

## Maple Story-Shared by Bob Brown

During when the earth was still new, Shukwaya'tisu would still visit every so often. He would check to see how things were with the various villages of the people that lived there. He would set out to the south and visit people there, seeing if there were things that they may be lacking. They all seemed to be content and happy with their surroundings. This made Shukwaya'tisu happy to see.

So he moved on towards the east of where the people that lived there among the huge forests, this where he had placed wahta' for the people that was there. As he came upon the area, he first came to the villages to see how the people were doing. As he arrived closer, he changed himself into a humble man, so the people wouldn't know as to who he really was. As he came into the village he had hoped to see the people working together, but he seen no one in the village. Then he thought, perhaps they were all by the river gathering the fish that were coming back in to spawn. So he went down to the river, and as he got to the river, there too, he did not see the people.

Now he came to wonder, where could the people be. So he then went towards the path that went in to forest of where the grove of wahta' grew. As he came closer, he now could see people laying everywhere next to the trees of wahta'. The children, their parents, and the elders, all of the people from the village laying on their backs, as the syrup flowed out from the wahta'. By this, they were all getting lazy, so Shukwaya'tisu knew that it wouldn't be long before the flow of the syrup would slowly stop, and when this happened, Shukwaya'tisu thought of an idea that would make the people to work to get the reward of the syrup.

Once the syrup stopped flowing, Shukwaya'tisu had taken two vessels made of elm back, he went to the river, and began to gather the water, and poured the water into everyone single tree. It was his thought that now the people would now have to work to get the sweet taste of the syrup. When the time came about again for the syrup to flow, it was at this time that the people noticed that the trees no longer flowed with syrup, but now looked as if water came from the trees. Many of the people felt sad and wondered how this could have happened. But they did noticed that the wahta' still flowed but it was water.

As Shukwaya'tisu came to the people again, he could see their sorrow of not being able to gather syrup as they once used to. So he came into a dream of the people and instructed them of how they would be able to get the sweet syrup again. When the people gathered the next day, they all shared their dream, and it was the same. They prepared vessels of bark, and gathered the water/sap from the trees. Then they were to heat up rocks and boil the water/sap with heated rocks, and to do this until the water was turned in syrup once again. This now made the people work together once again, and Shukwaya'tisu was once again happy to see the people come together once again.