

How Speelya Killed the Frost Giant

With the long winter finally ended, it seems fitting to recall how, long ago, Speelya (Coyote), with the help of Meadow Lark and Fox, killed the Frost Giant. This legend may have grown out of the memory of hard winters of the past or even of the Ice Ages thousands of years ago. Speelya is at his tricky, scheming, always curious best.

After a long absence, in which he had many exciting adventures, Speelya started home, back to his wife and children. Instead of following the trail, he decided to take a new route and see the country. While walking one day he saw a great river before him. He saw a solitary tepee on the other side, but not a soul was in sight. A gloominess like a dark cloud seemed to hang over the place. A long, white pole stuck out of the top of the tepee on which were hung white pieces of buckskin.

"I wonder who lives there," thought Speelya, his curiosity coming into play. Just then he noticed a canoe on the river. He saw a good chance to find out who lived in the tepee, so he called loudly over and over again. He called several times before he saw a man come out. He was naked except for a breech cloth. His face was painted a brilliant red and his long,

up. Dark clouds appeared and it began to snow. Speelya was soon shivering with the cold. He looked about for shelter, but found none. Seeing a huge rock close by, he went and sat down behind it. In a short time he felt his hands and feet grow numb. He got up and walked around, hoping that he would get warm, but it was of no use. He walked till he was tired. He fell down and he was too weary to get up again. While he lay there the Spirit of Death came and took his Other Self to another world.

Meadow Lark Tells Fox

It happened that Wa-wis-coula (the Meadow Lark) was present when the cold weather began. He knew about the Frost Giant and his method of killing people, so he knew that Speelya was doomed to die. He at once set out to tell Speelya's close friend, Se-ho-ho (the Fox) about it. Se-ho-ho was the only one who possessed the power to bring Speelya back to life. As soon as Se-ho-ho heard what had happened, he started out to save his friend. He dressed himself in his fur robe and fur cap. He left that night.

"Oh, oh, I wonder where my friend is," Oh, oh, I wonder where my friend is," he cried as he searched.

"Oh, oh, I wonder where my friend is,"

confident that help was near, he stepped over Speelya three times, thus bringing him back to life.

"Ho-hum," said Speelya, stretching himself. "I certainly have had a nice nap. Excuse me now, for I want to see Frost Giant."

Fox, knowing that it would be useless to argue with him, let him go.

Calls Upon Helpers

As soon as he was out of sight, Speelya took four little people from under his arm. They represented all his power and cunning. Without them he would be lost.

"Oh-h-h, it is so cold," said the biggest one. "Why don't you keep us where it's warm? We'll freeze if you keep us out here long. Put us back."

"Do not talk to our master like that," said the smallest one, his teeth chattering. "He must be in trouble or he would not have called on us." To Speelya he said, "What can we do for you? I know that you must need us."

"You are right," answered Speelya. "I am in trouble. The Frost Giant lives across the river. He is a menace to our people. He lives on the people he eats. I want to kill him and I can not do so unless you help me, so I have called on you. You have all the magical power that I possess. Without you I would be powerless. Be kind to me and help me."

sent an extra wave of cold so as to be sure that Speelya would be killed.

As soon as Speelya felt the cold weather coming he sat down under a tree. His clothes were so warm that he did not feel the cold.

Speelya Plays a Trick

Early the next morning he saw the Frost Giant start across on his canoe. Speelya stretched himself out under the tree, closing his eyes so that he looked like he was dead. The youngest of the four small people stood near the woods. The Frost Giant came toward Speelya as soon as he landed. He was about to eat him when he saw the little man standing at the edge of the woods.

"That fellow looks nice and fat. I had better kill him too, and then I will have two people to eat instead of one," he said to himself, smacking his lips as he started toward the little man. Speelya took a peek and saw the giant going the other way. Jumping up, he ran down to the river and got into the canoe. The giant heard the noise and as soon as he saw what had happened he ran down to the river, but Speelya was already out of reach.

"I will catch the other one anyway," he said, turning around, but there was no one in sight. He had lost both of them. He stood there, not knowing what to do. Finally he sat on a rock to think.

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BY LUCAS AND HOPKINS.

ILLUSTRATION BY LUCAS AND HOPKINS.

Cunning Plan Devised

"We know what has happened," said one of them, "and we will do our best to help you, but you must do as we tell you. Remember, if you try any of your tricks on us we will never help you again. I will be a pair of warm moccasins. Another will be a warm blanket to cover you. Our oldest brother will be a fur cap. Our youngest brother will be a human being whom the Frost Giant will chase before coming back to eat you when he finds you dead in the morning. As soon as he runs after our little brother you jump up and run to his canoe. Get across the river just as fast as you can. Run to the tepee and pull the thongs hanging down from the top. A cold wave will come. That is the only way to kill the Frost Giant. Now go."

Speelya looked down and saw a blanket, a pair of moccasins and a fur cap. He put them on and went to the edge of the river.

He called just as he had done the day before. The giant came out, shading his eyes with one hand.

"Hey there, old man, get me across on your canoe and hurry, for I have no time to lose," called Speelya.

Frost Giant Tries Again

"Sounds like the same one I killed yesterday and could not find this morning," said the giant to himself. He went inside, pulled the thongs, and sat down to wait for morning to come. He

Imitates the Frost Giant

Meanwhile, Speelya had gotten across safely and had gone into the tepee. The tepee was empty, except for a bow and some arrows, and human skeletons hanging down from the top. He saw the thongs hanging from the pole on top. It was just at this moment that he heard the giant calling from across the river. Not wanting the giant to get the best of him, Speelya took all his clothes off except his breech cloth. Picking up the bow and the arrow, he went outside and looked across, shading his eyes with one hand.

"I want to get across," yelled the giant.

"Take me across on your canoe."

Speelya stood still for a few moments, just as the giant had done before, then he went inside and pulled on the thongs. He sat down and waited for the cold weather to come.

"It does not seem to be getting any colder," he said. "I'll look out and see if it is snowing yet." He stuck his head out, but the air was so cold that he almost froze. After that he stayed inside. The next day he looked out and saw that it was nice and warm again. He went across on the canoe and found the Frost Giant frozen to death.

"This will teach you never to kill people again," he told the Frost Giant, as he went on his way, satisfied that he was rid of another enemy.

black hair hung loosely about his shoulders.—He carried a bow in one hand and some arrows in the other. He walked to the water's edge and looked across. He made an impressive picture as he stood there, one hand shading his eyes and his tall straight figure glistening in the sunlight.

"Hey there, old man, get me across on your canoe, and hurry, for I have no time to lose," called Speelya.

The man on the other side stood still for a few moments, as if undecided what to do. Then he turned around and went back into his tepee. Almost at once, Speelya saw the pieces of buckskin on the pole flutter. Immediately a cold breeze sprang

he heard a low voice say. It was Speelya's voice. Se-ho-ho followed the sound till he found Speelya's body behind the rock. Looking across the river, he saw the Frost Giant starting in his canoe, evidently having Speelya in mind for his breakfast.

Se-ho-ho picked up Speelya and carried him away out of sight. Then he stood over Speelya and called on the gods to help him bring life back to his friend. He stretched out his arms above his head and he began

to sing the song of his Sou-mesh (the animal which represented the power he had gotten from the gods), his body swaying back and forth to the rhythm of the song. His arms beckoned to unseen beings to come to his aid. Finally,

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