

Eagle and Salmon

(Devoured by The Giant Devilfish)

One day an Eagle seated on the top of a high cliff saw a spring salmon passing that place. He flew down swiftly and caught the spring salmon with his long claws. The salmon struggled on the water, and another Eagle came down swiftly to help him. Then the young monster came up with his mouth wide open and swallowed the two Eagles and the spring salmon.

The two young Eagles were the children of an Eagle chief. He was very sorry to know that his two children had been caught by the Devilfish. He mourned many days, and his people came to comfort him, but he would not listen to them on account of his great love for his children.

At last one of his warriors said to him, "Call all the large birds, and we will make war against the monster." Therefore the sad chief agreed. He sent his messengers and called all kinds of large birds. The Thunderbirds came, the great Mountain Eagles, Hawks, Ravens, and all kinds of birds; and when all the birds were in, Chief Eagle told them that the monster had killed his sons while they were catching a spring salmon at the foot of the precipice. He continued, "My people here like to go and fight him."

After Chief Eagle had spoken, Thunderbird spoke, and said, "I will go with you; I hate him!" Mountain Eagle Chief also said, "I will go with you when you fight against him; and Chief Hawk and Chief Raven said the same, and all the birds said the same.

On the following morning they went to the top of the precipice. Chief Eagle said, "One of my warriors shall go first, and all his fellows shall follow him." Therefore the Eagle warrior flew right down; and when the great monster saw him flapping his wings above his den, he came out, his mouth first, with which he intended to swallow all the Eagles. He opened his mouth and devoured all the Eagles.

Thunderbird came down next, thundering and lightening; and when the giant monster felt the water trembling, he put out two long arms. The lightning struck them, and the two arms were killed. Then all the birds flew down. The Devilfish was very angry. He opened his mouth, intending to swallow all of them.

When the Raven saw the mouth open, he flew down, went right into the mouth, and plucked out the great monster's heart with his sharp beak, and so the giant monster died there.

Thus another Raven clan also gained the victory. Therefore the Giant Devilfish is afraid of the Ravens up to this time.

When the people in olden times saw a devilfish coming up under a canoe, sometimes a man would sing out like a raven, "Caw, caw, caw!" Then the great monster would die before it came to the surface of the water. The devilfish would always die when it heard the sound of the raven's voice; but if a person waited until the monster came to the surface of the water and then sang out, it was in vain, and the great monster would swallow him, canoe and all. Therefore the hunters would watch for devilfish in the water.

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11217 NE 15th St, Bellevue WA 98004
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