

finally came out onto a prairie. Here a woman was digging camas. The enemy touched her with an arrow. She turned to defend herself with her digging stick. The enemy hit her over the head and she died. Then they went to the house of the woman they had captured. The few Coeur d'Alene there shot at the enemy. One of them ran to get his wife. They shot him so he fell and broke his leg.

Another Coeur d'Alene man growled and attacked like a grizzly bear so that the enemy turned and ran back to their own country taking the woman with them. As they were riding the cinch of the horse on which she and her captor were riding came loose. The enemy got down to tighten the cinch. The woman thought, "I will run." She got down and ran. Not far distant was a fallen balsam fir whose leaves had not yet dropped off. As she hid there she was touched by a squirrel who said to her, "Go under the log and stay until he is gone. Then you can go back home again."

She hid there. She heard horse's hooves coming toward her, passing by very near her, then going on. Then the sound died away. Until dark she lay there. Then she came out and went home. When the people saw her they were very glad. Her hair had been smeared with red paint. Someone said to her, "Who combed you like that?" She said, "The enemy." They told her, "Your husband had his leg broken." She was sorry, but she was glad she had escaped and that her husband had been saved even though he had a broken leg.

45. *The Coeur d'Alene Fight the Kutenai*

Two Coeur d'Alene meet two Kutenai
Coeur d'Alene request shirt exchange
As Kutenai draws off shirt, Coeur d'Alene stabs him
Coeur d'Alene kill Kutenai

Two Coeur d'Alene brothers climbed a mountain. As they came over the top they saw two Kutenai coming up the other side. The Coeur d'Alene said, "Let's kill them!" The younger said, "All right!"

As they came up to the Kutenai the Coeur d'Alene said, "Let's exchange our shirts." The Kutenai objected because they said they would not look like their kind but the Coeur d'Alene prevailed. "You Kutenai, take yours off first."

The Coeur d'Alene had hold of the handle of his knife. As the Kutenai pulled his shirt over his head the Coeur d'Alene stabbed him. He growled and said to his younger brother, "Hurry! Run after him." The other straightened up and threw off his shirt. They fought. The Kutenai

looked at his younger brother. Already he had been overcome. The Coeur d'Alene killed both of the Kutenai.

46. *Boy Takes Food*

Boy takes meat from main supply
Parents become angry; boy leaves
Goes with man to Kalispelm country
Kalispelm boy, told not to eat bear guts, runs away from home
Coeur d'Alene pair kill boy's parents, helpless because they are surfeited with bear grease

A Coeur d'Alene family consisting of father, mother and a boy about fifteen went to visit another tribe. The boy became surfeited with serviceberries and was hungry for meat. Unknown to his mother he cut a slice of meat from where it hung and ate it. His mother and father were angry and scolded him. Then the boy became angry and left. He went downstream. He came to a house where a man was thrumming the string of a bow one end of which he held in his mouth. "*Opam pam,*" it said, as a sign the man was going on a long trip.

The boy said to the owner of the dwelling, "I'm going with you." "No, your father might become angry." "No, I am the one who is angry. My parents think more of their food than of me."

The boy went with the man toward Wallace, along the river to the Kalispelm country. They had the canoe all ready. When it was still a little light just before sunset they came where the current was swift. They were seen by an enemy boy of about the same age who reported, "My! I think I saw a person. No, it is a goose. No, it's a person."

Then it was dark. The Kalispelm family, which consisted of parents and the young boy, had a bear which they had just killed. They were surfeited with bear grease. The boy was told, "Don't eat the bear guts."¹ So he ran far away from the house to sleep. The Coeur d'Alene canoe overtook the parents of the Kalispelm boy as they slept hard because of their heavy meal and killed them.

The end.

Children, taking food without permission, reprimanded by their parents and leaving home is a common theme found among the *Nass*, *Kwakiutl*, *Yookilta*, *Nootka*, *Tsimshian*, *Bella Coola* and *Tlingit*. Each of these myths reveals a more closely knit form than the Coeur d'Alene story and the conclusions arrived at are accordingly more definite and

¹ Bear guts are cleaned and dried. Little pieces are eaten to cure indigestion.