



Stories of the First World

# Coyote and the Making



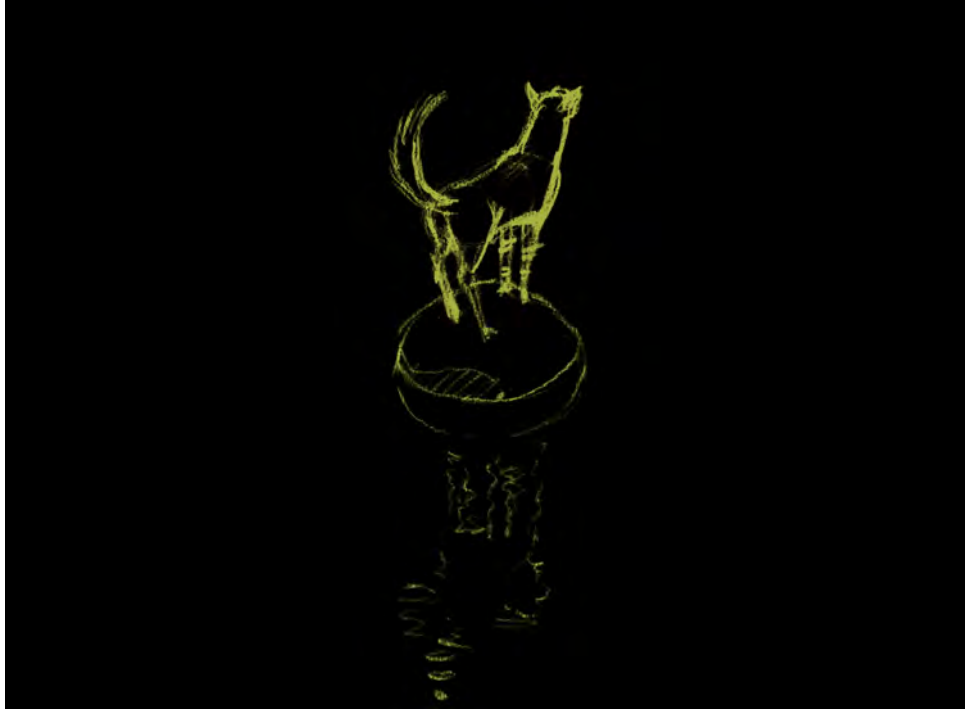
story and illustrations  
by  
Alex Stevens



# Stories of the First World

## Coyote and the Making

### Prologue



It's said that there was a time in the world when there was no sun, no moon or stars, and certainly no fire. In the beginning, all the world was covered with water. All the animals were asleep in the world below the water. Only Coyote and his friend, the Eagle, were awake in the world.

Coyote was standing on a rock. He had nowhere to go, because there was nothing but water as far as the eye could see. He was alone and he cried.

Then the Creator Of All Things sent Eagle to speak to Coyote. Coyote asked Eagle to search for land, any little piece of land that might be better than this tiny rock. Eagle flew away and Coyote kept on crying.



When Eagle returned, he said that he couldn't find any land, but he found this Turtle instead. Coyote asked the Turtle how deep he could dive. The Turtle replied, "How deep do you want?" Coyote said "Deep enough to bring up some Earth from the world below the water."

Turtle dove down a long way, until he touched the earth that lay below the water. Turtle scratched at the earth with his little clawed feet, and then he swam back to the surface.

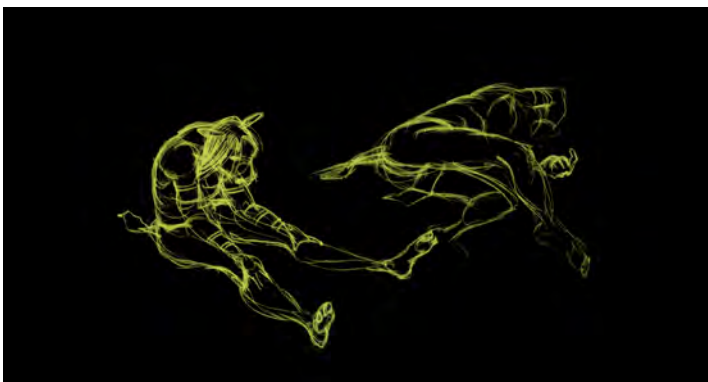


Coyote looked between Turtle's claws and found the tiniest speck of dirt. He added this to the rock on which he was standing, then sent Turtle down for more earth.

Turtle kept coming up with more bits of earth and Coyote kept adding them to his rock. Pretty soon Coyote had made a piece of ground big enough for him to walk in a circle. Then Coyote began to dance.



Coyote was dancing in a circle, and he kept making the circle wider and wider, and as he danced the ground he was on got bigger and bigger, until it covered the water, and there was ground as far as you could see.



Then Eagle came back and told Coyote that the Creator had seen what he'd done and that it was a good job. He said that Coyote could rest now, so Coyote closed his eyes and slept for a long time.

# Chapter One



And then Coyote woke up.



I say Coyote WOKE UP!



“Hey, Brother Eagle”, whispered Coyote.  
There was no response.

“Hey Eagle!” Coyote shouted. “Hey! Eagle,  
eagle, eagle...” Coyote began to sing the  
words, over and over again.

“Eagle!”



“Yes.” said Eagle.

“Hey, Eagle!” said Coyote, “got anything to eat?”

“No.” said Eagle.

“Cause I would like to eat something, but it’s so,” Coyote yawned “dark!”

“Yes, it’s” Eagle paused “totally dark.”

“Can you see anything to eat?” asked Coyote.

“No,” said Eagle “I can’t see anything at all.”

“Cause, you know, I’d like to eat something,” said Coyote. “Maybe there’s something over that way.”

“What way?” asked Eagle.



“Over that way!” said Coyote impatiently. This Eagle could be so slow sometimes, he thought. Then he yawned hugely.

“Aahhh... anyway, maybe you could fly over there and see if it’s something good to eat.”

“I can’t see. Anything.” Eagle stated decisively.

Coyote used his wheedling voice.

“Well, maybe fly over there anyway, Eagle, old buddy. After all, I can’t see anything from down here and” he sniffed loudly, “you know I could swear I smell something over there.” Coyote sniffed a few more times, then yawned again.

Coyote heard Eagle’s feathers rustling, then the sound of booming wing beats, and the air whooshing around him. He smiled to himself. The booming of Eagle’s wings gradually faded into the darkness.

Coyote yawned again. “Okay, you go get ‘em, Eagle, eagle, eagle...” Coyote’s chanting also faded into the darkness until the only sound was that of Coyote, the Maker of the World, snoring.

The darkness was absolute. There was nothing to see or hear, except the faint booming, which grew suddenly louder. Then there was a great thump and rustling of feathers.

“Ouch!” cried Coyote. “What? What?”

“Sorry.” said Eagle.

“You were right.” said Eagle, “There’s something over there.”

“I was.. Well of course I was” said Coyote. “Told you I smelled it. What is it? Food?”

“It’s a light.” said Eagle.

“A light. Really,” said Coyote, vaguely. “Is that so?” Then he paused. “What’s a light?”

“You can see things.” Said Eagle, a bit unhelpfully, Coyote thought.

“Really?” said Coyote. He was interested, but kind of puzzled. “And where is this...’light’ you’re talking about?”

“Right there,” said Eagle.

“Ouch!” cried Coyote. He could feel his head grasped in Eagle’s powerful talons and turned sharply around until he was looking almost behind him.

And this is what Coyote saw:

