell me what to do. I am an independent person. I'm not a two-hearts, like some people. If I'm not in the mood, I'm not in the mood.

COYOTE: I'm bigger than you, so you act the way I tell you to, or...

TRICKSTER: Or what?

COYOTE: I'll cut you off and feed you to the birds.

TRICKSTER: Go ahead. But I ain't goin' in there. If I go in there, I'll never get out again.

COYOTE: (*To SPIDER WOMAN*) He won't do it. (*SPIDER WOMAN gets to her feet.*)

SPIDER WOMAN: (*Laughing*) I've never been so insulted in all my life!

TRICKSTER: (*With a sigh*) Women.

COYOTE: There's nothing I can do. Sometimes he wants to, and sometimes he doesn't.

SPIDER WOMAN: Too bad. (*She puts the gravity back on*) Now I've no desire anyway. For a minute there I forgot what a dope you are.

COYOTE: If you take the gravity off, I'll give you a drink of wine.

SPIDER WOMAN: What's it made of?

COYOTE: Many dead little children. They're fermented now. I've been running and I forgot them.

SPIDER WOMAN: You are an idiot, Coyote. (*She returns to her throne.*)

COYOTE: Actually, it's made of pure Rocky Mountain Spring Water.

TRICKSTER: I'll have some, I've been working my ass off!

COYOTE: Help yourself. (*They drink.*) Uh, oh.

TRICKSTER: This is good. What's the trouble now?

COYOTE: I forgot that I beat up my anus and threw it away.

TRICKSTER: Boy, that was stupid.

COYOTE: How about letting me have YOUR plumbing apparatus?

TRICKSTER: What'll you give me for it?

COYOTE: What do you want?

TRICKSTER: I want to be young and strong and feel the urge for intercourse.

COYOTE: Coyote can do that, but the gravity is in the way.

TRICKSTER: Let's fight the gravity and then I'll decide.

COYOTE: I can't fight without my little brother, the anus, my little brother, the large intestine.

TRICKSTER: Okay. I don't need my large intestine. I'm an old man. I'll loan it to you while we fight the gravity.

COYOTE: It's a deal. *(They do the sound and movement indicating "exchange of the large intestine.")* Good.

TRICKSTER: Now let's prepare to fight the gravity.

COYOTE: First we have to ask the gods for help.

TRICKSTER: Let's go, then!

*(They start to move, but SPIDER WOMAN has intensified the gravity. They can hardly walk.)*

TRICKSTER: I think this is too much work now. We might as well sit down. It'll save a lot of energy.

COYOTE: Right. *(They settle themselves around the can of sterno.)*

TRICKSTER: That woman is being mean.

COYOTE: I think some women are good for some things, some women are good for other things, and some women are good for nothing... And some women...

*(CLOWN sneaks downstage and crouches so that she can overhear COYOTE and TRICKSTER.)*

TRICKSTER: I'm a traveling man myself, I haven't had too much time for women.

COYOTE: Let me enlighten you. I remember, for instance, Emily, from Berkeley. She always wore work shirts and she had the most beautiful breasts I have seen to this day. Heh, heh, her boyfriend was a very bad sport. He slashed my tires. Emily... she gave great head. *(Pause)* Margo of Ann Arbor was an interesting person. She appeared at my side while I was practicing running. She stayed with me for two days. She never spoke, but she could have

intercourse while running. (*TRICKSTER is amazed.*) Then she looked away for a moment — and there was her ride to the West Coast, waiting.

TRICKSTER: While running?

COYOTE: (*Nodding sagely*) While running. You would have loved Crazy Chrome Faced Woman. She lived in a hut and collected hubcaps. We became good friends. She had the most extensive collection of hubcaps in North America. She was as fearless as Coyote. She could grab a hubcap off a moving car. And Cho Min, who sincerely liked men. In fact, she trusted them, especially Coyote. And Connie of Chimayo, who danced so fast that the raindrops never touched her. But most of all, I remember... (*Sobbing*) I remember She Who Could Not Be Named, who was Coyote's one True Wife. She was there when I left, and there when I came back. No big hellos, no big goodbyes. No smiles, no sighs. Not too much enthusiasm. Light-hearted. Encouraging. And she boiled my buffalo meat just right, and baked wonderfully thin tortillas... This woman was impeccable. From this woman, Coyote learned the meaning of happiness... (*Weeps*)

TRICKSTER: Why are you so sad, Coyote?

COYOTE: This woman, my wife, is in the Land of the Dead now. (*Pause. COYOTE is inconsolable, arousing SPIDER WOMAN's sympathy.*)

SPIDER WOMAN: Are you crying for your lost woman, Coyote?

COYOTE: Yes. I long for her. There is a great pain in my heart.

SPIDER WOMAN: Coyote, your pain is one-hearted. I have taken pity on you. (*TRICKSTER stands and becomes "Spirit of the Dead."*)

TRICKSTER AND SPIDER WOMAN: I can take you to the place where your wife has gone, but you must do exactly as I say. Don't make any foolish mistakes.

COYOTE: Well, what do you expect? Of course, I will do whatever you say!

TRICKSTER: Well, then let's go. (*They start for "The Land of the Dead."*)

COYOTE: (*To TRICKSTER*) I can't see you. You are like a shadow on a dark day.

TRICKSTER: Look at all those horses! It must be a roundup!

COYOTE: (*Pretending*) Oh, yes! Look at all the horses! (*They continue on.*) Must be a roundup!

TRICKSTER: We're almost there. Your wife is in a long lodge here. Wait here and I'll find out exactly. (*He walks around the space, returns to COYOTE.*) Okay, I know where your wife is. (*They mime entering the lodge.*) Sit down here by your wife. (*SPIDER WOMAN, enshrouded, has become COYOTE's wife.*)

COYOTE: I can't see her. She is like a shadow on a dark day.

TRICKSTER: She has prepared our food. Let's eat. (*They mime eating.*) Now, you stay here. I have to go around and say hello to some people. (*He goes about saying hello to members the Audience-- by looking at them directly-- and then returns to COYOTE.*)

COYOTE: Spirit of the Dead, I still can't see my wife! What should I do?

TRICKSTER: Listen, and I will advise you. You must travel five mountains to the West. Your wife will be with you. Slowly, the shadow will ripen. But do not yield to some notion you may have to do something foolish. Do not touch her. When you have crossed the fifth mountain, you can do what you want.

COYOTE: That's the way it'll be then!

(*COYOTE rises. His "wife" rises with him and follows. They go back through "The Land of the Dead."*)

COYOTE: Look at all those horses! It must be a roundup! (*He looks about for a reply. Silence. He still can't see her. They come back into the space.*)

TRICKSTER: I hope he does everything right, and takes his wife back



from the other world. This is the fourth mountain. *(Pause)* The shadow is ripening... the shadow ripens...

*(COYOTE and SPIDER WOMAN approach. He begins to see her. For a moment he stands transfixed.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: Coyote, do not touch me!

*(But COYOTE can't help himself and grabs for her. SPIDER WOMAN, furious, throws off her shroud.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: Coyote! You Idiot! You were told not to do anything foolish! We could have established the practice of returning from the Land of the Dead! Now it will never be so! You have ruined it! *(She returns to her throne.)*

COYOTE: No! No! Wait! *(Crazed with grief, he races back through "the Land of the Dead.")* Look at all those horses! It must be a roundup! *(He rushes back into the space. He sits down across from TRICKSTER and mimes eating. He becomes very sad.)*

TRICKSTER: Coyote listened for the voices. He looked all around, but nothing happened. Coyote sat there in the middle of the prairie. He sat there all night, but the lodge did not appear again. In the morning, he heard meadowlarks...

SPIDERWOMAN: *(Gently)* Coyote/Trickster, you have done a terrible thing. But your doors are still open. I have compassion for you. You must turn to your good deities with one-heartedness. If you can do this, I will take off the gravity.

*(Separately and then together, COYOTE and TRICKSTER approach the deities one-heartedly. SPIDER WOMAN takes off the gravity.)*

TRICKSTER: *(Quickly)* Coyote, I'm tired of all this hard work. I've decided to get a job as a Buffalo for a while. What are you going to do?

COYOTE: I'm going to the Upper World. I think the stars are cruel. I'm going up there to fix them.

TRICKSTER: Well, goodbye.

COYOTE: Good luck, Trickster.

*(They shake hands. TRICKSTER runs off. COYOTE looks at the sky, then races up the hill. SPIDER WOMAN steps into the space.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: This is the Fourth World... *(Sigh)* ...the World Complete... but Earth Mother has said that things are getting too hard for her... I'm going to move the sky back up. It's too close now.

*(She makes the "Moving the Sky" gesture. The lights go out.)*

END