

UCLA

American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Title

The Faithful Hunter: Abnaki Stories. By Joseph Bruchac./Navajo Coyote Tales. By William Morgan./Secrets from the Center of the World. By Joy Harjo and Stephen Strom.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/67n2h98d>

Journal

American Indian Culture and Research Journal , 14(2)

ISSN

0161-6463

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Publication Date

1990-03-01

DOI

10.17953

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time of significant transitions in Pueblo Indian society, and an important precursor of interdisciplinary research.

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The Faithful Hunter: Abnaki Stories. By Joseph Bruchac. Greenfield Center, NY: Greenfield Review Press, 1988. 61 pages. \$7.95 Paper.

Navajo Coyote Tales. By William Morgan. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1988. 49 pages. \$7.95 Paper.

Secrets from the Center of the World. By Joy Harjo and Stephen Strom. Tucson: Sun Tracks and the University of Arizona Press, 1989. 75 pages. \$12.95 Paper.

In the middle of the last century, a chief named Owhi asked, "Is the earth before the day or the day before the earth? The Creator was before all things, and he looked one way and then the other and made these lands for us." Owhi revered the earth where his ancestors had lived since the beginning of time, and he shared his view of the land and its bounty with thousands of Indians. Over one hundred years have passed since Owhi made this statement, but his song of the earth is sung throughout the Americas by Indians and those who share the Native American oneness with the earth.

Secrets from the Center of the World, by Joy Harjo and Stephen Strom, is a testament to the earth's living spirit. The volume is a book of beauty, pleasing to the ear and eye. It is *Nashone*, as Navajos say, offering moving prose and colorful photographs that originated in the heart and speak to us of the center of our being.

The old stories reflected the belief that the earth and all its creation followed the Beauty Way. The plants and animals, buttes and rivers were a part of the grand creation, and the stories speak of the relationship of the earth-surface people with the animate and inanimate beings of the earth. Several stories in *Dinetah*, Navajo Country, involve Coyote, the trickster, changer, the positive and negative one. William Morgan collected and translated six coyote stories that have been preserved through the rich oral

tradition of the *Dine* from the time of Changing Woman to this day. On cold, wintry nights, Navajos share the story of Crow and Coyote, telling how *Gaagi* tricked *Maii*. Crow told the trickster that a bluebird was trapped under a hat. Crow flew away, leaving Coyote in charge, telling the four-legged not to allow the bluebird to escape. By and by, Coyote could not resist the temptation of eating the bluebird. He lifted the hat, grabbed underneath, and found that Crow had put a spiny cactus under the hat. Coyote howled while Crow laughed.

The Navajo stories, presented in fourteen-point type, are intended for primary readers. The Abnaki stories, told by Joseph Bruchac in *The Faithful Hunter*, are written for secondary level students. Nevertheless, the stories in both books will be enjoyed by all. Families, plants, animals, and the sacred are the major topics presented in these readable works. According to one Bruchac tale, Gluskabe became concerned one day when he visited the Abnaki and found that the people had grown inactive because of the thick, delicious maple syrup that came directly from the trees. The Indians simply lay on the ground under the trees with their mouths wide open and allowed the nutritious sap to drip into their mouths. They refused to move from their beds to fish, farm, hunt, or gather. Gluskabe was shocked. He created a large basket which he filled with water. Then he poured the water over the trees, turning the sap into a thin, bitter-tasting liquid which required processing before it could be consumed. Now the people would have to work hard again in order to survive, and they would remember to give thanks to the Creator for their livelihood.

Bruchac offers twelve original stories that are tied to the earth and its wondrous song. This is the theme that ties the three books together, a theme as old as the earth itself, from the time when Indian people emerged from this land. The books and their authors speak of the great hoop of life and the center of the sacred circle. "I belong to the earth out of which I came," said Owhi years ago. The oral literature of his day has been preserved by Indians throughout the Americas, and a small sample of it is presented in these three books.

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