

INDIAN GIANT

(Burns Paiute)



Developed by the Burns Paiute Reservation

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Indian Giant (Numa-Tsa-Hua) was walking along a path when Coyote saw him. Giant terrorized the land and ate Indians. When Coyote (Ee-Tha-Sha), the trickster, saw Giant, he began making plans. Coyote decided to play a good trick on Giant. He decided to make a lot of Indian willow shades (ha-bah). He also made one for himself. When the Giant arrived, it looked as if a whole band of Indians once lived there.

Giant looked through the empty shades until he spotted Coyote lying sick under one of them. Giant, seeing Coyote, went up and sat down beside him and said, "So, here you lay sick."

Coyote pretended to be very sick. "Yes," he said, "all summer I lay here really sick. You see, all the Indians' shades have dried up and turned red (an-cha-qui-chad) and the Indians left me here sick." Coyote explained the nature of his illness.

Giant knew Coyote was pretending to be sick, so he said. "We should play a game, the kind you like best."

Coyote told Giant that he had something to do first and he went to talk to his friend (hi-sii), saying, "I shall pick a game to play." He asked his friend what he should do, and his friend told him to put some of his meat (tou-koh) at the end of his tail (kau-sii) to mislead Giant.

Giant heard Coyote making plans. When Coyote returned Giant asked, "Who were you talking to? What did you say? I heard you talking."

Coyote said, "No, I was just making noises."

Coyote said, "We should play the hit game." So they did.

Coyote asked, "Who's going to lie down first?" Giant did not answer, so Coyote volunteered. Coyote lay down first. Indian Giant hit him with a rock and Coyote hollered and jumped up.

Then Giant said, "We should hit each other two times."

Coyote replied, "No, just once." Coyote knew if he was hit again by Giant, he might not be able to jump up.

Now it was the Giant's turn to lie down. He knew of Coyote's plan and he kept his eyes on him. Coyote, pretending that he couldn't lift the rock, told Giant, "I can't lift the rock. It is too heavy and I'm too weak from being sick." Then he told the Giant, "Don't look at me, turn the other way."

When Giant began to turn his head, Coyote picked up the rock and hit the Giant's head. Coyote kept hitting him all the while saying, "What are you? What kind of a Giant are you eating up all my relatives (nah-ne-wah)?" Coyote killed (pah-tsa-wou) Indian Giant and became free.