

In the Okanagon myth Coyote conquers Cold:

With the help of his three pieces of dung, one of which is equivalent to the heat of the sun, Coyote enters the Cold people's house, burns it and melts the ice; Cold and his wife die; Cold's daughter escapes; there shall be cold once in a while (MAFLS 11:74).

In the allied myth of the *Upper Chehalis* Northeast Wind represents the Cold and Southwest Wind the Heat:

Southwest Wind, who has his home in the ocean, makes war upon Northeast Wind in the sky; Southwest Wind's party returns home without fatalities. In a second fight Southwest Wind fails to overpower the seven Northeast Wind brothers with boiling water; thereupon his grandmother makes a water-sprinkler for him; five of the Northeast Wind brothers are killed. Southwest Wind melts snow and frost so they no longer freeze people to death (MAFLS 27:75).

Detailed instances of a struggle between the winds, which follow an outline similar to those laid out above, may be found among the *Tsimshian*, *Tlingit*, *Haida*, *Thompson*, *Shuswap* and *Lillooet* (ARBAE 31:732).

35. Rabbit and Jack Rabbit

Jack Rabbit worries about Rabbit, his relative and friend

Rabbit takes pitch to Jack Rabbit

Jack Rabbit takes bitterroot, canas and dried salmon roe to Rabbit

They meet on Tekoa Mountain

They leave their unnecessary gifts there

Rabbit and Jack Rabbit were relative-friends (cp. p.). Rabbit lived in the mountains around here (near De Smet) and Jack Rabbit lived on the prairie of the Big Bend country. In winter when it cleared after a snow Jack Rabbit would look toward the mountains. The trees were so heavy with snow that the branches interlocked. Jack Rabbit worried, "I think Rabbit must be dead. I wonder what he eats."

Rabbit looked toward the prairie. He thought, "Poor Jack Rabbit! I wonder if he has a fire in this cold weather. I'll go see." He made as large a pack as he could carry of pitch shavings and started off with it toward Jack Rabbit's. Then Jack Rabbit thought, "I think I'll take my relative-friend some bitterroot, canas and dried salmon roe," and he started off with them.

Rabbit came up the north side of Tekoa Mountain. As he came up he

sat down at the edge of the woods. He thought, "I wonder where Jack Rabbit lives. I don't know exactly."

Jack Rabbit came over the prairie and up the south side of the mountain. As he went over the top he saw Rabbit sitting there, "Why, here he is!" He stood up. Jack Rabbit looked up and saw him standing there. They walked toward each other and shook hands.

"You're still alive, my relative-friend!" said one. "And you're still alive, my relative-friend," said the other, "I was just coming to look for you." "Why," said Jack Rabbit, "I was coming to look for you too. I was worried about you. I thought you might be hungry."

"No," said Rabbit, "I am not hungry. I find a tree under which there is green grass and I eat that. It's you I worry about. I thought you might get cold so I brought these pitch shavings for you to start a fire." "No, I'm not cold. You worry for no reason. When it snows and drifts I find a dry spot under the sage brush. That's where I stay."

"Then I'll throw away the pitch." So saying Rabbit untied his pack and dumped it out. Jack Rabbit said, "I'll dump what I brought to feed you."

He dumped it out and each went his way. That is why all the trees on Tekoa Mountain have pitch on them. That is why bitterroot and canas are found there.¹

The only parallel found for this myth, the *Nes Percé* story of Cottontail Boy and Snowshoe Rabbit is identical with it in all but minor details.

Cottontail Boy worries about his friend Snowshoe Rabbit in the cold; Snowshoe Rabbit worries about his friend, Cottontail Boy, in warm regions; they meet, each anxious to inquire about the other's health; they part to meet again some time (CUGA 25:3).

36. Dog Goes for Fire

Wolf asks Dog to steal a spark of fire

Dog, forgetting Wolf, stays with people

People had a fire. Wolf had no fire. Wolf and Dog were friends. Wolf said to Dog, "Go steal a spark from the people."

Dog went to the people. They fed him and he forgot to steal the spark. That's all.

The short Coeur d'Alene story is typical of the variants of this myth

¹ These plants are now extinct, but were found on Tekoa Mountain until recently.