



Naayéé'neizghání dóó Tóbájishchíní

Transcribed by Sylvia Jackson

Impregnated female creatures migrated from the Third World, Nihaltsoi, with the Holy Ones, and soon gave birth to little ones and were disappointed, shamed, and ridiculed. Their being unhealthy and inflicted with diseases may have contributed to the deformities and abnormalities of the young ones born.

Dine'é Baahane' recalls that soon after the birth of these hideous babies the mother buried them alive, hid them under brushes and shrubs. However, the babies popped their heads out of sandy areas everywhere and ran into the brushes and bushes. They survived, grew and became the Yé'iitsoh. They ate and ate and never seemed to get their fill. They preyed on all living matters of earth surface. The People became fewer and fewer in number and prayed for help to survive. Many Yé'iitsoh flew overhead and picked up their meals before and clue was portrayed of their presence. Some walked the face of the earth, resembling rock boulders. Traditional hané tells some had extra brains and hearts hidden at various parts of their bodies. Many ran their prey to death and ate them. Others used their tails and legs as weapons and killed. Some paralyzed their prey with stares and ate them. Hané recalls that they were responsible from the near extinction of all the living beings of the White World and had to be killed. The most ferocious and feared was the Yé'iitsoh T'áá í'í Naaghahi, One That Walks Upright. There were many attempts to battle this monster, and none were successful. The People prayed hard for deliverance.

Yołgaii Asdzáá gave birth to two sons, Naayéé'neizghání dóó Tóbájishchíní. The story tells that the boys were born just a hand length of time apart. Naayéé'neizghání was delivered first. He was given the name Child of the Sun Beam and later gained his warrior name, Naayéé'neizghání. Tóbájishchíní at birth was called Child of Mist and later gained his warrior name also. While the boys were growing, Yołgaii Asdzáá often hid them in a dugout beneath the fire hearth whenever she sensed danger for them. They are also referred to as Leeyánaayani elsewhere in the Diné Baahane'.

As the passage of time progressed through the growing cycle, the monster, Yé'iitsoh became curious about the tiny, small footprints around the home of Yołgaii Asdzáá, so he visited her often. He asked her about the little human footprints all around her home. She told him she lived alone and got lonely. The footprints around her home aided her in feelings less lonely. She told him she created the little footprints using the side of her fist pressed into the ground. Showing Yé'iitsoh how she made the footprints herself, she pressed her doubled up fist into the ground. Using her fingertips, she added toe prints to the fist imprinted in the ground. Yé'iitsoh observed closely and agreed, "Shooya".

Yé'itsoh was thought to be slow at comprehending as he displayed his behavior in that matter.

The Holy Ones, Haashch'éyááltí'í and Haashch'éewaan, were both delighted with the twin boys, Naayééneizighání dóó Tóbájishchíní. The boys displayed inquisitive minds by asking many questions. Haashch'éyááltí'í and Haashch'éewaan took pleasure in taking care of the boys when duty called Changing Woman to be away.

Sun Bearer was not present, and no one mentioned him in the presence of the Twins. His duty to the People required much of his time and was not physically involved in the upbringing of the Twins. The Holy Ones understood the purpose for the Twins to the earth surface People. They would grow strong and destroy the monsters. All efforts and attentions focused on safeguarding the Twins. Soon, the monsters would be destroyed and gone. They would not be seen again on the earth surface.

In the meantime, the terrible, horrible giants continued to infest the earth surface, preying on small animals and people. The People continued to become fewer and fewer in number due to the big appetite the giants had. The People possessed few fighting skills to defend themselves. Some giants walked upright and stood ten times over the people. Some flew overhead and picked up their prey with their giant scrapers beaks and claws and carried their meals to the tops of high cliffs and fed their babies.

To spare the children from the hideous monsters, children were hidden in large dugouts beneath the fire hearth, covered by big slaps of sandstone most of the time so that the giants would not be able to detect the small people. Charcoal and ash possibly distorted the smell of children and kept them safe. Naayééneizighání dóó Tóbájishchíní were fused into such a dugout beneath the fire hearth whenever the giants were spotted near their home.

As the Twins grew stronger, Haashch'éyááltí'í and Haashch'éewaan continued to display guardianship and volunteered as spiritual keepers for the boys. They taught the boys to provide for their mother small game such as rabbits, squirrels, gophers, and prairie chickens. Haashch'éezhzhini, the Dark Spirit, made bows and arrows for the boys and taught them the basic hunting skills. The boys practiced on everything that moved around the Dził Ch'ool'í'í and Dził Nahodilí area. The rabbits, squirrels, gophers, prairie, chickens, and birds complained to Yé'itsoh to do something about the naughty disrespectful boys living with Changing Woman. As a result, Yé'itsoh planned the initial moccasin game to lure Changing Woman away from her home so that he would thoroughly check out her home for the little people living with her.

The traditional moccasin game originated at this particular time period. The animals enjoyed the game so much, they decided to use the game as a basis for making decisions. The winning side would ultimately get their wishes granted. Yé'itsoh enjoyed being the center of attention so much that he forgot the purpose of his game.

The spiritual guardians continued molding the boys mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, to be strong, to have courage and to be persistent. Haashch'éezhzhini and Spider Woman played the major role in providing spiritual nurturing of the boys.

One day, Haashch'éezhzhini encouraged the boys to pay close attention to all that they were being taught. Because they could be battling the giants as soon as they manage to hit their marks with the spears and arrows. The thought of battling and destroying the Giants overwhelmed the Twins. They began seeking out information about their father. They asked everyone they met for information on who their father was and where they could find him. The rabbits, squirrels, and Sparrows responded that their father was all around and could not be found in one place.

No one was able to tell them where they could find their father. They began. Their journey toward the rising sun. Not far from their home, they spotted a hole in the ground. Younger brother said he heard someone singing and a tap, tap, tap. He looked down the hole and suddenly the entrance to the hole became big enough for them to enter. Spider Woman was singing as she was weaving. She welcomed them in without turning away from her loom and asked what brought them to her house. Younger brother told her their plans to find their father.



Spider Woman could not keep the information from them. She told them to sit down while she told them they would find their father, Sun Bearer. The journey is long and very dangerous, she began. Sun Bearer's home is in the east at the edge of the big water.



Jóhonaa'ái Baaghango Nijishaazhi / Journey to Sun Bearer

Transcribed by Sylia Jackson

The Hane' beings: One warm, sunny, and clear day, the twins question their mother about their father. They ask for information on where to find him, where he lived and how did one find him. Yoolgaii Asdzáá at first avoided the question and responded, "Your father possesses destructive powers and you do not want to know him. In fact, he is all around and cannot be found in one place" The twins insisted on finding their father.

The Twins, being persistent, found Grandmother Spider and asked the whereabouts of their father and how to find him. She told them what she knew. Sun Bearer lived far away in the east and at the edge of the great water. There were many dangers and difficult obstacles to overcome before his home could be reached. There were the unfriendly sand dune people, the water people, the forest, people, cliff dwellers, and many others that were harmful and should be left alone on the journey to the sun barrier. The twins listened carefully as Grandmother Spider told them the creation story, the various kingdoms through which the people emerged to the White World. The story was long. Grandmother Spider went on and on and on. The twins asked to be excused so that they could be on their way. The stories were certainly helpful, but they must be going. Grandmother, Spider, told them to wait while she observed how much daylight was left yet for them to travel, she went outside. The sun had reached midday. She looped the sun with her web stream and dragged it down to setting in the western horizon. She returned and told the boys that they should plan to stay the night because the sun was setting in the West and there was little daylight left for traveling. The twins gasped in surprise. They had not spent enough time for the sun to be setting in the West. They hurried outside to check out her information. She was right. The sun was setting in the West. They returned to Grandmother Spider's home and agreed to spend the night. She fed them and told them more stories until they both fell asleep.

Early the next morning, the boys were up before Grandmother Spider. They prepared quietly to leave. Before they were out the door, Grandmother Spider awoke. She scolded them for sneaking around and told them to sit down, for she had gifts to give. She took from her bag of webs two beautiful eagle tail feathers. They were white with black tips. Each young warrior received an eagle tail feather with a prayer and song of the "life plume," hinááh bits'os. She instructed the twins to use the feathers with prayers and songs asking the Spirit people for protection and guidance. She told them the hinááh bits'os carries the prayers and songs of the creatures to the spirits for their safety. Hinááh bits'os are feathers obtained from a living eagle ordained with the power of wind air for protection. Spider woman reminded them to use the prayers and songs she taught them, and no harm would come to them. They ate and left on their journey to find their father.

They traveled many days and nights. On a very hot day, they came upon a very sandy area. The older brother began to move onto the sand when the sand began to boil and roll. They had encountered the big rolling sand dune Grandmother Spider had mentioned in her story. The sand rolled like boiling water at the slightest movement they made toward it just as Grandmother Spider told them it would. And creatures lived in the sand dunes, and they ate living things that perished in the sands. They stood side by side and recited the prayers and songs with the hinááh bits'os in their hands. The sand became still and they crossed it. The next day at noon they came upon the slicing reeds. The younger brother attempted to enter the field of reeds. When its blades of leaves begin slicing the air. The slicing reeds had sharp blades of leaves that rustled in waves and chopped up innocent living things that wandered into the field. Little insect critters ate the chopped flesh on the ground. The twins resorted to the hinááh bits'os to keep them safe as they recited the prayers and songs. The threshing leaves stopped and allowed the twins to enter and cross the field.

The next day, just before the sun set in the west, they came upon a little stream. Elder brother began to cross the little stream when it quickly widened and became a rushing river displaying a strong current. He quickly jumped back. The twins quickly recalled the small stream mentioned and Grandmother Spider story. It widened at anything that made the slightest movement to cross it. Creatures that fell in became food for the water creatures living in the stream. Again, the young man took the hinááh bits'os And wave their feathers over the stream and it quickly returned to its original width and began flowing gently again. They recited the sacred prayers and songs connecting with the stream. They crossed the gentle stream without a problem.

The next day at noon they came to a trail leading between rock walls. As soon as younger brother advanced between the rocks walls, the walls slammed together and ground. The crushing rocks slammed together and ground anything and everything getting between them. Just as Grandmother Spiders said they would. Rock creatures live at the base of the crashing rocks. Waited for those who mistakenly got between the rocks. The brothers recited the sacred prayers and songs, and the rock walls became still and the brothers continued the journey.

The young men journeyed for many days. They grew tired, hungry and thirsty. They could hardly keep upright as they walked. Younger brother walked behind older brother. He noticed his brother's feet turned inward. His legs appeared bowed and he walks slower and slower and slower. He stopped and called to his brother to stop. They looked at one another and were shocked at the appearance of one another. They had aged tremendously and were no longer young. Their hair had grown long and was now grey. The joints and their fingers were knotted and wrinkled. Their eyes set deep in the sockets and were dull. They thought for a hand length of time and discovered that they must have taken the old aging road a while back. The old aging road was just that. Anyone taking this path aged fast, died and became a meal for critters living along the road. The young man sat down and tried to recall how far back they would retrace their steps to correct the mistake.

Suddenly they spotted an old man moving very slowly on a path toward them. He pushed forward each leg, one over the other, to move along. Stopped and asked the boys to identify themselves and provide information on why they were on this road. He asked them where they were headed. They let him know the purpose for their traveling to the Sun Bearer's home. The old wrinkled man with slow legs told them more of the evil that the Sun Bearer was capable of. He told them not to worry for he would give each one powerful medicine to use when Sun Bearer test their survival strengths with poisonous tobacco. He turned halfway away from them and regurgitated into his cupped hand. He gave the boys particles he vomited out and told them to place them in their mouths when Sun Bearer offered them smoke from his pipe he told them Sun Bearer is not to be trusted. He eliminates those who know too much with poisonous tobacco. The vomit will help them neutralize the poison and the tobacco. The Twins. Place the vomit behind their earlobes and thanked the old man for the gift they turned around and backtracked to the location where they must have taken the wrong turn.

Knowing the sacred names, songs and prayers for each obstacle was helpful and the young warriors managed to gain passage over more deadly obstacles and continued to the Sun Bearers home. They walked and walked for many days.

They neared Sun Bearer's home late one evening. He had fearsome creatures guarding the four exits to his home. At the first exit, there were two big snakes Thish Tsoh. They hissed, shook their rattlers, showed their fangs, and would not allow anyone into the entrance. The twins, called the serpents by their sacred names, introduced themselves, offered prayers and songs to honor them. The serpents calmly responded to the songs, became tamed, laid their heads down and allowed the young men to enter. Two lightning bolts, Atsintliish, flashed cracked and shook the ground at the next entrance the twins offered prayers and songs reverently and respect for their powers they were allowed to enter. Next two big cats Nashdoihi Tsoh, whipped their tails, showed their terrible sharp teeth and growled. The Twins called them by their sacred names and offered prayers and songs and respect for their creatures. The Nashdóihil Tsoh Calmly return to their sleep position and close their eyes. The young man entered the third exit. So wolves guarded the Maii Tsoh, wolves guarded the fourth entrance. They sat quietly, looking harmless, but they were quick to their feet when the boys attempted to move past them. The twins waved their "life plume", called the wolves by their sacred name, and ordered them to calm down the wolves. The wolves stood motionless and allowed the twins to pass.

The twins entered a huge white room. A large woman sat near the South wall, weaving to the north wall where stacks of baskets, pots, cooking tools, and food. The woman greeted them in a harsh, loud voice. Without turning away from her loom, her hands moved quickly to separate the warp and ran a strand of wool through it. She picked up the weaving comb and pressed the wool between the warp. She asked "For what purpose are you here at the home of the great Sun Bearer?"

The older brother recited from whose home and location they came from and the purpose of their visit to their father's Sun Bearer. The woman turned and looked at them. She was not bad looking; she was actually beautiful. With fair, skin and hair neatly tied in a knot at the base of her neck, her eyes were light like her hair. As she looked at her visitors, she thought the young men are awfully thin, sunburnt, dirty and smelly. They needed a bath she spoke with a slight irritation in her voice "What do you hope to gain by coming to the great Sun Bearer's home?"

Before they could answer, the thunder rolled and rumbled from east to West and West to east. The woman grabbed the weather, beaten, dirty and dusty young men by the waist, and rolled them up in a curtain of black, silky clouds. That hung from the north wall. She stood in the middle of the room.

Sun Bearer burst into the room "Where are the two individuals I saw approaching this house now for several days?"

The woman standing in the middle of the white room with a weaving comb in her hand answered him harshly, "Who is the one that claimed he behaves himself as he travels the sky each day?"

Sun Barrier ignored her and began turning over the huge basket and pots. He flipped stacks of hides and looked under and behind them. He grabbed the rolled white clouds from the east wall and sent them unraveling to the floor. Nothing fell from them. He grabbed the rolled blue cloud from the South wall and sent it unraveling to the floor. Still nothing. He grabbed the yellow rolled clouds from the West wall and sent it unraveling to the floor. Nothing fell from it. The woman held her breath as her eyes followed her husband to the north wall. Tiny beads of sweat appeared on her forehead, and she felt wetness on her palms. Sun Barrier grabbed the black clouds from the north wall. They unraveled, and the young men fell to the floor, "Thud, Thud." The Boys scampered to their feet and faced Sun Bearer. His eyes were deep black, big and round like large Obsidian pebbles. He viewed them up and down from their feet to the top of their heads. He stood with legs astride, hands on his hips. And demanded an explanation.

Before the twins could say anything, Sun Bearer's wife answered in the Husky voice. "These two are looking for their FATHER. The Great Sun Bearer. The one that says he does not look at other women."

The older brother cleared his throat and identified themselves as children of Yoolgaii Asdzáá from Dził Nahoodilíí and Dził Ch'oolí'íí. They have come to see their father, Sun Bearer, Sun Bearer's eyes grew bigger as he looked into the eyes of the taller boy and then at the shorter boy. He called Moon Bearer to enter. He rushed in from an adjacent room. Sun Bearer directed Moon Bearer to prepare the sweat lodge for the visitors. Moon Bearer was not as tall as the Sun Bearer but he had a kind face, and he reached over and shook hands with them before he left. Sun Bearer instructed his wife to prepare something for the visitors to eat. She busied herself noisily at the fire hearth. He motioned to the young men to sit with him near the west wall of the room. The three of them sat on the floor with legs crossed. Sun Bearer filled his Obsidian tobacco pipe with tobacco while the boys watched, they recalled. The warning given to them by the old man on the journey, Wíishiyishii, caterpillar. He had cautioned them against the poisonous tobacco and the dangerous sweat ceremony Sun Bearer used to test the courage of his visitors. Before the older brother took the tobacco from Sun Bearer, he quickly placed the small ball of vomit from behind his earlobe in his mouth and rolled it under his tongue. He nudged his little brother with his elbow to do likewise. They accepted the pipe and smoked. Sun Bearer encouraged his visitors to inhale the smoke deeply, for it was strong medicine. The young men responded eagerly. Sun Bearer watched closely as they smoked. Sun Bearer thought "they seemed to enjoy the tobacco almost as much as I am, if I say so myself."

Moon Bearer reentered and told them the rocks were hot and ready for the sweat activity. The young men thanked Sun Bearer for the good tobacco. They told him that it was one of the finest smoking tobaccos they had since they left home. They enjoyed it very much. Moon Bearer led them outside to the sweat lodge. He moved closer beside them and, in a whisper, he told them he had prepared a small chamber at the back of the sweat lodge for them. They were to crawl into the chamber and enclose themselves with the black jet rock placed at the entrance to the chamber. He told them Sun Bearer had another plan to test their courage using the sweat lodge. It was not pleasant. As soon as a sweat lodge was enclosed, they scampered into the small chamber and enclosed it with the black jet rock. Sun Bearer reached in with a huge gourd. Full of ice cold water, and poured it on the heated volcanic rocks. The brothers could hear the explosion sending thousands of deadly pieces of rocks in all directions. They looked at one another and whispered, "We could have been killed."

The boys sat safely in the chamber and listened to the commotion. The rock sizzled to a quiet sound. The young men removed the black jet rock away from the entrance and waited for the Sun Bearer to call them out.

Sun Barrier called. Come on out now, dinner is nearly ready. They quickly crawled out, one right after another. Older brother said the sweat was very hot. Father, wouldn't you say so, little brother? They stood side by side, shiny with sweat from head to toe, sun barrier displayed a look of surprise, and stood speechless.

The young man sat in the nearby sandpile and rubbed sand on their legs, arms, and stomachs. This sweat was better than anything that we've experienced since we left home. You should have joined us, Father. The younger brother said, looking directly at his father.

Sun Bearer's Other children came and surrounded them, smiling with eagerness to meet their brothers from the land of the Five Fingered people. Two older Daughters of the first wife volunteered to massage their two brothers head to toe. They had never been massaged, and the experience was good. The girls left. The young men seem more tall, stood straighter shoulders, squared and with more distinction of their faces, eyebrows, lips, noses, chins and cheeks. They felt terrific as they looked at one another. Each thought as they viewed one another how magnificent his brother looked. The girls returned with clothing and they assisted in dressing their brothers. The clothing displayed excellent craftsmanship and tanning sewing of animal skin, the clothing felt soft next to their skin. Sun Bearer placed jewels on their fingers and bow guards on their wrists. He was almost proud of them, he knew if they were not his children they could have perished in the sweat lodge or with the tobacco. Sun Bearer's wife called for them to eat. She had prepared venison Stew Sun Bearer's favorite dish.

After they ate, Sun Bearer showed them his homestead to the eastern direction. The brother saw pastures of all kinds of animals feeding and grass reaching up to their bellies. They especially thought the horses were the most beautiful animals they had ever seen. There were animals with horns, long hair, fat and round animals, feathered birds that did not fly away from them, and many more that they had never seen in the area of Dził Náhoodlìi. To the South, there were fields of all kinds. Various fruits were collected from the fields and used for food. Some could be eaten as soon as they are picked, and many they had never seen before. There were baskets, tools, and jewels of all kinds. To the West, there were more animals. To the North were all kinds of beautiful feathered creatures that chirped, whistled, and sounded friendly. Sun Barrier watched the young men and nothing that he had shown excited them. Finally, after the tour, he asked what they wished for.

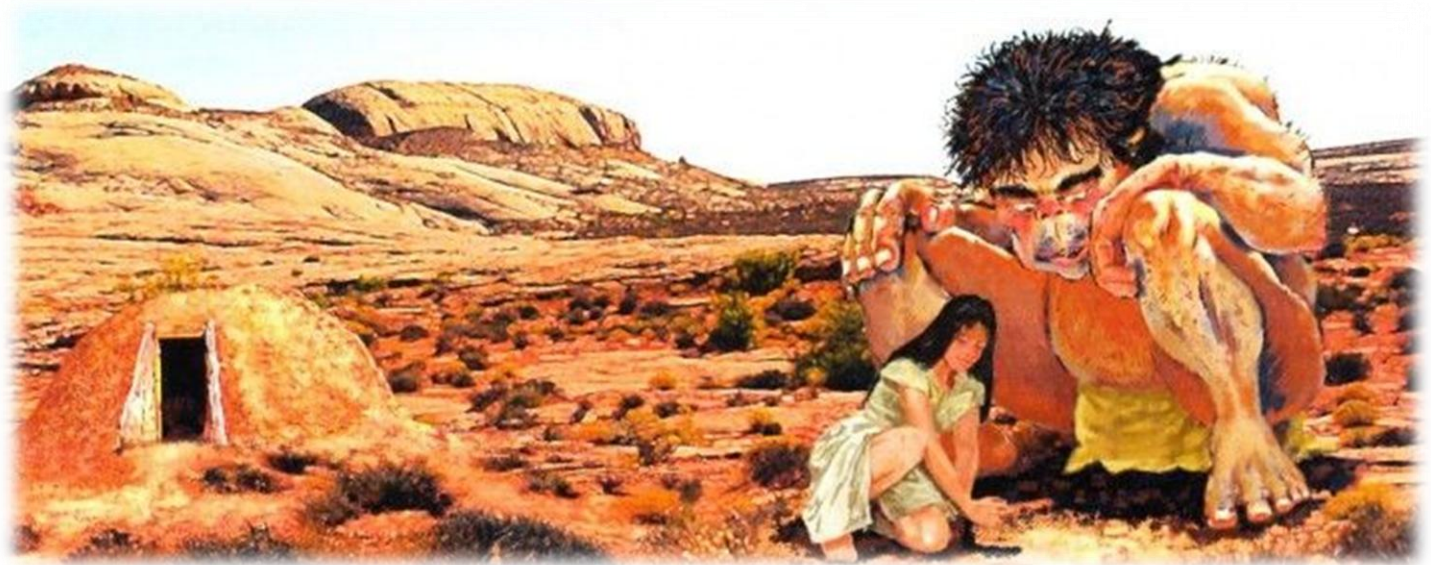
Older brother looked at the father and said, "We came to ask for your suit of armor for your deadly weapons of lightning bolt atsinilt'ish k'aa, bows, arrows and spears."

Younger brother told him "The horses are beautiful. plants used for food, pots, tools and jewels are all wonderful things the People will like, but later, not now." Sun Bearer, ask for what purposes? They ask for his weapons. Older brother told him the weapons were needed to kill the Yé'itosh. Sun Bearer was stung at the request. He had also fathered the Yé'itosh. He had not imagined he would ever have to help in killing them, and to part with his weapons also was not in his thoughts. The weapons he proudly displayed over his entrance and the thought of parting with them had never crossed his mind. He looked at the young men in silence. They looked magnificent, and he was proud to have fathered them. The young men then told him how their mother Yoolgaii Asdzáá, kept them hidden beneath the fire hearth to keep them safe from the terrible giants.

Younger brother said, "We live in fear daily. Every day our people are becoming fewer in number. Children are not surviving because of the horrible giants. We need the weapons, Father."

The younger men in Sun Bearer talked into the night. Sun Bearer did not sleep soundly that night. He was bothered by what his sons had told him. The young men got up early and prepared for the return trip home. First wife prepared cornmeal mush, and they all ate breakfast in silence. Sun Bearer told them that he had decided to give each a suit of armor and weapons they asked for and that he would take them with him over the land. He told them that he also fathered Yé'itosh. And that he was not happy with the plans to kill them. However, he said if Yé'itosh are killing the people, then they must be stopped, and he will help where he can. They each mounted a beautiful horse and rode into the sky high above the earth alongside their father, Sun Bearer.

At midday, they were directly over the Dinétah. Sun Bearer suggested they dismount and enjoy a smoke before the young warriors descended back to earth. He filled up his turquoise pipe with tobacco. They talked and smoked. Dinétah quickly became covered with dark clouds. Only the tips of the sacred mountains were visible. Sun Bearer asked the young men to identify the mountains by name and location. The brothers looked at one another, realizing this must be another trick of Sun Bearer. They observed the mountains carefully. Not only were the mountains covered with smoke, but two were placed in different formations. The eastern mountain was in the north, the northern mountain was in the east. The young warriors quickly identified the mountains with correct location for him. Sun Bearer openly recognized them as his children. He hugged them both to his left breast and advised them to be alert, observe carefully, listen with comprehension, and be quick on their feet. He called the powerful lightning bolts. The young warriors stepped onto the lightning rods, and before they could blink twice, we're back on the ground at To'sdoh, Hot Springs.



Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii / One That Walks Upright Giant

Transcribed by Sylvia Jackson

Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii faced the young warriors at a place called Tósido', Hot Spring. Sun Bearer called the lightning bolts and returned his sons to the earth surface at midday. The giant, Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii, came to Tósido' every day at noon for water and a bath. Sun Bearer knew the water served to rejuvenate the giant's spirit and strength. It was the source of his energy. Sun Bearer planned that this would be the young warriors' opportunity to confront the giant and his own opportunity to observe their battle skills. Against the horrible brother, the spiritual guardian, Níłch'í, whispered the intention of Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii into the inner ear of the younger warriors and were always a step ahead of him.

It was on a very hot day. When the young warriors approached. The pawn closed the door Tósido.' They heard a loud rumbling sound approaching the pond from the opposite direction of where they stood. They knew it was the enemy. They quickly drank their fill and waited for him. Soon they heard of Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii appeared above the edge of the pond. He was big, ferocious in appearance, and was covered head to toe in black armor. Jagged scales protruded down his back, down the sides of his arms and legs. The ground shook and the surface of the water rippled as he approached the pond. He moaned and groaned with each step. He appeared full length on the edge of the pond. He stood tall like a pine tree. He sniffed the air to his left and to his right. He positioned himself on the edge of the pond, lowered himself to his hands and knees. He looked into the pond. Brought his lips to the water surface and drew in water noisily between his teeth. He saw a reflection of the twins in the pond. He drank and drank and drank. The water shrank and shrank and shrank to a small puddle, until he no longer saw the reflection of the young warriors in the water. He seemed puzzled. He stood up, sniffed the air to his left and to his right, he looked around, and saw the young warriors in their suits of armor across the pond. The twins did not move, kept their eyes on the giant, and waited for him to make his first move.

The giant stood up straighter, took in air slowly, and filled his chest. He stretched out his arms and neck "Who are the beautiful creatures across the pond?" He groaned, as if talking to himself

The young man moved apart and stood ready to use the bows and arrows they held in their hands. Quick as a flash of lightning, the giant drew spears from his back and, using both arms threw them across the pond at the intruders, the Spiritual Guardian, Níłch'í Yazhii, told the twins to leap into the air. They did. The charging Spears wheezed beneath them where they stood, striking the ground and sending clouds of dust into the air. The giant looked surprised, and Rose straighter and drew in air through his flared nostrils. He walked a couple of steps to his right and returned to his previous position. He swung his club back and forth as if trying to figure out his challengers. Before the young warriors could blink an eye, the giant threw two more spears across the pond. Níłch'í Yazhii, instructed the twins to drop to the ground. They dropped to the ground, the spears sizzled past and above them, and struck the ground behind them. The twins quickly resumed their positions.

The giant drew in lungs full of air, stood straighter, and peered across the pond. He roared "Who are the beautiful creatures across the pond? Answer me." He drew in more air and studied his challengers. The young warriors replied with a question, "Who is the ugly and horrible creature across the pond?"

The giant released two more Spears. The young warriors jumped to their far right as instructed by Nílch'í Yazhii. The Spears whistled by as they sliced through the air. The giant had never missed this many times before. Quick as a wink. The giant released two more Spears from his back, Nílch'í Yazhii whispered to the twins to leap to their far left. The Spears landed in the ground behind them with a THUD. The giant gave out a loud ground ground shaking roar and threw his club across the pond. It flew over the heads of the twins aimlessly, and they knew the giant was out of weapons.

Older brother yelled “Who is the blind, old, careless creature across the pond? He flings his club away aimlessly.”

Nílch'í Yazhii whispered to them to take aim carefully, for the giant was in a fury and would soon expose his heart. The giant, directly facing his challengers, raised both arms in the air and roared out, a terrible roar swaying his head. back and forth. The young warriors took aim, drew the bowstrings back as far as they could, and released the arrows. The arrows flew true to their aim and pierced the heart of the giant. Blood burst and gushed out from the giant's chest. He looked terrified as he scratched at his chest and roared. He gave out his last earth shaking roar and fell backward to the ground, sending a large cloud of dirt into the air. He lay motionless on the ground, breathing rapidly and spreading blood from his nose with his eyes wide open. His whole body shook in a rapid, continuous spasm. Finally, his body became lifeless. His eyes wide open, became dull. Nílch'í Yazhii, instructed his younger brother to quickly cut off the giant's head and cut out his heart, and throw them in opposite directions. Older brother cut off the limbs, cut up the backbone, and threw them in all directions. Their spiritual guardian, Nílch'í Yazhii, warned the young warriors that the giant was capable of regaining his strength and growing new limbs because he had an extra brain and heart hidden in undisclosed areas. Nílch'í Yazhii advised Older Brother to use Nolyinii k'aa beesh to redirect the flow of the giant's blood away from the Hot Springs. Nílch'í Yazhii told the Twins that Hot Spring was a source of strength for the giant. Therefore, the blood must not run into the empty pond.

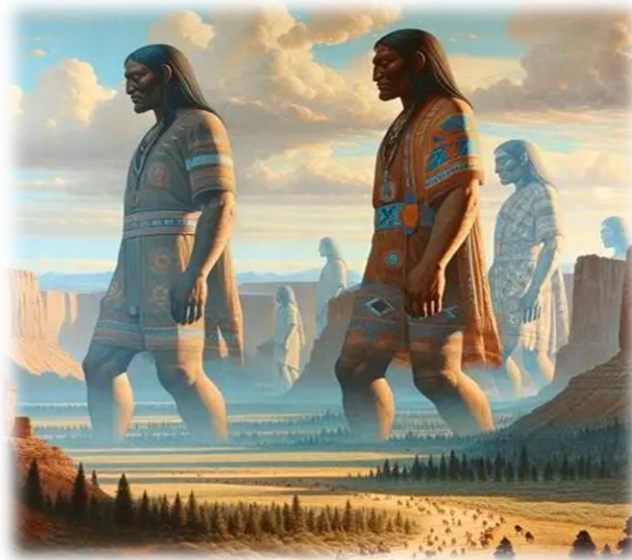
It had been many full moons since the Twins had been gone from Dził Náhodilii. The mother of the Twins, Changing Woman, sat outside her home, watching the path leading to her home as she did every evening for any sight of her sons. They had been gone too long and she feared for their safety. Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii had been constantly checking her home for the children. Before entering her home for the evening, she looked out to the path one more time. She saw two small specks approaching her home carrying a load.

The twins placed the bloody bag a short distance north of their homestead and called to their mother, waving “Shima, Shimá, Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii seelyí.”

Changing woman recognized her sons and ran out to meet them. She hugged them both and asked how the trip was to their father. The twins eagerly told her they managed to destroy the most feared giant Yé'itsoh T'áálá'í Naagháii at the Hot Springs.

“No. No. You did not. Nothing will kill that horrible monster.” Challenged Changing Woman.

The young warriors led their mother to the bloody bag, seeing the piece of flesh off the crown of the One That Walks Upright Giant, Changing Woman dance in circles, first to her left and then to her right, in happiness and to display a feeling of victory over the enemy. The boys told of their adventure to their father, Sun Bearer, and his family far in the east. Changing Woman noticed her sons had matured, and they looked a bit different. She knew they had seen their father and were now young men.



Deelgééd / The Giant of the Valley

Transcribed by Sylvia Jackson

On one of older brother's missions, Naayéé'neizhání came upon a monster known as Deelgééd. Deelgééd particularly enjoyed resting in an open plain near Red Valley where she could see all around it was on a nice sunny, clear day. Naayéé'neizhání spotted Deelgééd resting in the middle of the valley. Naayéé'neizhání tried to get near the monster and was not successful after many attempts. He wondered how best to get near the giant without her spotting him. He waited for an opportunity for several days. One midday, Na'azísí, a gopher, overcome by curiosity, came to see him and asked, "What are you waiting for? You have been at this location for days now."

Enemy slayer told Na'azísí he had come to slay the monster, Tééhoołtsódíí, but he could not get near her without her seeing him first. The monsters seem to sense his presence. The Gopher then offered to help. She dug four tunnels with small chambers to the monster from the four cardinal directions. When the monster discovered her, she merely told her that she needed a tiny bit of hair for her nest. The monster calmed down and allowed Na'azísí to help herself to the hair on her chest while she rested. Feeling the hair being pulled off her chest was like getting a massage. The monster soon fell into a comfortable sleep. Na'azísí /informed Naayéé'neizhání shrank to a small size with the help of the "life plume" and entered the tunnel from the north. He found the monster's heart beating steadily overhead. When he reached her, he drew back the shaft with a long, Black Jet Arrowhead and pierced the heart using the full force of his strength. The monster jumped high into the air, clawed and plowed the ground with her horns as Naayéé'neizhání ran to escape from tunnel to tunnel and chamber to chamber. Finally, the monster fell to the ground, breathing heavenly spluttering flood from its nose. The monster shut her eyes and did not move again.

Naayéé'neizhání watched from a distance, wishing to find a way to see if the monster was dead and yet afraid to approach her. Hazéests'osii, chipmuck, came along and asked what enemy slayer was waiting for. Enemy Slayer informed her of the dying monster in the valley. He asked her to find out if the monster was indeed dead. Hazéests'osii, told him to watch for a signal that she would give; she would climb to the tip of her horn and wave if the monster was truly dead. Naayéé'neizhání waited anxiously as Chipmunk scampered off toward the monster. He saw Chipmunk climb to the tip of the horn and wave. Enemy Slayer reached the dead monster, cut her up, and threw her body parts in all directions. He cut out the intestine and filled it with blood and arranged it over his left and right shoulders. He thought it would be a good way to lure the flying monsters to pick him up and deliver him into their nest at the top of Tsebitá'í, Shiprock, New Mexico.

Younger brother, Tóbájishchíní, remained at home with his mother, Changing Woman. They had an important task of keeping the fire burning bright at the center of their home. Naayéé'neizhání asked them to function in a positive frame of mind while he battled the monsters. This was to ensure his safety and to maintain good health. The fire must never weaken. It would be the source of his physical strength, mental focus, and courage. It was important to keep the Hóneeshgish near the fire. He told them to stir the coal and pray for his safety often. He would need all the support they could give. Younger brother tended to the fire and kept it burning bright. Changing Woman used Hóneeshgish to send her prayers to the Holy Ones.



Tséninahalééh / The Flying Monster

Transcribed by Sylvia Jackson

Naayéé'neizhání walked into the Tsebitá'í area near noontime with the intestine filled with blood over his shoulders, crossing his chest cavities. Soon, the flying giant Tséninahalééh Cast the shadows over him. Before he knew what was happening, the flying monster swooped down, picked him up with huge rough claws, and carried him to the top of Tsebitá'í, where she had her babies in a nest on a ledge, lower than her nest. She flew directly over Tsebitá'í and dropped him into the nest where there were four baby Tséninahalééh. Naayéé'neizhání quickly held the hinábitsoos in his hand, sang and prayed for his safety. He landed gently in the nest. He quickly pinched the intestine open, and the blood it contained ran freely from him as he lay very still. The babies, Tséninahalééh, being always hungry, scurried to what looked like a lifeless body and pecked at it with huge, sharp beaks. Naayéé'neizhání Open one eye and warn the babies to get away. "Shoo, Shoo." The babies looked at their mother, who was resting on the upper ledge, and called to her. "This one is still alive, Mother."

Seeing the pool of blood, the mother told her children to stop whining and eat. She flew off into the southern sky to find a meal for herself.

Naayéé'neizhání slipped off the intestine and asked the babies when they expected their father to return and to identify his resting place. The babies responded quickly. "Our father returns late in the evening from the northern sky about the same time the male rain clouds begin to rumble, and he usually rests on the northern upper ledge."

Naayéé'neizhání Climb to the upper ledge and hid directly under a pointy slab boulder that protruded out like a shelf that apparently was a resting place for the male giant, true to the baby's word, their father. Appeared in the northern sky when the male rain began to rumble, he dropped into the nest a maiden with hair fixed into a bun, dressed in a new black bił, sash and her ké nitsaahá'á. He approached his resting place and folded up his wings. His wings spread twenty feet or more. He slowly brought in his wings by several folds, close to his body. Naayéé'neizhání leaped to his feet and swung his club over his head several times, and clubbed the flying giant over the ledge. He fell all the way down to the ground and crashed. He cried out only once and was dead. The babies shivered and sobbed. Naayéé'neizhání commanded, "Shush, eat, for there won't be any more coming."

Naayéé'neizhání hid under the slab of boulder used by the mother for resting, and he waited. Soon, when the female rain clouds appeared to the South, the giant mother appeared in the horizon. She carried a furry animal and dropped it onto the nest. Of the ledge. She looked exhausted. She slowly brought in her wings and settled perched up on her boulder. Naayéé'neizhání sprang from his

hidden place, drew back his club, and swung it as hard as he could. And he hit the giant in the back of her head. Before she knew what had happened, she fell over the ledge and crashed onto the ground far below. The babies cried out and sobbed loudly.

The babies in unison begged not to be destroyed. Naayéé'neizhání picked up the male babies, looked them directly in the eyes, and told them, "You are going to provide healing power with your body parts to the Diné people from this day forward. The people will use your feathers, bones, tears, claws, and beaks in healing ceremonies."

He threw the larger one first into the northern sky. He flapped his wings awkwardly but soon glided. "You are now Kinyaadoke'é Tsilkééh' the golden eagle."

He threw the second one in the same direction. He said, "You are now Átseelgái the bald eagle."

They glided to the north mesa. They both screeched as they landed on the north mesa. He then picked up the larger female baby. He looked straight into her eyes and told her, "You are going to provide instinctiveness and be a carrier of messages for the Diné People from this day forward. There will be times when the People will need to be reminded of the proper ways of living. You will be helpful.

He flung her into the southern sky, and she flapped her wings awkwardly and glided to the southern mesa. She returned a call, "Whoo, Whoo, Whoo." She became known as Ná'áshjaa'tsoh, the horned owl.

He threw the second one in the same direction. He said, "You are now going to be known as Tseeltsoi." Tseeltsoi is the red tail hawk. She glided to the south mesa and called in a much higher screech sound.

Naayéé'neizhání realized he was in solitude, high on top of Tsebitá'í, and he did not have a clue how to get back on the ground. He called and called and called to anyone who might hear him. "Kodee, Kodee, Kodee." There were no responses. He stayed on top of Tsebitá'í for what seemed like several moons. He grew weak from hunger and thirst. The male and female rain clouds failed to appear as they had on the day he killed the huge flying reptile giants.

Meanwhile, at home in Dził Náhoodilii, Changing Woman and Tóbájjishchíní Observe the fire growing weaker, no matter what they try to do to get it to burn brighter. They stirred the coal, they fed it dry wood, they sang the song of creation, they burnt cedar and smoked tobacco to send their prayers to the spirit people for help. They knew something terrible had happened to Naayéé'neizhání. However, the fire kept flickering steadily, and they felt hope for everything to work out fine for the warrior.