



Legend of Corn

We're told that kāyas, long ago, all of the plants, the animals, and every living creature on this earth, once walked around and we were able to talk with them. We lived with these relationships with all the plants and animals, such a close connection to them that we were able to speak with them and understand them. They could understand us; but, somewhere along the way, we lost all of that, but that lives on in legend.

So, we are told that kāyas, long ago, Mahtāmin Ahcāhk, Corn Spirit, was still able to move amongst us. We're told that he was kind of a bully and used to walk around flexing his muscles, acting tough and he'd go around and push around the other creatures and ask them if they wanted to wrestle. He'd tell them, "Look. I'm the strongest here. I can wrestle anybody." He was getting annoying to the other creatures and being a big bully.

Trickster had heard about this. So, he thought, "This bothers me. I'm going to go find Mahtāmin Ahcāhk, this Corn Spirit, and I'm going to confront him and see if he wants to be a bully to me."

It didn't take him long 'cause as he was going along, all the other creatures were telling him, "Yeah, Corn Spirit was here this morning and he beat me up. He challenged me to a wrestling match and I didn't even want to fight, but he's just going around acting all tough and just trying to show off his strength."

It didn't take long. Trickster finally caught up with him. He called, "Āstam Mahtāmin Ahcāhk. Get over here. I heard a story here and I want to see if it's true. I heard that you've been going everywhere and everywhere you go you're acting like you're the toughest around. You're asking everyone to wrestle and you think you can wrestle anyone."

Corn Spirit was so arrogant that he puffed up his chest and said, "Yes, I can wrestle anybody. I'm the toughest out here. I'm not scared of you even, Trickster. Why don't you try and wrestle me?"

Trickster smiled to himself because this is what he wanted. He wanted to wrestle Corn Spirit and teach him a lesson. So he accepted the challenge and they squared up together and right away Trickster had the better edge on Corn Spirit and took him to the ground and they rolled around for a while.



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Corn Spirit was putting up a good fight but not good enough. Trickster was much stronger. Finally, Trickster had him down and was holding him and he was ready to pop him one in the nose when he told Corn Spirit, "This is what's going to happen every single time I hear that you're going around being a bully. I'm going to make sure that you never do this again. Do you give up?"

Corn Spirit thought about it for a while and he was all bruised up and beaten. Finally, he said, "Okay, okay, Trickster. I agree. I'm done. I don't want to fight anymore."

Trickster still didn't really believe him. So, he held him. He said, "You're going to promise. You promise that you'll never ever be a bully or go try and fight anyone again?"

Corn Spirit quickly, "Yes. Yes. I promise. I promise."

Trickster looked at him. He said, "That's not the only thing. From now on, kahkiyaw mahtāmin, all corn, are going to grow 13 rows of corn along them to remind them to follow the teachings of the 13 moons that were given to live in a good way. You were a bully and need to always remember those teachings with the moons and with our tipi poles because

they teach us how to live in a good way and that's going to be marked on all corn, kahkiyaw mahtāmin. That's the way it's gonna be for all time. Not only that, you're going to have to go out to undo all the wrong you did to all the creatures across Mother Earth. You're going to go and you're going to share a piece of yourself with them and feed them and give back to them and nourish them for all time. You'll keep nourishing them and giving them something good, giving them some life."

So Corn Spirit agreed and promised that this is the way it would be for all time.

We are told as nēhiyawak that even today kahkiyaw mahtāmin, that's how they look. They have the 13 rows of corn on them to mark each of the 13 moons teachings and tipi teachings, and that even today, corn is still sworn to keep nourishing and feeding us.

So now you know the story of corn and the corn spirit.

Kinanaskomitinawah kahkiyaw, thanks to you all.