

something like a person coming out of the water. It was the rock. Coyote grabbed his blanket and ran. The rock touched his blanket and tore a piece out of it. He ran further and saw a nighthawk flying around. "Come down and help me out, partner," he begged. Nighthawk came down. He said, "Hold on to my belt." Coyote said, "It's too little, it will break. Let's double it with mine."

"No, it won't break."

They flew up, Coyote holding on to Nighthawk's belt. The rock called to Nighthawk, "Put him down here. I want to kill him because he defecated in my eye."

Coyote said, "No, don't take me down!" Whenever Nighthawk flew down Coyote begged him not to alight. Finally he flew suddenly down on the rock and it split into pieces. Coyote was glad. Nighthawk said to him, "Come, take some for earrings." Then he said, "Come, let me carry you again," but Coyote said, "No, my chest might get sore, but because I am grateful I will carry you." He carried him around. Nighthawk went to sleep. Coyote went slowly, then put him down. He looked at him and coveted Nighthawk's shirt. He took off Nighthawk's shirt and his own. He put his on Nighthawk and Nighthawk's on himself. He thought he looked nice and said to himself, "Now when I go to Spokane how nice I will look!"

He went away. He had not gone far when he found himself walking in jerks as Nighthawk flies. Every once in a while he jerked upward, each time higher, but each time swooping to the ground again. Finally he went very high, bumped into a tree and was killed.

When Nighthawk woke he felt chilly. He said, "Where is my shirt? It is gone." Coyote's shirt was on him. "That Coyote is crazy, I suppose he's got my shirt all bloody by this time," he remarked as he took Coyote's shirt and trailed him. A little way off he found tracks, they were lost and found again after a short distance. Finally he found Coyote lying dead. He took his shirt off Coyote and put it on. Then he went to sleep. When he woke up his head was heavy because a rock was on it. It had made his head flat. His mouth was stretched out wide and pinched together on each side.

Myths which somewhat resemble the Coeur d'Alene story are to be found in *Wasco* and *Shuswap* mythology. In the *Wasco* myth the pursuing rock gets stuck in mud and Coyote escapes unassisted (PAES 2:272). In the two *Shuswap* versions, which belong in the series of Coyote-Fox episodes, one occurring among the North Thompson Shuswap, Coyote obtains for himself Fox's golden eagle feather (silver fox skin) robe which Fox recovers in turn with the aid of a whirlwind. The

rolling rock element is lacking as well as the Nighthawk character (MAM 4:634, 742).

A *Sanpoil* myth (MAFLS 11:103), which in its essential features correlates with the Coeur d'Alene story "Coyote kills Cricket with Elk Fat," concludes with the Rolling Rock episode: Cricket's grandmother turns into a rolling stone and pursues Coyote who escapes by resorting to his magic power (MAFLS 11:103).

Reference to the Rolling Rock episode as a variant of the Rolling Skull myth may be found in PAES 2:272, footnote 2.

### 20. Cricket Rides Coyote

Coyote coaxes Cricket to ride him  
Cricket tickles Coyote  
Coyote bucks, Cricket's legs fall off

Coyote was walking. Suddenly he heard "*tsututut!*" He jumped. He saw a Cricket, "Ha, my younger brother," he said, "Do you know we are brothers?" "No, I didn't know it." "Yes, I am your brother. Where is your house?" "I have none." "All right, let's go together." "No, you go too fast for me. I am very slow." "Well," said Coyote "Ride me." "You're too tall, I can't mount you." "Come," said Coyote. "We'll look for a rock. I'll stand by it. You can climb up on it and mount me."

They found a rock. As Cricket was mounting Coyote said, "My! I am ticklish. I might buck. I haven't been ridden for a long time. Hold fast!" They started off. Somehow Cricket switched Coyote. Off he went. He started to buck. Cricket fell off. He said, "That's enough! You go on." But Coyote insisted, "No, come on. Ride me again. Put your legs under my arms and I'll squeeze you tight." Cricket mounted again. "Now hold tight, because you know how ticklish I am."

Cricket rode Coyote. Soon he bucked because he was being squeezed. Cricket's hip came off. Coyote bucked and the other hip fell off. Coyote looked back. There lay Cricket without his legs. Coyote said, "I guess I better go on." He went off.

That is the end of my road.

No parallels were found to the Coeur d'Alene Coyote-Cricket myth.

Among the *Kutenai* Coyote incidentally gives Locust a ride. The ride is interrupted however by a meeting with Grizzly Bear, whereupon Coyote sets Locust down at the edge of a cliff; Locust scares Grizzly into falling off the cliff; Grizzly dies (BBAE 59:2). The *Kutenai* myth fits more aptly into the category of those myths dealing with the power of the small one.