

enemy by going ahead as far as the river. There he climbed a tree and waited. He aimed his gun at the spot where they were coming. Soon he heard the tramp of horses and it was not long before they came in sight. Red on Back, the leader, was being ridden by the enemy. He went down to the river to drink. Just as he was drinking the boy's uncle pulled the trigger. The enemy fell off the horse. The rest were so frightened they scattered in every direction. The horse turned back home followed by all the other horses.

The boy's uncle came down from the tree. He had not gone far when he met his fellow tribesmen. "I shot and killed one of the enemy. I saw him fall off the horse. Then I hurried back."

They headed the horses so they would run homeward. Then the people said, "Let's go see." They went to the water but the enemy was gone. They could see where he had fallen. They said, "He must have been stunned. That's why he fell off. Well, let's turn back." They went. As they came out of the woods on to the prairie they saw Red on Back way over on the side towards home.

This war narrative of the Coeur d'Alene is the only reference to the custom of seeking a vision. This religious custom also makes its way into *Thompson* mythology. Moreover the vision of the beautiful woman seen in the bright light, which shows white influence, is featured again in a *Ten'a* myth.

A boy goes out alone to seek supernatural power in a dream; he plants a stake to show his father where he has been; he closes up a lake so that whales no longer emerge there (*Thompson* MAM 12:269).

A chief out hunting enters a beautiful house where a supernatural woman of great beauty is revealed to him in a sudden burst of light; in a great illumination he sees the woman's mother; he becomes purified (he marries the woman, visits his home with his wife and disobeys her; she returns to her invisible house; he finally recovers her there) (*Ten'a* PAES 6:51).

In a *Kwakiutl* myth Scab Boy sees a "brightness" at the place to which the Ducks are conducting him (CUCA 2:67).

43. Two Women Overcome Nez Percé Man

Two old women camping near Nez Percé country cook
One sees enemy peeping through door
Women pretend to fight, moving toward door
One throws hot mush in enemy's face and kills him

Two very old women went camping toward the Nez Percé country. They made a camp and cooked a gruel of roots. Just as it began to boil one of the women suddenly looked toward the doorway. She saw one of the enemy peeping in. "Don't look toward the door," she said to her friend. "We are being observed. Let us get angry at each other."

The other woman said in Nez Percé, "You're ugly!" "It is not true!" They stood up to fight, one of them with the pot of boiling mush under her arm. The enemy was on his hands and knees and had his mouth open. As the women, fighting each other, came close to the door, one threw the hot mush in the man's face. He ran, but afterwards they found him dead not far from the door.

44. Woman Saved by Loose Saddle Cinch

Women camp out during the serviceberry season
Girl dreams of enemy
Women attacked, one is captured and one killed
Captive's husband shot in leg
Coeur d'Alene man attacks like grizzly bear
Enemy escapes with woman
Woman escapes when saddle cinch becomes loose
Squirrel instructs her to hide under log
Enemy leaves and woman returns home

Long ago, many years before the white man came, the Coeur d'Alene had small settlements. About three families lived in each place. The people were always on the lookout for attacks by the enemy. The enemy would hide behind bushes and attack unexpectedly. One time the Kalispelm surprised a group of people. It was the serviceberry season. Many women had gone to camp near Cataldo. Not far from there was a good serviceberry flat.

One night a girl dreamed that the enemy took them by surprise. In the morning she said to her mother, "I dreamed we were attacked. Let us go back." Her mother said, "No, I found berries over there and tomorrow we will go." The next day they all went to pick. The girl said to her mother, "You pick there. I will pick from the opposite side of the same bush."

Just as they were picking the enemy came galloping toward them. They ran and crawled into the long grass and all escaped but one woman. The enemy took the woman captive and said to her, "Where are your house and the horses?"

She pointed in the opposite direction thinking the enemy would travel far and thus tire. They rode over logs and stumps in the woods and

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.