

29. *Grizzly and His Brothers-in-Law*

Grizzly Bear has three brothers-in-law; the two elder hate him, the youngest likes him  
 Grizzly's elder brothers-in-law plan to kill him  
 Grizzly's youngest brother-in-law warns him and saves him  
 All are transformed into the Great Bear constellation

Grizzly Bear lived with his wife and three brothers-in-law. The youngest of the brothers-in-law liked Grizzly, the others hated him. They thought it was mean the way he bit people and became angry so easily. So the two brothers-in-law said, "Let's kill him. What's he after anyway? Probably something to eat."

They tracked him. Then they saw him standing. They took up their places, first the oldest, then the second and the youngest, last. The oldest gave orders, "All get ready so if one shoots all will shoot together."

They went on, the two oldest close together ahead, but the youngest lagged behind at a distance because he liked Grizzly. When they came close the first two got ready to shoot at him. The youngest watched and just as the string was about to twang he said, "My brother-in-law! You are going to be shot."

Grizzly turned around and just as he was warned he made the noise of transformation.

They all went to the sky as stars and now we see them up there.

(The four stars which form the cup of the Great Dipper are Grizzly's feet. The northern one moved and made the track formed by it and the star immediately above it. The three stars of the handle are the brothers-in-law, the one nearest the cup is the one who liked Grizzly best.)

Transformation into stars may be found also in the mythology of the *Thompson*. In a footnote to the Thompson myth Teit makes the statement: All the Shuswap and Thompson tell stories of the transformation of hunters or men and a bear into the constellation the Great Bear (MAFLS 11:16).

The Coeur d'Alene Grizzly Bear-Brother-in-law introduction to the transformation has no parallel in the Thompson myth, which is rather the typical concluding episode of a Transformer cycle—the Transformers, having completed their work, are transformed into something permanent (usually in the Northwest into a rock; cp. tale 8):

Owa'qtqwet and his three brothers (three Black Bear hunters) finish their transforming tasks and, accompanied by their dog, hunt a bear in the sky (the eldest brother hangs back afraid); the entire group is transformed by the youngest brother into the Grizzly Bear constellation (MAM 12:224; ARBAE 31:615).

In *Chinook* mythology three brothers try to trick their grandmother; she transforms them into stars; their dogs and the moose they were tracking may be seen with them in the sky (MAM 4:31).

30. *Muskkrat Trespasses*

Muskkrat disobeys his grandmother by going in a forbidden direction  
 Otter clubs Muskkrat  
 Muskkrat's grandmother treats him  
 Muskkrat kills Otter's sister, Mink  
 Otter comes for revenge  
 Muskkrat feigns sickness and Otter leaves believing him to be bedridden  
 Muskkrat's grandmother sings song of triumph  
 Otter pursues Muskkrat and his grandmother  
 Muskkrat and his grandmother escape

Muskkrat and his grandmother lived together. One day the grandmother saw Muskkrat was trespassing when he went for food. The next morning she said to him, "When you eat grass go this way (pointing). Don't go over the way you have been eating." Every morning she warned him this way. One day he thought, "I wonder why she always keeps at me this way. I wonder what is over the other way."

He went the forbidden way and found much grass. "The grass is so good here, I guess that is why she forbade me going this way." Soon he met an Otter. "I drive people out of here." "It isn't your land." "It isn't yours either." They argued and Otter clubbed Muskkrat until his head was all flat. Then he threw him into a canoe.

When Muskkrat's grandmother came back he was gone. She thought, "He must have been trespassing again." Then she heard him coming, *änä' änä' änä'*. She saw a canoe coming. He was lying down in it and paddling. He came in. His head was so swollen that his eyes and ears could hardly be seen. His cheeks were all puffed up. His grandmother said, "I told you not to go that way. It's your own fault you got beaten up so badly."

He lay down and she sprinkled his head. A few days later he was well and said to his grandmother, "Get my canoe ready. I am going to kill Otter." "No, you might get killed. Then I would be all alone."

She coaxed him in vain. He got into his canoe and paddled to Otter's house. There were four of them. He saw their sister who was Mink making a hole near the water to make herself a bathing place. When she had the hole made just big enough to sit in she put hot stones in the water. She had leaned her baby in its babyboard up against a tree. Muskkrat sneaked up and shot Otter's sister just as she was going to get into her bath. She fell headfirst into the water and died. Then Muskkrat rowed