



The Legend of the Mosquito

Long ago, a great thunderbird lived on Thunder Mountain. He was so astounding, that he could not leave Thunder Mountain for fear of frightening the humans. Consequently, he relied on others to bring him food. Because he slept through the winter, he became very hungry every spring. After the first thunderstorm of the spring, a mosquito would be sent down the mountain to search for food for the thunderbird.

The mosquito's job was to secretly gather energy from the humans and fly back up the mountain to feed the great thunderbird. The mosquito buzzed among the people and worked tirelessly all spring and summer to find enough sustenance to satisfy the hunger of the great bird.

One spring, the thunderbird was hungrier than ever. He demanded that the mosquito tell him the secret of where to find nourishment. "Where do you get my food?" rumbled the thunderbird. The mosquito remained silent. The mosquito thought about all the kind people that had always provided energy for the thunderbird. He feared for safety of the humans. He knew he could not tell thunderbird his secret.

Once again, the thunderbird shouted to the mosquito, "Where do you get my food?" The mosquito became scared. He knew the only way to calm the thunderbird and protect the humans was to trick the thunderbird into thinking the trees held the energy he was seeking. The mosquito softly spoke, "Great Thunderbird, I draw the energy you seek from inside the trees below."

The thunderbird was very pleased with what he thought was the secret knowledge about the source of his energy. Suddenly, he sent a bolt of lightning to strike a tree, so the mosquito could draw the energy from within its trunk.

Because the mosquito kept the secret about where the energy was found, mosquitoes continue to draw energy from people in the form of blood. Also, the mark of the thunderbird can still be seen after the first thunderstorm of the spring strikes the trees in the forest.