

The Beginning

A Legend from the West Coast of North America

In the beginning there was nothing.
Only water, darkness and Raven.



RAVEN

Raven flew through the darkness with a bag that hung around his neck. He had been flying for a long time, and was starting to get tired. So while he flew, he removed a rock from his bag and threw it into the sea. This rock became the first land. Raven sat down upon this land to rest, and while resting he took other rocks from his sack and threw them into the water. This is how Raven made other lands.

Rested, Raven picked up his bag and continued to fly. After a while he became tired again, and took more things from his bag. He removed the fir, the pine, the spruce, the redwood and all the trees of the world.

He also removed the huckleberry bush, the wild strawberry, the grass and all of the plants of the world, including the plants of the sea. These things he scattered across the land and the water, so that they may grow.

Again, Raven took his bag around his neck and flew through the darkness. And again Raven became tired so that he sat upon a rock. This time he removed all the animals of the world. The wolf, the eagle, the salmon, the bear, the deer, and all the animals of the land and of the sea.

Raven looked around him at the world he had made, it was a good world, and every one was peaceful and happy. But before he flew off he looked into his pouch and saw that there was one thing left.

So Raven removed man from the bag and placed him upon the earth to care and respect all of Raven's creations.