

How Rabbit and Owl Don't Get Along

Listen my Children, and I will tell you a story that came from my father, and from his father before him.

Long ago, they say that Old Earthmaker looked down upon all he created. And he saw that it was good — it was beautiful. But one day Earthmaker looked down from the sky and saw that Rabbit made a dance in the cold winter wind.

You see, Rabbit was trying to tell Earthmaker what he wanted, and what he wanted to be, so he sang, and danced and shivered in the cold. Well the longer Earthmaker watched Rabbit, the more he liked his song and dance.

He danced this way and sang:

“I want long fur to keep me warm on cold winter nights.”

He danced that way and sang:

“I want long ears that go way-ay-ay up.”

And he danced some more and sang:

“But most of all, I want long legs so I can run fast through the forest like deer.”

This pleased Earthmaker, for he liked Rabbit's dance, and he thought to himself:

“I will make magic for Rabbit.”

First he turned to all the animals and said:

“I will make magic for Rabbit, but you must keep your eyes closed. No peeking around.”

Then he took Rabbit’s ears and pulled them way-ay-ay up — and made them long. He took Rabbit’s legs and started to pull them, but then, he noticed one of the animals was watching.

You see Owl sat perched on a rock but peered way over his shoulder to see the magic. Well this made Earthmaker so mad, that he took Owl by the head and turned it all the way ‘round his shoulders.

“You stay that way. And you stay up in the tree all day long, don’t even come out to see the sunshine.”

After Earthmaker was through with Owl, he went back to finish the magic on Rabbit — but Rabbit had hopped off, his legs about half-way down. He had to hop about like this. Rabbit never did go back to have his legs fixed, so he had to stay that way.

This is why Rabbit doesn’t like Owl, and Owl doesn’t like Rabbit. That’s the way it is.