

# *David Boxley*

## *Raven and Salmon*

Raven went on. He was very hungry, and he saw a steelhead salmon jumping in the river. Then he devised a plan. He kicked a rock and made a deep hole. He said with a loud voice, "Steel-head salmon, hit my heart." After he had said so he sat down quietly. The steel-head salmon hit his heart, and Raven lay there dead.

After a little while he opened his eyes and he saw that the salmon had jumped over the hole that he had made. Then he kicked the rock a second time, and he again told the salmon to hit his heart. He sat down again and the same was repeated. He told the salmon to hit his heart, and it did so. Again he was dead.

After a while he opened his eyes and saw the salmon lying in the hole near the water. He rushed down to catch it, but he could not reach it. He kicked the rock a third time, and sat down again. Then he told the salmon to bit his heart. It did so, and again he was dead. His heart was swollen.

Then he opened his eyes again, and saw the salmon which lay right in the middle of the rock. He went down slowly and caught it.

Now he did not know how to prepare his food. So he sat down and defecated. Then he asked his excrements, "What shall I do, my excrements?" They said, "Steam it in a hole."

Then he cut wood, but while he was doing so he forgot what he was to do. Then he sat down again and defecated. Only a little came out. He asked, "What shall I do, my excrements?" They said, "Steam it in a hole." They spoke in a low voice.

Now Raven gathered stones, and he said all the time, "Steam it in a hole." He said it as though he was singing. He made a song of the words, "Steam it in a hole." When the hole was hot he went to gather leaves of the skunk-cabbage to cover it.

Then he cut the salmon lengthwise and put it on top of the leaves in the hole. A stump lay near the hole. Then he took part of the salmon out and said to the stump, shaking the salmon, "I am sure you envy me, Stump." Then he went to get some more leaves which were to serve as his dish. After he had left, the Stump moved and sat down on top of the hole. Now Raven returned to eat.

Behold! the Stump was sitting on the hole. Then he opened his mouth and cried on account of his food. He took a long lever and turned the Stump over. Behold! it had eaten all the salmon. Then he hit the Stump with stones, and turned it all over with his lever until the Stump was broken. It was quite rotten. He found a few small pieces of fresh salmon. He put these into his mouth and he was very hungry while doing so.

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