

Stories of the Cahto Tribe

Flood and Creation

This is a line-by-line translation (within the limits of English readability)

He came down, they say.

"Who can kick open a rock, I wonder?" he said, they say..

"Who can split open a tree, I wonder?" he said, they say..

"Well, I'll try," Naaghaichow said, they say.

He didn't split the tree, they say.

"Well, I will try it," Thunder said, they say.

"Who is the toughest, I wonder?" Thunder said, they say.

Naaghaichow didn't break the rock, they say.

He didn't kick open the tree, they say.

"I will try," Thunder said, they say

He kicked the rock, they say.

He kicked the rock open, they say.

The rock broke to pieces, they say.

"Go look at the rock."

"He kicked the rock open," he said, they say.

Well, I will try a tree," he said, they say.

He kicked open the tree, they say.

The tree split to pieces, they say.

Thunder and Naaghaichow came down, they say.

"Step on this, on the water, Naaghaichow."

"Who can stand on the water, I wonder?"

"Yes," he said, they say.

Naaghaichow stepped on the water, they say.

He sank into the ocean, they say.

Thunder said, "I will try", they say.

Thunder stepped on the water, they say.

He stood on one foot, they say.

"Hurry up, I have finished," he said, they say.

It was evening, they say.

It rained, they say.

It rained every day and every night, they say.

Every night.

Whatever will happen as it rains too much every morning?" he said, they say..

Fog, somehow the fog spread well near the ground, they say.

The clouds were thick, they say.

Now there was no human fire, they say.

The fire became small, they say.

The creeks were full, they say.

There was water in the valleys. The water encircled them., they say.

"Well, I have finished," he said, they say.

"Yes," Naaghaichow said, they say.

"Well, you must jump up, you must jump to another sky," he said, they say.

"I will do that, too," he said, they say.

"At night when every kind is sleeping we will do it," he said, they say.

It rained all the time, they say, every morning, every day, every night.

All the people went to sleep, they say.

The sky, it fell, they say.

There was no land, they say.

Far away there was no land, they say.

The ocean waters just met, they say.

All the grizzlies drowned, they say.

All the elk drowned, they say.

All the panthers drowned, they say.

All the bobcats drowned, they say.

All the deer drowned, they say.

All of every kind drowned, they say.

When the water went there were no trees, they say.

There was no land, they say.

People came to be, they say.

Seal, sea-lion, and grizzly built a dance-house, they say.

They looked all over the world in vain, they say.

They built it there, they say.

Good land was found at Usal, they say.

Because it was found (??) there are many sea-lions there, they say.

Whale became a human woman, they say.

That is why the whale is fat, with much fat.

There were no grizzlies, they say.

Blue lizards were thrown into the water as suckers, when there were not fish, they say.

When there were no fish, "What will be fish?"

Bull-snake was thrown into the water, they say.

In the water it became black salmon, they say.

Salamanders were thrown into the water, they say.

In the water it became hook-bill salmon, they say.

Garter snake was thrown into the water, they say.

In the water it became steelhead trout, they say.

Lizard was thrown into the water, they say.

In the water it became trout, they say.

Trout cried, they say, for his net.

"My net!" he said, they say.

"They gave him every kind of thing in vain, they say.

They made a net, they say.

When they wove the net they put him in it, they say.

He stopped crying, they say.

He was thrown in the water, they say.

Then he became trout, they say.

"What will grow in the water?" he said, they say.

Sea-weed grew in the water, the ocean, they say.

Abalones grew, they say.

Mussels grew in the ocean, they say.

Kelp grew under water, they say

Silsis-kwt'iing kelp grew in the ocean, they say.

Abalone-sausage grew in the ocean, they say.

Many different kinds of thing grew, they say.

Surf grass grew in the ocean, they say.

"What will be salt?" he said, they say.

They tasted many things, they say.

Ocean foam, that foam became salt, they say.

The people tried that salt of theirs, they say.

They will eat it with food, with food.

They will eat it with food, with food.

They will eat it with clover

That ocean salt is good, they say.

"What will be the ?? and ?? of the water, this ocean?" he said, they say.

"This ocean will have waves. It will settle back. Up this way will be

sand," he said, they say.

On top of the sand it glistened, they say.

"Old kelp will float ashore," he said, they say.

"Old whales will float ashore," he said, they say.

"People will eat fish, big fish.

Sea-lions will come ashore.

They will eat them.

They will be good," he said, they say.

They will be good," he said, they say.

"Octopus, although ugly, will be good. They will eat it," he said, they say.

"Fish in the ocean will be fat," he said, they say.

"They will be good."

"There will be many different kinds in the ocean," he said, they say.

"There will be water-panther," he said, they say.

"There will be 'stone fish'. He will catch people," he said, they say.

"'He will catch long-tooth fish', geeslhshin' fish, and sea-lion," he said, they say.

"He will come out of the water," he said, they say.

"Sea-lion will have no feet," he said, they say.

"He will have a tail," he said, they say.

"He will be big-toothed," he said, they say.

"There will not be trees in the ocean.

There will be rough water in the ocean," he said, they say.

He stood up redwood trees, they say.

Along the shore he stood up fir trees, they say.

He made fir trees along in the north at the tail of the earth, they say.

He stood them up, they say.

He made land along in front of the ocean, they say.

He put down rocks from the north, they say.

Over there the ocean beats against them, they say.

Far to the south it does that, they say.

He stood up grey pines, they say.

He stood up ponderosa pines, they say.

He stood them up far away, they say.

He stood up mountains, they say, in front of the water.

He didn't stop putting them up way to the south, they say.

They grew up, they say.

He placed redwoods, sugar pines, and grey pines in a row, they say.

He looked back around, they say, and they were growing, they say.

The redwoods had become tall, they say.

He stood stones up along, they say.

He made small creeks with his foot, they say.

"Wherever they flow down that water will be good," he said, they say.

"They will drink this," he said, they say.

"They will only not drink the ocean," he said, they say.

He placed plants along, they say.

He looked around behind himself and they had grown, they say.

Approaching 'Water-Head-Place' he talked to himself alone, they say.

"It is good that they are growing along," he said, they say.

He made creeks, they say.

"They will drink this," he said, they say.

That's why they all drink, they say, many different kinds.

"Because the water is good, because it is not salty: deer will drink; elk will drink; panthers will drink; and fishers will drink," he said, they say.

He made trees grow up along, they say.

He looked behind himself, they say.

They had grown up, they say.

"Birds, ravens, and red-tailed hawks will drink," he said, they say.

"Grey-squirrels will drink; ground squirrels will drink," he said, they say.

"Quail will drink," he said, they say.

"Many different kinds will drink," he said, they say.

"I place water along, good water," he said, they say.

"Many redwoods grew up along," he said, they say.

They grew up along, they say.

He placed water toward the south, they say.

He kicked out springs, they say.

"There will be spring," he said, they say.

"This will be the deer's," he said, they say, regarding the deer-licks.

He took along his dog, they say.

He drank some himself, too, they say.

"All will drink, many different kinds and birds will drink," he said, they say.

Trees grew up along, they say.

He made tan-oaks grow up along, they say.

He made many different kinds grow up along, they say.

He made firs, redwoods, firs, and small sugar pines grow up along, they say.

He placed water along, they say.

He dragged his foot (to make) creeks, they say.

So that water would flow he placed land along on its edge, they say.

He made them grow up; he placed trees and stones, they say.

The mountains were big, they say.

They were growing, they say.

"Acorns will grow," he said, they say.

He looked at the ocean behind himself; he looked at the trees, they say.

He placed rocks, they say.

"The water is good; when I place it they will drink," he said, they say.

He stood up redwoods along, they say.

He stood up firs, tan-oaks, and land, they say.

He stood up mountains along, they say.

"They will be big," he said, they say, regarding the redwoods.

He went along, they say.

He went around the world, they say.

He dragged his foot along for the water to flow, they say.

He stood small sugar pines up along, they say.

He stood up redwoods along, they say, and firs.

He made creeks along, they say.

He kicked out the ground, they say.

He stood up tan-oaks, they say.

He stood up grey pines, they say.

He stood up chinquapins (chestnuts), they say.

He placed rocks, they say.

He looked behind himself, they say.

The rocks had become large, they say.

He stood up the ground, they say.

He drank creek water, they say.

"The water is good," he said, they say.

He stood up small ponderosa pines, they say.

"I have made it so the rocks will be around the water," he said, they say, talking to himself.

"Drink, my dog," he said, they say.

"Many different kinds will drink the good water."

He placed rocks, they say.

He placed banks, they say.

He placed small white stones, they say.

He stood up white oaks along, they say.

He stood up sugar pines along one at a time, they say.

He stood up black oaks along one at a time, they say.

He stood up valley oaks along, they say.

He stood up Douglas' firs along, they say, one at a time.

"I will taste the water," he said, they say.

"Drink, my dog!" he said, they say.

"All different kinds will drink," he said, they say, regarding the good water..

He dragged his foot along, they say.

He dragged his foot on the ground (to make) creeks, they say.

He placed rocks, they say.

He looked behind himself, they say.

"Drink water, my dog!" he said, they say.

"I will drink, too," he said, they say.

"Grizzlies will drink. Many different kinds will drink. People will drink," he said, they say.

"Many different kinds will drink the water I have placed.

I have placed rocks."

He stood up the mountains along, they say.

He stood up trees, Douglas firs, along, they say.

He stood up white oaks along, they say.

He stood up maul oaks along, they say.

He made sugar pines grow up, they say.

He stood up redwoods along, they say, one at a time.

He threw salamanders in the water, into creeks, they say.

He threw turtles in the water, they say.

"Eels will come in this creek," he said, they say.

"Hook-bill, black salmon, black salmon will come into this creek," he said, they say.

"Steelheads will come in last," he said, they say.

"Small fish will come: t'aanlhtiktc fish, crawfish, baby eels, day eels," he said, they say.

"There will be many grizzlies on this mountain.

There will be many deer on this mountain.

They (people) may eat them.

Because they will have no gall they may eat them raw.

Deer will taste very sweet.

There will be many panthers.

There will be many jackrabbits on this mountain."

He didn't like yellow-jackets, they say.

He nearly killed them.

He made blue flies and wood wasps, they say.

His dog walked with him, they say.

"The water will be big in the creek," he said, they say.

"Fish will go into some of these small streams and creeks," he said, they say.

"The fish will be good," he said, they say.

"There will be many trout and many suckers in this stream.

Brush will grow up on this mountain."

He made manzanita and white thorn grow, they say.

"There will be a valley here," he said, they say.

"There will be many deer here," he said, they say.

"There will be many grizzlies here," he said, they say.

"A mountain will stand here," he said, they say.

"There will be many rattlesnakes here.

There will be many water-snakes.

There will be many Bull-snakes here.

It will be good land on this land," he said, they say.

"It will be a valley."

He stood up Douglas firs along, they say.

He stood up redwoods along one at a time, they say.

He stood up Douglas firs, ponderosa pines, and maul oaks along, they say.

He threw down small grizzlies, they say.

"The water will be bad," he said, they say.

"The water will be good here," he said, they say.

"There will be many great horned owls here," he said, they say.

"There will be many spotted owls here," he said, they say.

"There will be many screech owls here," he said, they say.

"There will be many pigmy owls and grosbeaks," he said, they say.

"There will be many scrub jays, grouse, California quail, and woodrats here on the mountain," he said, they say.

"There will be many varied thrushes," he said, they say.

"There will be many pileated woodpeckers," he said, they say.

"There will be many flickers.

There will be many acorn woodpeckers.

There will be many Lewis' woodpeckers.

There will be many yellow-breasted chats and meadowlarks," he said, they say.

"There will be many great blue herons.

There will be many blackbirds.

There will be many mourning doves," he said, they say.

"There will be many band-tailed pigeons," he said, they say.

"Kingfishers will catch fish," he said, they say.

"There will be many vultures and ravens.

There will be many red-tailed hawks here," he said, they say.

"There will be many robins here," he said, they say.

"On this tall mountain there will be many deer," he said, they say.

"Here will be a valley," he said, they say.

"There will be small fir trees.

Some will be big.

Let the rain fall.

Let it snow.

Let it hail.

Let the clouds come," he said, they say.

"If it rains, let the streams rise.

Let the water be large.

Let it become muddy.

When it stops raining, the rainwater stops increasing.

Let the water become good again."

He came back, they say.

He came back to that place where he made things grow up, they

say.

"Come along behind me, my dog.

We will look around."

The plants had grown.

There had come to be fish in the creeks.

The rocks had become big.

It had become good.

He travelled fast, they say.

"Walk quickly, my dog," he told him, they say.

The land had become good.

There had come to be valleys.

All different kinds (of plants) had grown up.

Water had started flowing.

There had come to be springs.

"I will taste the water again.

"You drink, too," he said, they say.

Brush had grown up.

He travelled quickly, they say.

"I made the land good, my dog," he said to his dog, they say.

"Walk quickly, my dog."

Acorns were growing, they say.

Sugar pine cones were hanging down.

Tar-weed seeds were ripe.

Chinquapins were ripe.

Hazelnuts were good.

Manzanita berries had become white.

All different kinds of things were good for eating.

Buckeyes had become good.

Peppernuts had become black.

Bunch grass (seeds) were ripe.

Grasshoppers had grown up.

Clover was with seed.

Bear-clover had become good.

Mountains had grown.

Rocks had grown.

The different kinds of things they eat were good.

"We made it good, my dog."

Fish had grown that they will eat.

"We have now come to Water-Head-Place."

Different kinds of things are ripe.

They went back, his dog and he, they say.

"We will go back," he said, they say.

"The mountains have grown quickly," he said, they say.

"The land has become flat.

Trout have grown.

The fresh water has started flowing.

Walk fast!

The different kinds of things have become good; we have made them good, my dog.

It is warm outside.

The land is good."

The brush has grown.

Different kinds of plants have come up.

Grizzlies have become many.

The birds have all grown.

The water has become good.

Grass has grown.

Many deer that they will eat are walking around.

All of them have grown up.

Many different kinds of grass and herbs have sprouted up.

Some were small and couldn't grow, some were 'ungrowing ones.'

There have come to be many rattlesnakes.

There have come to be many water snakes.

Turtles have come out of the water and come to be many.

Many different kinds of things have grown.

Mountains have grown.

Valleys have come to be.

"Walk quickly!

I will drink water.

You, too, drink," he said to his dog, they say.

"Now we are coming back.

We are close, my dog.

Look here.

Mountains have grown.

Different kinds of things have grown up.

Stones have grown.

Brush has sprouted.

All different kinds of thing have grown up."

We are about to arrive.

It is near, my dog," he said to him, they say.

"I am about to get back to the north."

"I am about to get back to the north," he said to himself, they say.

That is all.

(Based on Cahto oral traditions and beliefs)

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