

Weekly response 5

"The Girl Who Married the Bear and Coyote Master of Death" is a Native American folktale, specifically from the Tlingit people of Alaska. The story begins with a girl who is teased and rejected by the other girls in her village because she is so beautiful. One day, a bear comes to her and takes her away to be his wife. She lives with the bear and bears him two children.

One day, the bear goes out hunting and leaves the girl alone with their children. She is lonely and misses her own people, so she decides to leave and go back to her village. When the bear returns and discovers that she is gone, he sets out to find her. Along the way, he enlists the help of Coyote, the Master of Death, who promises to kill anyone who tries to keep the girl from returning to the bear.

When they reach the village, the other villagers are afraid of the bear and refuse to let the girl go with him. Coyote keeps his promise and kills those who try to stop them. The girl agrees to go back with the bear, but on the condition that he allows her to visit her own people once a year. The bear agrees, and from that day on, she spends part of the year with him and part of the year with her own people.

The story teaches the importance of respecting the power and authority of nature and the spirits that inhabit it, as well as the consequences of breaking agreements and not respecting the wishes of others.