

TEARS FALLING ON THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

The Tale of Two Rivers

One day the Goddess of the Sun became angry with the God of the Rain because his clouds kept getting in the way of the Goddess of the Sun's best and brightest rays. The Sun Goddess was determined to teach the Rain God a lesson.

For many days the Sun Goddess shot her strongest rays at the Rain God. The God of the Rain became dry and parched and could no longer send his life-giving rain to earth. Life on earth began to suffer. Droughts covered the land. Crops began to wither and die. People and animals became very thirsty and started to feel faint from dehydration. The God of the Rain called on his fickle friend, the God of the Winds, and asked him to help. The God of the Winds was not always kind and helpful, but he knew that he could no longer play with people, their hats, and other belongings if they were no longer alive, so he decided to help the God of the Rain.

The God of the Winds gathered his strongest forces and blew a strong shield of air between the Sun Goddess' rays and the God of the rain. He found the Rain God's largest thunderclouds and blew them between the sunrays and the God of the Rain.

Soon the God of the Rain began to feel cooler and two huge teardrops formed in his eyes as he realized that people were going to be spared. The tears rolled down his cheeks and rolled into one huge teardrop at the bottom of his chin, and then SPLASH, it fell!

The huge teardrop fell on top of the Rocky Mountains, right on top of the Continental Divide. One half of the teardrop rolled to the east and the other half rolled to the west. More and more teardrops fell as the God of the Rain cried huge tears of joy. More and more drops fell until rivers formed and flowed deep and bright all the way to the ocean. Grass began to grow again, flowers bloomed, and people and animals were no longer thirsty.

To this day the rivers still chart the same course, flowing through canyons, forests and plains, supporting life along the way.