

The action continues into the tale of the Salmon Release (see tale 8) in the versions from *Southern Puget Sound*, *Nes Percé*, *Wasco*, *Columbia River* and *Cowlitz*. In the *Ntlakypamq* variant Coyote, adopted as a slave by four women, releases fog and wasps (IS 7).

The element of the individual's homesickness for the earth while he is in the sky country and his return home (accompanied by his sky relatives), usually through the medium of the spider's rope, common to the above myths, finds analogies in the following otherwise unrelated stories:

Wasco. The boy who married Sun's daughter (PAES 2:306).

Lower Fraser River. The children of Sun's daughter who wish to visit their great-grandparents (IS 40).

Kwakiutl. The wife of Food Giver (MAM 5:52).

Tlingit. A man and his wife carried off to the sky (BBAE 39:251).

Chilcotin. Two sisters flee to the sky to escape from their husband, Skunk (they are lowered in a basket by an old sky woman) (MAM 4:29).

In a *Thompson* myth Spider's thread is too weak to help a man down from the upper world to the world below to visit his brother and Crow advises the man in a dream to jump through a hole, roll over upon hitting an obstacle, and jump again, which the man is obliged to do four times before opening his eyes in the lower world (MAFLS 6:78).

An analogue to the sky encounters of Coyote's son is found in a *Kathlamet* story:

A boy in the sky meets a man-eater, Evening Star whose house is filled with human bones and eyes, and a mountain goat hunter, Morning Star with whom he stays as son-in-law until he becomes homesick and is lowered to earth with his family (BBAE 26:13).

In an *Upper Chehalis* myth a young man, who has escaped up a tree from his captor, Lion, climbs up to the sky, encounters Evening who kills deer and men for food, is rescued by Dawn's daughters and, accompanied by his family, is lowered to earth by Spider (MAFLS 27:83).

In *Nes Percé* mythology a man, offended by his brother, climbs a tree in pursuit of a pheasant; while his bear stands below winking, the tree grows ever taller, until the climber disappears into the sky (CUCA 25:163; cp. also *Sahaptin* MAFLS 11:158).

A *Sanpoil* myth opens with the Coeur d'Alene setting though the story is developed along different lines:

A younger brother, who covets his elder brother's wife, sends his older brother for eagle feathers and maroons him on a cliff; the older brother fastens eagles to himself which carry him to safety; he leaves his wife with his brother and goes to his uncle (JAFL 46:148).

A list of myths of the Coyote-Coyote's son cycle, extending over a wider territory than has been covered by this study, may be found in MAFLS 11:120, footnote 1.

5. Little Beaver

Grizzly Bear with the help of false Coyote kills Coyote's four sons
Coyote adopts Little Beaver
Little Beaver is trained for revenge
Little Beaver kills Grizzly
Coyote's powers help him kill Grizzly's family
Coyote disguised as pestle seduces Grizzly's daughter

Coyote had a house. He had four children. The oldest went to visit Grizzly Bear who lived on a hill nearby. There was a Coyote who had turned against his own tribe and had made himself an ally of Grizzly Bear near whom he lived. Every time he saw someone coming he cried, "Go under the hill, not across the top." If they did so Grizzly could easily come out and capture them. He would then run out and claw and bite the visitor to death.

When the son of the true Coyote came to visit Grizzly gave him something so hard to eat that it made all his teeth come out. As he went home he followed the traitor's advice and went under the hill. Then Grizzly killed him. The same thing happened to Coyote's other three sons.

For a long time he mourned. Suddenly he stopped and went to the river where he sat down on the shore. In the water he saw a little beaver. He said to him, "Come over and stay with me because I am lonesome. Then I can see you around my place. Go ask your mother." Little Beaver paid no attention. Coyote said, "Do you hear?" but he did not answer.

Then he disappeared. Coyote started to cry and kept it up a long time. Then he went back to his house and lay down. Someone came in. It was Little Beaver's mother. Coyote was covered up with his blanket. She asked him, "Are you asleep?" "No." "You wanted my little one to come to live with you. I came over to talk over the matter with you."

"Yes. I would like to have him. I can't help being so lonesome." "All right, he may come, but he is very greedy. You will have to chop trees for him to eat." "All right," said Coyote.

She went home and came back with an ax. Coyote began to chop. A tree fell. Before he could chop another Little Beaver had eaten it. All day long he chopped and he was never even a tree ahead. At night the Little Beaver played around in the house, and he was so cute Coyote had to laugh at him. The next day and the next Coyote was busy chopping food for his adopted child. After some days of this he thought, "My, you are a greedygut!" He cut another tree. It lay there. He looked around for Little Beaver but he was gone. Then Coyote was sorry. He went home, lay down and covered himself up with his blanket and cried.

Mother Beaver came in. "Are you asleep?" she inquired. "No." "My child came home because you called him greedy." "I just said that for fun. I like him. He plays around and then I feel happy. Then and then only can I laugh." She said, "All right, if you chop enough for him to eat he will come back to you. I am going to avenge the death of your children." "All right."

The next day Coyote took up his ax again and Little Beaver devoured trees faster than he could cut. For about a month he did this. Finally there were only small branches left. In about two days all these were gone. Little Beaver said, "I am going back to my mother." "All right, go on home."

When he got back he was a man. His mother dressed his hair to show he was grown up. She combed it and braided it, then she folded it up behind, tied it and stuck his arrowpoints in it. Then she split in two the toe next to the small one and advised him, "When you go in to the place where Coyote's children were killed they will give you something hard to eat. You will see the marks of teeth in it. They will be the marks of Coyote's poor children. The one who gives it to you is Grizzly Bear, he killed Coyote's children. Go now."

Little Beaver went into the old man's house and sat down. He gave him the hard food. The toothmarks of Coyote's children were in it and said, *xat'at'at'a* as he ate it. Nevertheless he was able to eat it all up because he had eaten so many trees. The old Grizzly said, "You are not afraid of us." Then he went out.

Then the false Coyote began to cry, "He's lying down." That was his sign to the Grizzlies. Little Beaver jumped up. He stepped into the fire and caught a hot coal in his cleft toe. He took this so he could melt pitch to fasten his arrowpoints. He ran toward the canyon and over a cliff. Then he sat down to fix his arrows. He took the points out of his hair. He blew the coal, melted the pitch and fastened the points to the

shaft. Four times he did this and ran back. The false Coyote called to him, "Look out, he'll claw you and bite you. Don't run on top of the hill, run underneath," but Little Beaver went along the top of the hill, shot Grizzly Bear and killed him.

He cut off Grizzly's paws and took them out. Grizzly's relatives began to cry. "Keep quiet," said Coyote, "he'll be back." Little Beaver strung the four paws on a stick, came back and threw them into the fire saying "Take them, you can go defecate on them."¹

Then he ran and they chased him. "*Oyurayura. . .*" he went fast. They caught up with him. He jumped into the water. They looked in vain for him. He had gone into his hole. He went in, through his tunnel under the river and out the other side into Coyote's house. He said, "I killed the one who murdered your children, get ready to save yourself."

Little Beaver ran out. Coyote took out his powers and consulted them. His first power said, "I will be a bear-trap, get me ready." The second said, "I will be the bait, I'll be fat for you to put in the trap." The third gave him an arrow. The fourth told him to lie there as if he were dead with his fur full of maggots.

Grizzly's father started after the enemy. He came to Coyote's house saying, "I'm going to kill Coyote." When he got there he said, "I'm going to bite you to death." He saw a trap baited with fat. He saw Coyote lying there swarming with maggots. "I am going to bite you," he threatened. "Go on, bite me!"

The bear tried to bite Coyote but his nose got stuffed with maggots. His teeth were all loose. "I won't bite him now, he's dying already," he said as he went out. On the way out the grease in the trap attracted him. He reached farther and farther in until his head was in the trap, then still farther until he was in up to his waist. The trap fell.

Coyote sang, "*Axoiya xoiya xoiya*, aunties, our trap caught him." He jumped up, the maggots were all gone. He was well. His aunties, the mice, ran and picked up rocks to throw at Grizzly. "Don't do that," he begged. Coyote took an arrow from his quiver and stuck it crosswise in Grizzly's throat. His aunties threw the rocks down his throat. He died.

They cut off his head. Coyote took a stick and propped the mouth open with it, then he climbed up and put the head on the house poles. He fixed the trap again and lay down. Grizzly's mother now came and acted just as her husband had, and she was caught in the trap the same way. Coyote set her head on the house poles.

Grizzly's daughter ran out for revenge when she saw the heads of her father and mother. She said, "I am going to get you, Coyote, I will bite you. I am going to eat your flesh and bones. Nothing will be left of you.

¹ Almost certainly a phrase taken from the Whites.

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."