

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. "*O pam 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.

concise. In most cases the children return home with new supernatural power.

A man brings home food from a feast; his eldest son eats it; the father scolds the boy; the boy stays in bed three days; he leaves and gets to salmon country where he marries the chief's daughter (*Nass* ARBAE 31:886).

A hungry boy (two brothers) takes some of his father's salmon roe; his father beats him; a stranger urges him to eat all the salmon; he is beaten again; he prays on the beach and (helped by Moon Man) obtains much herring for his father (who becomes a wealthy chief) (*Kwakwaka'wakw* MAM 14:375; *Yookilla* IS 131; *Nootka* IS 115).

A boy eats some of the eggs he was sent to gather; his father strikes him; he leaves; he learns to fly and obtains a dance (*Kwakwaka'wakw* IS 162).

Children eat up their mothers' mussels; the children are beaten; they leave and become a new tribe (*Nootka* IS 119).

A prince gives his hungry slave boy a piece of dried salmon which his mother is saving; the prince is scolded by his mother; he leaves and is taken to Salmon country (*Tsimshian* ARBAE 31:193).

A woman scolds her husband for giving her step-son too much to eat; the boy leaves; he returns after two years with the power to obtain all sorts of fish (*Bella Coola* IS 266).

A father invites strangers to eat tallow; his daughters have already been fed the tallow by their grandmother (two girls eat between meals); the girls' mother scratches their cheeks; the two girls leave and marry Mountain Dweller; they return home with huge quantities of food (*Tlingit* BBAE 39:222, 280).

47. *The Practical Joker*

Man on visit to friend learns he is out fishing
Man pretends to be fish and friend fishes him up
Friend much frightened

Two men were friends. Just before they parted one said to the other, "When I die you can take my gun." "Good," answered his friend. Then the second got to thinking about having the gun and came to the conclusion, "I may as well get the gun. He gave it to me anyway just as if it were mine."

He went to his friend's house and inquired of his wife, "Where is my friend?" "He's gone. He went to the river to fish." "I'll go after him."

He went to the river and saw his friend fishing. He was so engrossed he did not see his friend as he approached, so the latter decided to play a trick. He undressed and went into the water. The shore was steep where the man was fishing. His friend dived and swam under the water. The current was swift and when the fisherman threw in his line it went far downstream. The friend went up to it and took hold of it. The fisherman pulled and thought he had a bite. He pulled and saw he was fishing up a person. He was so frightened he did not know what he was doing but kept pulling, meantime walking backwards.

The catch came ashore and followed the line. The fisherman was so frightened he did not recognize his friend, nor did he stop pulling. Finally the friend said, "What's the matter with you? Don't you know what you're doing?"

Then his friend recognized him and they had a big laugh.

A similar joke is played in a tale of the *Comox*:

Two young men come upon their grandfather in heaven fishing; they turn into salmon which their grandfather harpoons; they resume their true form and laugh at their joke before stating their actual errand (IS 66).

In *Thompson* myths the Transformers play the trick in fish disguise on Cannibal:

Cannibal is out spearing fish; one of the Transformer brothers pretends to be a fish; Cannibal spears him; the Transformer swims away with Cannibal's spearhead; Cannibal sulks; the Transformers return the spearhead to Cannibal's delight; he feeds them much food in little (MAM 12:221, 315; MAFLS 6:43).

In a *Haida* story the assumption of the fish disguise is used in a display of supernatural power, rather than in a practical joke.

A chief's son enters his silver salmon skin and steals Master Hopper's spear point; he returns the spear point (BBAE 29:267 and cp. this work tale 1).

48. *War between the Blackfoot and the Coeur d'Alene*

Coeur d'Alene hunt buffalo in Blackfoot country
Recognized by a Blackfoot, party turns back
Chief tells story of his youth
Blackfoot had stolen Coeur d'Alene horse
Coeur d'Alene located horse as it was drinking at river
Blackfoot scalped and sent home