

VII: HE BRINGS THE WATERFALL



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SPIDER WOMAN (Christine Avila) recounts the  
Insanity of the Two-Leggeds.



*THE SCENE: Darkness, about an hour before dawn. The Tibetan bell is struck. SPIDER WOMAN and CLOWN, in white costumes, appear in the distance. They approach slowly and majestically, accompanied by tones of the bell. Reaching the outer edge of the playing area — which is a wide area in a canyon, hollow or draw, with the Audience facing a steep rise to the East — SPIDER WOMAN stops suddenly and takes a severe pointing posture. Then she drops it abruptly and rushes forward, shouting at the Audience:*

SPIDER WOMAN: Now you're gonna get it! Now you're gonna get it! Trickster is coming for you now! *PENDEJOS!* He's coming for you! You think you got medical problems now? Don't tell me about your filthy medical problems! I know all the diseases possible for two-legged beings! I've had them all! *CABRONES!*

*(She takes the SPIDER WOMAN posture. A beat, then she drops it, races to her right, changes directions, and races upstage left. CLOWN, trying to keep up, falls down.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* I have a boyfriend who will protect me! He has no hair and wears a red bandanna! *(Laughs)* But who will protect you, eh? *HIJOS DE LA CHISPIADA!* Bones on a scaffold! You hear me!? You'll be bones! Less than bones! Bone ash! *(Laughs)* I can't wait!

*(Suddenly she shows the five directions, each supported by a drumbeat. Then the steady rhythm of the drum continues as SPIDER WOMAN and CLOWN make a procession down centerstage toward the Audience.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: I have seen the new colors in the sky! I have tasted the new flavors in the earth! It was not pleasant to me! It was not agreeable to me! *(TRICKSTER is heard off, as OWL.)* Wait! Listen!

CLOWN: Trickster is angry!

SPIDER WOMAN: Yes!

CLOWN: Divine is sunlight! Divine is Earthmaker's tent! Divine is the Spider Lady's posture!

SPIDER WOMAN: The fish have cancer! The bones have plague!

CLOWN: Trickster is merciless!

SPIDER WOMAN: Yes! (*COYOTE is heard off, as BLUE JAY.*)

CLOWN: Divine is thunder! Divine is lightening! Divine is Coyote's journey from beginning to end!

SPIDER WOMAN: Yes!

CLOWN: Everyone is pleading for mercy!

SPIDER WOMAN: Yes! We have to kill all the people now! We will use a destroying fire! After that, a big man will come walking over the Earth! He will go around planting new people! (*They stop in front of the Audience.*)

CLOWN: I love Trickster, but he has a magnificent vengeance! Everyone will suffer and die! (*Pause*)

SPIDER WOMAN: I had better go among the people now.

CLOWN: (*Amazed*) What for?

SPIDER WOMAN: To protect them from the wrath of Trickster.

CLOWN: But you don't like the people very much!

SPIDER WOMAN: I have to keep my personal feelings out of this. (*She goes to her place just left of the Audience. To CLOWN.*) You take over here.

CLOWN: (*Fearfully alert*) Right!

SPIDER WOMAN: (*To Audience*) Earthmaker said, "I will send messages to the Earth through the spirits of the people who reach me but whose time to die has not yet come. They will carry messages to you from time to time. When their spirits come back into their bodies, they will revive and tell you their experiences."

(*COYOTE appears in a distant tree as BLUE JAY. He squawks and flaps his wings.*)

SPIDER WOMAN: (*To Audience*) We have gone to the Planet of the Spider People and to Other Side Camp. We have brought the

material for a new world into the body of the Germ God, Muyingwa...  
So you can let that ant go now, Child.

CLOWN: Oh, the ant!

SPIDER WOMAN: Yes. Let her go.

*(CLOWN fumbles in a tiny purse and then gingerly, gently, puts the tiny ant on the ground with a finger. TRICKSTER appears in a distant tree as OWL. He hoots and flaps his wings.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* When the Owl is heard, someone dies. So try not to listen to that Owl. That's Trickster in that Owl. Try not to listen... that's how Owl will steal your power... don't listen...

*(CLOWN points. OWL disappears. The tiny ant seems to be crawling up CLOWN's leg. She jumps.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(Laughing)* That ant is frightened! I don't blame her! *(Laughs)* Anyway, now it's up to Coyote to bring the waterfall to earth. *(Cackling)* While we're waiting, let me tell you another thing about the Chinese! If you happen to be at an intersection, you'd better be really careful when a Chinaman is coming down the road because the Chinese can't tell red from green and they have no side vision at all! *(She cracks up. CLOWN, embarrassed, claps her hands and shushes her. SPIDER WOMAN comes to her senses.)* Trickster will kill any Two-legged he can find, especially the White-eyes. I'll protect you as much as possible, but there's a limit to even what I can do. I'm going to need the help of... Coyote. If Coyote will help me with Trickster's vengeance, then the waterfall will come to earth. *(Sighs)* But you never know with Coyote.

*(COYOTE comes running into the space. The drumbeat ceases.)*

COYOTE: Hello!

CLOWN: Hello!

COYOTE: My name is Brown.

CLOWN: *(Offering her hand)* How do you do?

COYOTE: *(Sniffing her hand)* I do everything well, thank you.

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* That person there is really Coyote.

COYOTE: Have you seen a Buffalo around here?

CLOWN: No, I haven't!

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* He doesn't look like much, but he is Coyote all right. *(COYOTE smiles at the Audience.)* He's trying to act charming. Don't fall for it, that's how he steals your power. Just watch him out of the corner of your eye.

*(CLOWN turns to keep COYOTE in the corner of her eye. He follows. They make a complete turn.)*

COYOTE: You must be the Queen of this planet, otherwise known as Spider Woman?

CLOWN: No, I'm not.

COYOTE: Oh. Have you seen an Owl around here?

CLOWN: Yes, I saw an Owl!

COYOTE: *(Alerted)* Where?

CLOWN: *(Pointing)* There!

*(COYOTE Takes his protective posture, then becomes COYOTE. Silently, slowly, he looks intently all around, making a complete turn. Satisfied that OWL is not near, he drops it, starts to go, changes his mind and returns to CLOWN.)*

COYOTE: By the way, you look very familiar to me, only different. Are you a relative?

CLOWN: *(Insulted)* No, I'm not!

COYOTE: What's your personal history?

CLOWN: I came into this life a Human Being, with parents. I didn't

know if I could do it. I hit the road. I ate many powerful substances and took a lot of abuse from people. But now I'm Clown-Divine.

COYOTE: So what is your place around here?

CLOWN: I am the Chief Clown! I am boss of all the Clowns!

COYOTE: I am First Clown!

CLOWN: I am the Chief Clown! I am boss of all the Clowns!

COYOTE: Show me something then.

CLOWN: *(Pointing)* Mister! Did you see that?

COYOTE: What?

CLOWN: It rained! It rained for the flutter of an eye! Did you catch it?

COYOTE: No.

CLOWN: It was a fantasy!

*(A single drumbeat. CLOWN points to a spot in the ground centerstage.)*

CLOWN AND SPIDER WOMAN: A deep unease, there, under the gravel! Under the rocks! Disturbed! Unhappy!

*(TRICKSTER appears upstage behind some rocks and dead branches. He speaks as COYOTE's father with a mournful wail.)*

TRICKSTER: COYOTE!

COYOTE: *(Kneeling)* It's my father, dead in the ground, buried in the arms of Massauwu!

TRICKSTER: I was a bad man, Coyote, a stupid man, a slave to lust, a helpless man! Now all my chances are gone forever, and my bones lie in the darkness of Massauwu!

COYOTE: The nose is gone, the ears are gone, the eyes are gone, the sex organs are gone... His bones lie in the darkness of Massauwu!

TRICKSTER: She has forgiven me, Coyote, she has forgiven me all... that I'd done... but she weeps, Coyote, she weeps day and night...

COYOTE: *(Backing away)* It's a trick!

TRICKSTER: *(Rising)* Ha! It's time now for revenge! Revenge for all the stupidity and the filth! Revenge for the torture! Revenge on the know-it-alls! Revenge on the grabbers! Revenge on the hysterics! Revenge on the fuck-you guys! The smug! Those smegma-heads! The ambitious! The who-gives-a-shits! Revenge on the petulant and the ones with grievances! Revenge on the company guys and the patriots, the big wheels and the profiteers! Revenge on the ordinary! Revenge on the teachers, the knuckle-beaters and baby-fuckers! Revenge on the politicians! Revenge on all the lying sonsofbitches! Revenge! Heh, heh, watch out for the Owl, Coyote, watch out for the Crow!

*(TRICKSTER becomes CROW, cawing as COYOTE runs off howling.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* There he is! Watch out now, watch out!

*(TRICKSTER drops the CROW, picks up a large rock, and slowly, menacingly, approaches the downstage playing area and the fearful CLOWN.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* Remember, that person there is really Trickster. He is pretending to be cool, but he knows you're there. Remember, he wants to steal your power, he wants to kills you! That's how Trickster goes around. Just watch him out of the corner of your eye...

*(CLOWN looks at TRICKSTER out of the corner of her eye and he drops the stone he was going to bash her with.)*

TRICKSTER: Heh, heh. My name is Smith... Who are you?

CLOWN: I am Chief of all the Clowns.

TRICKSTER: What? You can't be a Chief!

CLOWN: Why not?

TRICKSTER: (*Guffawing*) You're a woman!

CLOWN: I am boss of all the Clowns!

TRICKSTER: (*Laughing*) Okay, show me something.

(*CLOWN shows him her breasts. He gazes at them a moment.*)

TRICKSTER: No. That doesn't make me feel any better. That's no answer to the problem. That's just stinking flesh. That doesn't get it. (*CLOWN, hurt, turns away.*) Show me something else. (*CLOWN does nothing.*) That's no good, that's nothing. Nothing is nothing. It's not funny. It's not funny at all. (*He finds a very large club.*) I am going to crush you now!

CLOWN: (*Falling to her knees*) Spider Grandmother! Spider Grandmother!

SPIDER WOMAN: (*To Audience*) No one move! Not a muscle! Not an eyelash!

(*TRICKSTER fiercely begins circling CLOWN, pounding the earth with his club.*)

TRICKSTER: Tell me about these here bones!

CLOWN: Bones!

TRICKSTER: The bones! The bones!

CLOWN: Bones! Especially of a limb! Any part or piece of the hard tissue forming the skeleton of most full-grown vertebrate animals, especially a piece between the two joints! The hard tissue is the skeleton, hence — the body, living or dead!

TRICKSTER: The bones! The bones!

CLOWN: A bone-like substance or thing, a thing made of bone or bone-like material! Flat sticks used as clappers by endmen in minstrel shows for keeping time to music! (*Pause*) The end-man in a minstrel show himself! (*Pause*) Dice! (*Pause*) I feel it in my bones! (*Pause*) I have a bone to pick! (*Pause*)



*(Using glowing white sand, TRICKSTER quickly makes a large circle around her.)*

CLOWN: Bone ash! A white porous ash prepared by burning bones in the open air, and consisting chiefly of calcium phosphate! Used as fertilizer!

*(She is near tears. TRICKSTER picks up his club and prepares to charge her.)*

TRICKSTER: Now you will pay for all the sufferings of the Earth!

SPIDER WOMAN: Dig, Child!

*(CLOWN frantically digs in the ground, uncovering a large, shining buffalo skull. TRICKSTER is mesmerized by it.)*

TRICKSTER: I went down, down. I came to a lake. There on the other side of the lake was the man, standing on a buffalo head, pointing at me. The buffalo head was shining white, white as the salt flat, hot white. The man was pointing at me. I looked up. It was the roof of a cave, sky-blue...

*(COYOTE appears way in the distance.)*

COYOTE: *(Pointing)* DON'T KILL ME!

*(TRICKSTER takes his protective posture. COYOTE vanishes. BOY COYOTE appears off in the bushes, right, as BLUE JAY. TRICKSTER, sensing him, points.)*

TRICKSTER: There!

*(The young BLUE JAY vanishes. TRICKSTER growls. CLOWN cowers. TRICKSTER eyes the Audience. He stomps. He is enraged. He prepares to charge the Audience. BOY COYOTE rushes into the space.)*

BOY COYOTE: Buffalo-Head!

TRICKSTER: *(Spinning around)* What?!

BOY COYOTE: Do you remember how it was, Trickster?

TRICKSTER: *(Amazed)* When?



BOY COYOTE: *(Moving cautiously around him toward the CLOWN.)*  
 When you were young, and the land was young, and the air was sweet, and the water was sweet, and the world was in a bright light, and all things had power? Do you remember?

*(TRICKSTER breaks down and cries. BOY COYOTE scrapes away some of the circle of white sand with his foot, releasing the CLOWN, then takes his protective posture.)*

BOY COYOTE: Don't kill me, Trickster.

TRICKSTER: I won't kill you. I can't kill you. *(Pounding the earth with his club)* But I am going to kill all of the Two-leggeds, especially the white-eyes! I am going to kill them all! I am going to kill them with a destroying fire! I am going to evaporate them! My vengeance will be magnificent! *(Pounding the earth, he draws near the Audience.)* Not only will I destroy their flesh, but their memories also! And that of their fathers! And their fathers' fathers!

*(BOY COYOTE runs off as TRICKSTER charges the Audience, full tilt. A sharp clang — it's as though he has rammed himself into a steel wall.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* I've put an invisible shield up over here, to protect you. That's just one example of my power.

TRICKSTER: *(Furiously)* First they put me irons! They put shackles on me! They beat me around the head! They kicked my rib-bones in! They kicked in my solar plexus! They stabbed my liver! They tortured me with needles! They poured acid rain on me! They poisoned me with rays! They broke my heart! And now they've put up a fuckin' shield! Another fuckin' shield! *(He begins to back off, right.)* Well, I'll be back! I'll be back! *(He becomes CROW.)* I've got plans!

*(Cawing, he vanishes. COYOTE runs in, left, startling the CLOWN.)*

COYOTE: No need to be afraid of me, Clown-Divine! I am Coyote! Coyote is light! He goes about with leaps and bounds!

CLOWN: Bully for Coyote!

COYOTE: I can see that you're not feeling so secure at this time,

because of that other guy around here. Well, not to worry... (*Leaning against the "shield"*) I can handle him all right. (*BOY TRICKSTER appears in the bushes, left, as CROW. COYOTE points. BOY TRICKSTER disappears. COYOTE smiles at the Audience.*) Today, I realized that the person I was when I was going around and walking and talking with people is the person Coyote is as far as other people are concerned when I am going around.

CLOWN: And?

COYOTE: I always thought I was somebody else going around in whatever body I happened to be in at the time and that that somebody was a secret known only to Coyote.

CLOWN: And?

COYOTE: He is REALLY a great guy, that one! (*CLOWN is appalled. COYOTE smiles, looks up. CLOWN looks up. COYOTE looks at CLOWN.*) Why are trying to turn a quiet moment into a tragedy? (*CLOWN is doubly appalled. COYOTE smiles at the Audience. TRICKSTER appears, up right.*) Here comes something. Ahem. (*Going to TRICKSTER*) In order to be a bona fide warrior, first you have to be a human being. I did that!

TRICKSTER: What's a fuckin' warrior?

COYOTE: A warrior always knows what time it is.

TRICKSTER: I am a hunter, a stalker, and a spy!

COYOTE AND CLOWN: Three things, huh?

TRICKSTER: Right! (*CLOWN whistles.*)

COYOTE: You remember pissing on that planet?

TRICKSTER: Which one?

COYOTE: Which one?! The one you pissed on!

TRICKSTER: Oh, yeah, that one.

COYOTE: Then you got nothing to talk about. A guy who goes around pissing on other people' planets has got nothin' to talk about.

TRICKSTER: It was a tiny planet.

COYOTE: So?

TRICKSTER: So, nothin'! What are you, some kind of good guy?  
(*Goes behind an upstage bush to take a leak.*)

COYOTE: I am a very nice guy! And I'm handsome, too, and quite talented!

(*BOY TRICKSTER appears from behind the bush, buttoning his fly.*)

BOY TRICKSTER: You are a flea-bitten, canine bag of bones, and I'm going to cut your balls off and feed them to the crows!

COYOTE: (*Amazed*) Why?

BOY TRICKSTER: (*Throwing gravel at him*) Because you want to steal my women, that's why!

COYOTE: No, I don't! Not all the time! Some women are good for some things, some women are good for other things, and some women—

BOY TRICKSTER: You jerk!

COYOTE: —Are good for nothing. (*BOY TRICKSTER throws more gravel at him.*) Hey, I don't want to fight! I want to eat! I've become a human being!

BOY TRICKSTER: Eat? Eat what? The fish have cancer, the bones have plague.

COYOTE: I think I'll eat you.

BOY TRICKSTER: You don't have the stomach for it.

COYOTE: I love Buffalo meat! Buffalo meat is my favorite food to eat!  
NUMERO UNO! (*SPIDER WOMAN laughs.*) That woman sure

laughs a lot! She also has the habit of asking a lot of questions! That kind of behaviour is rude!

BOY TRICKSTER: Yeah! And she's put a shield up over there! But as soon as that Spider Lady has to take a leak, I'm going to kill all those people she's got with her!

SPIDER WOMAN: Ha! When the Spider Lady takes a leak, the world turns upside down, you little twirp!

BOY TRICKSTER: Did you hear that?

COYOTE: Yeah. But you don't want to kill all those people. If we kill all the people, the white-eyes especially, we'll just be adding to the pile of bodies, the long line of the Dead. What we have to do now is bring the waterfall. *(Makes the spiralling gesture as BOY TRICKSTER becomes OWL.)*

BOY TRICKSTER: I don't see it that way.

COYOTE: You don't?

BOY TRICKSTER: No. Now I think we have to accomplish some vengeance.

COYOTE: Hmmm. Okay. Uh, I heard you went to the center of the Earth.

BOY TRICKSTER: Damn right I did.

COYOTE: How hot is it down there, exactly?

BOY TRICKSTER: Five thousand degrees.

COYOTE: Thank you. *(Becomes HARE and rushes off, right.)*

CLOWN: *(To BOY TRICKSTER)* Hi, Mr. Owl!

BOY TRICKSTER: What was that idiot Rabbit talking about?

*(BOY COYOTE enters as HARE. A freeze as OWL and HARE face each other. Then they drop it.)*

BOY COYOTE: Dig this: The Center of the Earth, the Core.

BOY TRICKSTER: Yeah?

BOY COYOTE: It's hot. Five thousand degrees.

BOY TRICKSTER: I just told you that!

BOY COYOTE: What is it?

BOY TRICKSTER: It's iron!

BOY COYOTE: Aha!

BOY TRICKSTER: Hey! Fuck off! I'm having a good time here!

BOY COYOTE: Doing what?

BOY TRICKSTER: I'm getting ready to kill all of the Two-leggeds!

BOY COYOTE: And then?

BOY TRICKSTER: Then I'll take a rest in the lap of my Grandmother!  
Ha!

BOY COYOTE: I think I'll keep on going around, myself. (*Looking at the Audience*) But you'll never get through that shield. That Spider Lady has got strong legs. I don't know why she does that. She doesn't like them very much, but she still protects them.

BOY TRICKSTER: I don't understand it either. They gave the fish Cancer. They gave plague to the bones of our fathers. Them! The white-eyes! The Two-leggeds! Them! All those ones going around that are not us!

BOY COYOTE: (*Pointing to the Buffalo skull*) That Buffalo Head Bone is attached to the Long Line of the Dead.

BOY TRICKSTER: So?

BOY COYOTE: I heard that if we played the game of pulling that Buffalo Head around that circle, we would bring peace to the bones of our fathers.

BOY TRICKSTER: Who told you that?

BOY COYOTE: My brother the Bear, my sister the Onyx, my cousin the Zebra, my sister the Lynx —

CLOWN: Clown-Divine!

BOY TRICKSTER: Shut up!

BOY COYOTE: And Clown-Divine. (*BOY TRICKSTER howls indignantly.*) Uh, oh. (*BOY TRICKSTER charges the Audience — a metallic clang as he bounces off the invisible shield.*)

BOY TRICKSTER: Oh, my head! I'm going to kill that Spider Woman! I am going to crush her! I am going to stomp on her! And then these people are finished! (*Starts off*)

BOY COYOTE: Where ya goin'?

BOY TRICKSTER: Watch out! I'll be back! I've got plans! Watch out for the Crow, Coyote! Watch out for the Owl! I've got plans!

(*BOY TRICKSTER goes off. SPIDER WOMAN charges into the space, chasing BOY COYOTE away.*)

SPIDER WOMAN: Get out of here, you canine runt! Good! Good! Good! (*Gasping*) Come here, Clown-Divine.

CLOWN: Here I am, Spider Grandmother!

SPIDER WOMAN: I want to tell you something. (*Indicates where CLOWN should sit*) One day I woke up to a morning bright with Power. The air was scented with flowers and green grass; sweet water flowed in the streams; the four-leggeds were at peace; the insects were singing quiet songs; the flower beings were happy in the sunlight. Then I saw a two-legged white-eyed woman walking in the field near my cave. This woman had a right hand made of two knives cutting, and she was going around stabbing the flowers with her right hand, killing them. She sang while she was killing them. Then she gathered up the corpses of the flower-beings and took them into her hut and put them into water so she could look at and smell the corpses of the flower-beings. That's when I knew... that's

when I knew in my heart... that these Two-legged, white-eyed... creatures... were... INSANE.

*(Maddened with anger and grief, she eyes the Audience, then races toward them.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: *(To Audience)* Massauwu is coming for you now! That's right! It's time, now! At last! Time to clean up the mess! It's time! *(Stops herself)* But Trickster went off thinking! Ha! Trickster can't think! His head will start to vibrate and he'll come back worse than before! *(Pause)* Good! *(To CLOWN:)* Do you know why I say, "Good!"?

CLOWN: No, why?

SPIDER WOMAN: *(Laughing crazily)* Because I took off the shield, that's why! No more shield!

CLOWN: Oh, no!

*(Still laughing, SPIDER WOMAN goes up right for a good view of what might happen next. COYOTE comes running into the space.)*

CLOWN: Coyote! Don't let him come back! Don't let him come back!

COYOTE: Oh, sure thing. Not to worry. *(Prepares to approach the Buffalo Skull)*

CLOWN: What are you doing?

COYOTE: I have to bring him back.

CLOWN: Oh, no!

COYOTE: I'm going to sing my death song now, and bring him back. *(He kneels above the buffalo skull.)*

Divine is sunlight  
Divine is Earthmaker's tent  
Divine is the Spider Lady's posture  
Divine is thunder  
Divine is lightning



Divine is Coyote's Journey  
From beginning to end  
I became a human being  
And walked among the two-leggeds  
I saw the new colors in the sky  
I tasted the new flavors in the earth  
It was not pleasant to me  
It was not agreeable to me  
I saw the bones of my planet  
Whitening in Starlight  
On a scaffold in Starlight  
Made of a subtle wind  
Singing a subtle song  
Deep as all the dead together  
Deep as all the dead together  
At once!

*(A single drumbeat. TRICKSTER rushes in to attack COYOTE with a large rock.)*

TRICKSTER: Sing it, then! Because now you die! *(He stops above COYOTE ready to smash his head in, but is paralyzed.)* I can't kill you!

COYOTE: *(Standing)* Uh, I guess you heard my excellent singing. I found a good spot for singing on this hill right here!

TRICKSTER: *(Dropping the rock, in extreme frustration)* I can't kill this fuckin' idiot! But I will destroy the Two-leggeds! I will find a way! Vengeance is all I have left! That's all there is!

COYOTE: *(Offhand)* Don't resent yourself, Trickster.

TRICKSTER: *(Incredulous)* What?

COYOTE: The trouble with you — is your background.

TRICKSTER: Background?

COYOTE: You have a background of abuse.

TRICKSTER: WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



COYOTE: All I'm saying is, we can't get through the Spider Lady's shield. That shield is made of powerful stuff.

TRICKSTER: Tell me, Coyote, what's it made of?

COYOTE: Uh, time.

TRICKSTER: Time?

COYOTE: It's another time. We can't get... through it.

TRICKSTER: Time? Time? (*Picks up his club and gets ready to charge, but can't help asking one more question.*) What is this here "abuse"?

COYOTE: Don't distract me, Trickster. Everybody has a background of abuse. My advise to you is to put your vengeance into that Buffalo Head Bone.

TRICKSTER: Why?

COYOTE: (*Very annoyed*) Why? How many times do I have to tell you?!

TRICKSTER: (*Furiously*) As many times as you want to! (*Prepares to attack*)

CLOWN: No, wait!

SPIDER WOMAN: Go ahead! Charge! (*Laughs*) Charge!

CLOWN: (*To SPIDER WOMAN*) You stay out of this!

TRICKSTER: (*To CLOWN*) Now, what?

CLOWN: Now, listen...

(*COYOTE has become curious about the "shield," decides to inspect it with his nose — quite close to the Audience.*)

CLOWN: Listen, Trickster, that bone I dug up for you is attached to the Long Line of the Dead.

TRICKSTER: I've been told that already. I've thought it over. And I don't want to think about it anymore.

CLOWN: Don't think. Just listen. That line goes back through all time and it all comes together here. Right here. Right here is the center of everything. See?

TRICKSTER: No! What I see is murder, greed, cruelty — and abuse!

SPIDER WOMAN: Right!

TRICKSTER: And I'm not gonna sacrifice my pure rage for the sake of these puny Two-leggeds! Fuck 'em. It's five thousand degrees hot down there! They don't mean shit! So fuck 'em!

SPIDER WOMAN: Fuck 'em!

TRICKSTER: Now they've got no more chances!

SPIDER WOMAN: That's the way they want it!

TRICKSTER: I like it! (*CLOWN spits.*)

CLOWN: I cannot waste my time here one moment longer. (*She joins SPIDER WOMAN as COYOTE returns to the scene.*)

COYOTE: I have an idea: you can take care of all your vengeance at once and then you won't have to expend any more energy in that direction.

TRICKSTER: No! You don't tell me nothin'! (*Clubs COYOTE. Turns to Audience. COYOTE bounces back up.*) You don't give me no fuckin' advice! (*Clubs him again. Turns to Audience. COYOTE springs up.*) A fuckin' good guy all of a sudden! (*Clubs him again, turns to Audience. COYOTE bounces up.*) I'm taking care of the problem! (*Clubs him again, goes for the Audience. COYOTE springs up again.*)

COYOTE: You're right! Let's do it!

TRICKSTER: (*Stopped*) Huh?

COYOTE: I am not a good guy! I am Coyote! Let's GO!

TRICKSTER: Wait a minute.

COYOTE: Yeah?

TRICKSTER: This is MY vengeance!

COYOTE: Fine. I won't take any credit for it.

TRICKSTER: Let's go then!

COYOTE: I was just thinking.

TRICKSTER: *(Stopped)* What were you thinking?

COYOTE: If we do it this time, we'll only have to do it again next time.

TRICKSTER: And?

COYOTE: If we do it my way, we do it for ALL time, once and for all.

TRICKSTER: I WANT IT ALL!

COYOTE: There's just one drawback.

TRICKSTER: What's that?

COYOTE: It takes a big man to accomplish such an important mission.

TRICKSTER: I'm the man! Come on!

COYOTE: *(Looking up)* Oh!

TRICKSTER: What?

COYOTE: Look up, Trickster! *(TRICKSTER looks up)* The Earth has sent out feelers!

TRICKSTER: Yeah!

*(All four characters reach to the sky as if touching many strands of light.)*

COYOTE: They go all the way up to the stars!

TRICKSTER: Yeah!

COYOTE: She is feeling around up there for help... (*TRICKSTER starts to cry.*) Listen. There's only one thing to do. You have to put all your vengeance into the Buffalo Head Bone. And I'll pull that bone around that circle. And then the waterfall will come to Earth. That's all that's left.

TRICKSTER: (*Going to the Buffalo Skull*) That's all that's left.

COYOTE: That's it.

TRICKSTER: That's it.

COYOTE: (*Taking the Warrior posture*) HUUU! (*TRICKSTER is brought to his knees above the skull. SPIDER WOMAN and CLOWN move further up the hillside.*)

SPIDER WOMAN: We traveled in the Germ God...

CLOWN: Muyingwa!

SPIDER WOMAN: A long way we traveled...

CLOWN: In an instant!

SPIDER WOMAN: With the material...

CLOWN: For a new world!

SPIDER WOMAN: An ecstatic journey we made...

CLOWN: And we saw the bones! (*COYOTE is ready now to pull the buffalo skull around the circle.*)

COYOTE: Let's go.

SPIDER WOMAN: They came to this land, and this is what they said!

COYOTE: (*As he starts to pull*) This is what they said!

TRICKSTER: *(With great force, reflecting tremendous inner conflict)* This land is Paradise. This place is a boon to Mankind. We got freedom here. We can worship whatever we want here. Oh, the water is sweet. Oh, the air is sweet. And there is every kind of food here in abundance. We can have time here. We can worship what we want here. First, we'll clear the vermin off the land. Those ones that are not us, that don't believe as us. Then we'll cut up the land in pieces, and everybody can own a piece of land. And we'll clear the land and plant food in the land, because the game won't last forever. We can worship whatever we want here. We'll buy and sell the land we cut up. We'll buy and sell the food we grow. We'll have cattle ranches and stockyards. And we'll create wealth. We'll get wealth out of the land and out of the ground. And we'll create power. We can worship whatever we want here. And we'll find energy. We'll cut into the land for energy and power. And we'll get energy from the water. And we'll keep the vermin out of the way. Those who don't believe as us, who aren't one of us, who aren't in this thing with us. We'll fence 'em and we'll feed 'em, but we'll keep 'em out of the way, because there's nothing like this wealth, and there's nothing like this power. And we can worship what we want here. And we'll cut our way through the mountains and cross the rivers and valleys, and we'll be moving, we'll be on the move, we're moving, moving, creating wealth, creating power, and it has to be fed, it has to be fed with ENERGY! WE'LL FIND THAT ENERGY! WE WORSHIP WHAT WE WANT TO! WE'LL CUT INTO THE LAND FOR ENERGY! WE'LL DAM THE RIVERS! WE'LL CUT THROUGH BEDROCK! WE'LL CUT THROUGH MATTER! WE'LL FIND MORE! MORE! WE WORSHIP WHAT WE WANT!

*(TRICKSTER collapses as COYOTE completes the circle with the buffalo skull.)*

SPIDER WOMAN AND CLOWN: LET'S GO!

COYOTE: *(Dragging TRICKSTER)* Come on!

SPIDER WOMAN AND CLOWN: LET'S GO!

COYOTE: Wait a minute! *(TRICKSTER can barely crawl.)*

SPIDER WOMAN: What are you making such a big deal out of it for?!

CLOWN: Big deal!

SPIDER WOMAN: What you did is nothing!

CLOWN: Nothing!

SPIDER WOMAN: Child's play! Nothing!

CLOWN: Child's play! Nothing!

SPIDER WOMAN: Let's go!

COYOTE: Give us a helping hand!

SPIDER WOMAN: No way, fool! You ain't done nothing until you can climb up the side of this hill now! Come on!

CLOWN: Come on!

*(COYOTE and TRICKSTER struggle up the hill, regaining their strength.)*

ALL TOGETHER: *(As they climb toward the rim)* THIS IS WHAT EARTHMAKER SAYS: COYOTE AND MYSELF, WE WILL NOT BE SEEN AGAIN UNTIL EARTHMOTHER IS OLD AND DYING. THEN WE WILL RETURN TO EARTH, FOR IT WILL NEED A CHANGE BY THAT TIME. COYOTE WILL COME ALONG FIRST, AND WHEN YOU SEE HIM YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM COMING. WHEN I COME ALONG, ALL THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WILL BE WITH ME. THERE WILL BE NO MORE OTHER SIDE CAMP. ALL THE PEOPLE WILL LIVE TOGETHER. EARTHMOTHER WILL GO BACK TO HER FIRST SHAPE AND LIVE AS A MOTHER AMONG HER CHILDREN. THEN THINGS WILL BE MADE RIGHT!

*(They form a tableau on the rim of the hill and make a keening sound. A bright light — the sun — appears behind them. The waterfall comes to Earth.)*

END



Margaret Von Biesen

"The Earth has sent out feelers!"