

You are an ugly thing." She came close to him. He ran and she chased him. He looked back and laughed. "You are very young." She said, "I am going to bite you no matter how far you go."

He went over the hill. She followed but he was gone. She saw his tracks, but as she was looking for them she saw a pestle lying there. She thought, "I will take it with me." She put it under her dress. It moved around. She was running aimlessly. She thought, "It must be this pestle that is making me run this way." She threw it away. As she ran on Coyote called to her, "*Ha ha ha*, your belly is getting big, you are going to have a baby."

Coyote had turned himself into a pestle and had impregnated her. She kept on saying, "I am going to bite you." Coyote kept on taunting her.

That is all. The end of the road.

An analogous myth, in which Coyote's youngest son takes the place of Little Beaver, is to be found in *Okanagon* mythology:

Grizzly Bear kills Coyote's two older sons; the youngest Coyote shoots Grizzly's daughter; Coyote escapes from Grizzly by a ruse and drowns him (MAFLS 11:79).

6. Coyote Devours His Own Children

Coyote shoots his neighbor, Deer

Coyote pretends to doctor Deer and kills him

Coyote kills Deer's wife and child

Coyote kills his own sons, spares his daughter

Coyote kills goose and eats it all while daughter hungers

Coyote's wife, Mole, saves their daughter

Coyote gets a noise in his head

Coyote and Deer were neighbors. Deer had two children, Coyote had five, four sons and a daughter. Coyote used to go away every morning and come back at night. Deer left at night and returned just before sunrise. Coyote wondered why Deer was always away at night, so one time he followed him. He saw him stop at a little gulch and eat. He saw he was eating dirt. Coyote thought, "I'll kill him." He got his arrow ready, but left it to dry. Then he warned Deer, "Don't travel at night, now that the moon is shining. You might be killed."

Deer did not answer, and he did not heed the warning. Coyote took his arrow and went to Deer's grazing ground. He made a brush house in which he waited for Deer. Deer came and licked the dirt like meat. Coyote shot him in the entrails, whereupon Deer ran home with Coyote after him. Coyote arrived home first and blew ashes over Deer's blanket

so it would look as if he had been there a long time. Deer ran into his house, blew up the fire and groaned. Then Mole, Coyote's wife, heard it "*hi hi hi!*" "Someone is suffering," she cried. "Oh, stop prowling around in the night," said Coyote.

She got up and made a fire, then went in to Deer. "Where is it? Let me look at it." "Here it is, the arrow is still sticking in," said Coyote who had followed her. He pretended he was pulling it out but kept pushing it back and forth in the wound. Then he told Mole to make a fire in the sweat-house. She said, "*Halalalas*, what is the matter? It will be too hot." "Don't answer me back, go do as I say."

Mole was obliged to make the fire. Coyote took Deer into the sweat-house. Then as Coyote pulled out the arrow he sucked Deer's fat. "Be careful," said Mole. "You shut up!" ordered Coyote.

Soon Deer died. His wife cried. Coyote told her to be quiet. After a little while he said, "I will fix your hair in widow's style." He took a knife. "Don't cry now. Put your head up."

He lifted up her braids and cut off her head. She died. Then Coyote took a stick and killed one of the Deer Children. The other deer ran off. Coyote butchered the deer and took the meat to his house. He said to Mole, "Get out of my way. You might spoil my hunting luck."

She went out and made her own fire. She cooked and the children all ate but she herself ate nothing. This went on for some days. Then there was nothing but blood left. Coyote said to his eldest son, Raven Head, "Go get some camas. We'll mix it with blood."

There were only two camas in the sack. "It is because Mole ate them all. Your mother is a greedy thing."

Coyote went himself and looked, but the sack was full of dirt and only two camas were there. He was very angry, "Now you are going to die, you Mole."

He hunted a stick and went out to where she had been sitting, but she was not there. She had gone into her hole. He put his hand in but could not reach her. He cooked the blood. Then there was nothing to eat. Coyote said to his youngest son, "Come here." He began to delouse him. He bit him in the back of the neck pretending it was a louse. He died. Coyote cried, "*Hä hä hä*, Chief Raven Head died." Then he said to his children, "I guess we'll have to eat him."

So they ate Coyote's own child. He deloused, killed and ate the other three sons in the same way. Only the little daughter was left. Coyote said, "I won't kill you. You are pitiable. Come, I'll carry you. Let's look for mama."

He went along carrying his child. Suddenly he heard a wild goose way up in the air. Coyote looked up. He said, "I told you all I need to do is to look at them and all cultivated people die."

He went on. The geese came closer. "uxapxapxapapap" they flapped around him. He looked at them. They died. "Ha! Now we'll have plenty to eat, daughter." The geese lay all around. "Oh, that's fine. We'll eat now." He went to get cedar bark to make a bucket. The baby said, "Oh *dädä*, the geese gone!" He hushed her up. "They know you have no mother." He was making the bucket of bark when she lisped again, "*dädä*, the geese going."

Then Coyote looked up and saw the child had hold of the goose's leg and the goose was flying off. "I won't let go," she cried.

Coyote ran right under the goose and grabbed her. Then he killed the goose. It was the only one left. He made a bucket in which he cooked it. He gave the head to the girl. He ate every bit and even drank the broth. Then he saw the girl crying as she was eating the head. "Give it to me, I'll fix it for you." He took it away from her and ate it all. She kept on crying "Come! Let me carry you. We'll look for mama."

After they had gone a long way they saw a woman who was wearing a red dress¹ digging camas. He said, "There's your mother," and to the woman, "All our children are dead."

She did not even turn her head. He came closer and repeated, "All your children are dead." Still nearer he repeated it but she kept right on digging. Then suddenly she darted into her hole. Coyote peered in. There he saw all four sons eating. "Why didn't you let me know? All this time I have been mourning my sons. Make the door bigger so we can come in. We are hungry." "Give me the little girl first."

He handed the baby in to Mole. Then the hole became smaller and smaller. When it was just big enough for his eye to peer through he saw his little daughter eating as if she were starved. Coyote called, "I'm hungry too. Give me something to eat."

They kept right on eating and paid no attention to him. Gradually the hole closed. Then said Coyote to himself, "I'll sleep here. I'll put my ear down and I can at least hear them. The noise is as comforting as if I myself were eating."

He fell asleep. Mole, hearing nothing, looked up. She saw his ear was right over the hole. She took her pans (?) and threw them in his ear. When he woke up he said to himself, "That's right, I was listening. I'll look in again."

He heard "*ola'u ola'u*" in his ear. He wondered what it was. He tried to shake it out. It kept on. He said, "Oh, my! I have a nice noise in my

¹ When Mole was home she wore gray but when she went out to dig camas she wore a red dress. "Just as soon as she leaves me she dresses up," complained Coyote whenever he saw her so.

head. When I get to a celebration I will be called, 'The One with the Noise in His Head.'"

That is the end of the road.

A close parallel to the Coeur d'Alene story is found in a myth of the *Columbia River* tribes. There are but two minor variations: Coyote kills three of his sons, sparing the youngest, who is however dropped to his death by the escaping geese; Coyote's wife finally leads Coyote back to his children, reuniting the family (Idaho Farmer, Sept. 18, 1930).

The killing of a neighbor, relative or intimate friend is a common theme in Coyote and Raven cycles. It occurs in myths of the *Wishram*, *Wasco*, *Tsimshian* and *Kathlamet*.

Coyote warns the Deer people to look out for a mystery being; each morning Coyote treacherously kills one Deer (*Wishram* PAES 2:161; *Wasco* PAES 2:271).

Raven visits his "brother-in-law" Deer; the next day Raven kills and eats Deer and his store of provisions (Raven also kills Deer's wife) (*Tsimshian* ARBAE 31:89; BBAE 27:63).

Coyote warns his house-fellow Raccoon of warriors; Coyote shoots, pretends to doctor, kills and eats Raccoon; Coyote is left starving (*Kathlamet* BBAE 26:152).

In *Thompson* and *Shuswap* myth is found the theme of Coyote's attempt to kill birds in flight.

Coyote knocks down geese which respond to his call; the geese revive and carry off Coyote's son; Coyote strikes his son by mistake; the geese escape (*Thompson* MAM 12:310).

Coyote's son is unable to hold down the four swans which have fallen in response to Coyote's song and dance (*Shuswap* MAM 4:638).

In a *Shuswap* myth of a supernatural type the ugly youngest brother succeeds in depriving swans of their power of flight and clubs them after the shamans and Coyote have failed (MAM 4:703).

7. Coyote loses his Eyes (Eye Juggling)

Coyote comes to Pheasants' house
Coyote bakes Pheasants' children
Pheasants kill Coyote and revive children
Coyote revives, but has a broken leg
Coyote eats his own marrow