

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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FREE!

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“Be Obscure Clearly”

E. B. White



In winter, all along the Northwest Coast, native peoples told tales. Often, they would tale tales of tricksters and transformers, powerful and mischievous beings who lived in the period when mythtime ended and the time of humans began. Foremost among these beings was Raven. Raven created many portions of the world, and provided people with moral lessons, instructing them on how they should behave in the times yet to come. What follows is a version of the most widely known Raven tale, adapted from numerous other versions once told by tribes up and down the coast. To get the full effect, turn off the lights and read it aloud by the fire.

There once lived a very powerful and rich chief who had a beautiful young daughter. Somehow, the chief had come to possess the sun, moon, stars, and all the world's water. He would not share these things. He kept these things stored away, hidden in huge wooden boxes in his house.

Because he had the sun and the moon, it became dark everywhere. Because of the darkness, the people could not hunt or fish. When they went out to find wood to burn in their fires, they had to crawl around in the forest feeling with their hands until they found something which might be wood. They lived by chewing on nuts and leaves, and crushed the roots of the alder trees for something to drink.

Raven learned that the great chief had taken these things -- the sun, moon, stars, and water. And Raven felt sorry for the people, these poor, sickly things, who never had any sunshine. Like ghosts they were, all shadowy and pale in the misty darkness.

So Raven went to the chief's house to take these things back. He asked the chief if he would return these things, but he would not. So the smart bird devised a plan. He saw how the chief's daughter took water from the box every morning, so he hid near there in the shadows and waited for her to return. When he saw her coming, he turned himself into a fingerling, a tiny fish, and jumped into the water. After the girl arrived, she filled a bucket with water. Then she dipped her drinking cup into the water and Raven, disguised as a fingerling, quickly swam into it. She did not see Raven and drank the water.

Inside her body, Raven turned into a baby and so the girl became pregnant. After a short time the daughter gave birth to a baby boy who was really Raven. The baby grew fast and was soon a young boy. The old grandfather was very fond of his grandson and would do anything for him.

One day the boy began crying for something. The chief asked him, "What do you want, grandson?" The boy pointed to the boxes containing the sun and the moon. The old chief said, "No, you can't play with those things!" But Raven just cried louder. Then the chief, who loved this grandson, said, "Okay, you may play with these things, but be careful!" So the boy played with these boxes. He opened the lids and threw the contents high into the air, repeatedly, higher and higher -- first the sun, and then the moon. Suddenly, up they flew, through the smoke hole in the roof, up into the sky, where they hung and shone bright. The chief was angry, for he had lost the sun and the moon, but he was still kind to his grandson, this Raven.

That evening, the boy began crying again. The chief asked him, "What do you want, grandson?" The boy pointed to the box containing the stars. The old chief said, "No, you can't play with those things!" But Raven just cried louder. Then the Chief, who loved this grandson, said, "Okay, you may play with these things, but be careful!" So the boy played with this box. Again, Raven opened the lid. He played with the stars for a moment and then threw them high into the air. Up they flew, like bright snow, through the smoke hole in the roof, up into the sky, where they dotted the sky and shone bright. The chief was angry again, for he had lost the stars, but was still kind to his grandson, this Raven.



"Crow & Fort at Point No Point, WA" by Andrea Kosharek, ©1999

The next morning, the boy began to cry once again. The chief asked him, "What do you want, grandson?" The boy pointed to the box containing the water. Then the Chief, who loved this grandson, said "Are you thirsty, grandson? You may take a drink, you may have some of this water." Again, Raven opened the lid. He drank from the water. But he did not stop drinking. He drank and drank until his body filled with water and the box was nearly empty.

He jumped up from the box. He had become Raven again. He sailed around the house, croaking out loud and flapping his wings. Then with a last great flap of his wings he went sailing towards the open smoke hole. But he had swallowed so much water that he became stuck in the opening, and there he struggled. There he was blackened by the smoke from the fire below. Raven hung there, struggling, until at last he pulled free with a great wrench and went wobbling heavily across the sky. He was so heavy with water that he flew in a crooked line. As he flew he spilled little streams of water from his bill. Falling to the ground, these became rivers and streams: the Nehalem, Ecola Creek, the Necanicum. A big spill falling from his beak poured out and became the Columbia River. Raven flew in a crooked line, and all these rivers became crooked as snakes. Here and there he scattered single drops, and these became narrow creeks or shallow salmon pools.

The people were happy then -- the sun shone in the day, and the stars and moon shone at night. Everyone had water, and the rivers danced with fish.

Raven told the people: it will no longer be that way. No one may own the sun and moon. No one may own the water and the stars. In the times to come, these things will belong to everybody.



MOONS & TIDES

WASHINGTON & OREGON COASTS
2000 Corrected for PACIFIC BEACHES

DATE	DAY	DAYS	HIGH APRIL			LOW APRIL				
			TIME	FT.	PM	TIME	FT.	PM		
1	Sat		9:56	7.6	10:56	7.7	4:08	2.4	4:40	0.4
DAYLIGHT TIME STARTS 2 A.M.										
2	SUN		11:46	7.9	...	...	5:55	1.7	6:17	0.3
3	Mon		0:30	8.1	12:32	8.1	6:37	1.1	6:53	0.4
4	Tues		1:01	8.4	1:18	8.2	7:18	0.5	7:28	0.5
5	Wed		1:33	8.7	2:03	8.1	7:59	0.0	8:03	0.8
6	Thur		2:04	9.0	2:50	8.0	8:40	-0.4	8:40	1.1
7	Fri		2:38	9.2	3:40	7.6	9:23	-0.6	9:19	1.6
8	Sat		3:15	9.2	4:35	7.2	10:10	-0.6	10:03	2.1
9	SUN		3:57	9.0	5:37	6.8	12:06	-0.1	10:56	2.6
10	Mon		4:48	8.6	6:47	6.6	...	...	11:03	-0.4
11	Tues		5:51	8.1	8:01	6.6	0:01	3.1	1:18	0.1
12	Wed		7:11	7.7	9:10	7.0	1:21	3.2	2:32	0.2
13	Thur		8:35	7.5	10:08	7.5	2:44	2.9	3:40	0.1
14	Fri		9:49	7.7	10:57	8.0	3:57	2.3	4:37	0.1
15	Sat		10:52	7.9	11:40	8.4	4:58	1.5	5:25	0.1
16	SUN		11:48	8.0	...	...	5:51	0.8	6:09	0.2
17	Mon		0:19	8.7	12:37	8.0	6:39	0.2	6:48	0.5
18	Tues		0:54	8.9	1:24	8.0	7:22	-0.2	7:25	0.9
19	Wed		1:27	8.9	2:09	7.8	8:03	-0.4	8:01	1.3
20	Thur		1:57	8.8	2:52	7.6	8:42	-0.4	8:35	1.8
21	Fri		2:26	8.6	3:35	7.3	9:19	-0.4	9:09	2.2
22	Sat		2:55	8.4	4:19	7.0	9:55	-0.2	9:45	2.6
23	SUN		3:25	8.1	5:07	6.6	10:33	0.1	10:25	3.0
24	Mon		4:00	7.8	6:01	6.4	11:16	0.4	11:12	3.4
25	Tues		4:44	7.4	7:01	6.3	...	...	12:07	0.8
26	Wed		5:40	7.0	8:02	6.4	0:13	3.6	1:07	1.0
27	Thur		6:55	6.7	8:59	6.6	1:26	3.6	2:12	1.1
28	Fri		8:16	6.6	9:47	7.1	2:39	3.2	3:11	1.1
29	Sat		9:27	6.8	10:29	7.5	3:44	2.6	4:03	1.0
30	SUN		10:28	7.1	11:06	8.0	4:38	1.9	4:49	0.9

AM TIDES * BIGGER THE DOT - BETTER THE FISHING! PM TIDES
LITE TYPE STANDARD TIME THRU APRIL 1 BOLD TYPE

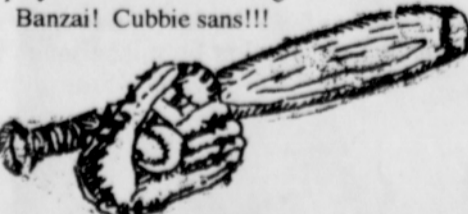
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BASEBALL

Cubbie sans ichi bon! For reasons known only to the marketing geniuses of Major League Baseball, the Cubs will start this season in Japan. Crossing the Pacific to play the New York Mets. Still, things look very good this year. Kerry Wood is healthy, Sammy Sosa is humble, and Mark Grace is, well, gracious. Coach Baylor is determined to turn the Cubs into a baseball team that knows how to win, and the players seem to be willing to do what it takes.



Banza! Cubbie sans!!!

UPPER LEFT EDGE APRIL 2000

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