

A Creation Story *as told by Stuart Pagaduan*

"Sometime ago, this story was shared with me, and today, I want to share my version with you. Please enjoy the story and be humbled by the messages your heart hears."

This is a story of our ancient times when our world was being created; a sacred



time where only animals and birds lived, birds such as Spaal' the raven and Yuxwule' the eagle, creatures such as Wuxus the frog and Ha'put the deer. All creatures lived in harmony with one another. There were also giant Cedars who stood over winding rivers. The ocean was bubbling with activity. Q'ul-lhanumutsun the killer whale could be



seen hunting Esqw' the seal. Some say, all creatures and living things were created by Xeel's' the Great Spirit who gave life to all, great and small.

In the time of Hwisulenuhw, "the time when leaves start to fall from trees," salmon in great numbers traveled to the very same stream or river where they were born. There were so many salmon, it was said, that you could walk across the river on their backs. It was during this time, on one of these amazing

journeys, that Xeel's made a creation that would change things forever.

It was apparent that a world so beautiful and rich with life should be shared with all creatures. A world so beautiful and rich with life should be taken care of. Who would take care of this land? Calling on his formidable power and magic, Xeel's began making changes.

While the salmon were still in the ocean traveling toward the river, mighty Xeel's scooped up thousands of them in his hand. Xeel's spoke to the salmon and said, "You are no longer Salmon. You will be transformed into islands."

The salmon agreed and were honoured. Xeel's then threw the salmon back into the ocean and the change occurred. The salmon fell to the ocean and were transformed into beautiful islands. Xeel's said, "From now on you will provide for and take care of the people. You will provide them with food from your beaches and medicines from your forests."



But there were no people. Xeel's scooped up more salmon and said to them, "You are no longer Salmon, you are people. You

will take care of the island and you will tell others how the islands were created.” At that moment the salmon were transformed into humans. Xeel's place



the humans gently on the islands. The transformation was complete. The world, so beautiful and rich with life would be shared and cared for.

So today we can look out to the ocean and see our beautiful Gulf Islands that, some say, Xeel's created. Every fall when the Salmon travel to their spawning ground, they are happy to see their relatives the

Gulf Islands. When the Salmon travel up river they are happy to see more of their relatives, the people who live in the villages.

The Salmon honour their agreement to provide for the people. The people honour their agreement to take care of the islands and tell others of their ancient story



