

Rabbit's Sin

Crow was an old bird. With tattered wings and the feathers around his head and legs starting and fall off... There was not much time for him left. He did not need much, and had all he wanted. A large open desert free of people and with plenty of bugs to eat and animals to command. All he wanted to do was to live out the rest of his days in peace, alone and uncontested in authority. He did not like people and would have animals patrol the desert and search for intruders. Reports of intrusion were the only acceptable reason to approach Crow and bother him in his nest inside of an old barrel cactus.

Rabbit, on the other hand, was a young, mischievous, and spritely cottontail. He would never report humans to the Crow and would instead play with the ones he found wandering the desert. One day, when Rabbit was playing with some children who had wandered too far from their village, Fox went to take charge of patrolling that section of the desert, as it was his shift. He saw what Rabbit was doing and raced back to tell Crow what he saw in a horrified frenzy. Contact with people was punishable by death.

When Crow heard what Rabbit was doing, Fox fetched Rabbit in his mouth and brought him to Crow to judge him for his sin. Crow was quite fond of Rabbit and didn't want to kill him, Rabbit was a source of merriment and amusement for all the animals in the desert, and to kill him would bring great sadness, so instead Crow said unto Rabbit, "Take every breath from now on as a gift from me, and in my benevolence, be blessed with life with the contract of your servitude. Henceforth you shall guard my Great Desert every night by yourself, but if you can do so without letting any people in for 100 years I shall release you from your shackles to do as you

please for all of eternity, this is my covenant to you.” Rabbit agreed and traded his freedom for his life.

Crow took up Rabbit in his talons and whisked him away into the heavens to keep watch over the desert and he became the moon in the sky. All the other animals in the desert fell into despair so great it would be as if Rabbit had died. Night after night they relished the full moon and day after day they begged the old Crow to bring back Rabbit but to no avail. Eventually, Rabbit could take the solitude no longer and started to slip back down to earth slowly but surely. After two weeks, he finally left the sky for a single night to see his wife. She hugged him and told him that she could bear his absence no longer and would kill herself if she had to go another day without him. Wanting to save his wife, he took her back with her. Over the next two weeks, they both quietly slipped back into the night sky. She had become the first star. They rejoiced in their union and were content for many months, but soon started to miss their friends.

So, Rabbit and his wife decided. Every two weeks Rabbit would sneak down to the desert and bring up someone else. Crow had indeed noticed but his strength was waning as age advanced and his life was now very near its end. Only the dutiful Fox was left in the desert with the Crow. They looked at the night sky together, full of the stars twinkling and making merry enjoying their view and drinking the clouds becoming intoxicated, all the while laughing and twinkling the night away. Crow told fox with his final breath to guard the Desert from all humans, lest his spirit be disturbed. Fox agreed and ascended to the sky keeping a vigilant watch over the desert, and streaking back down in a blaze of starlight when a human ventured too close, scaring them away. The desert to this day stays unfound and untouched by humanity, and the Fox has never stopped watching over his beloved ruler’s resting place.