

GRANDFATHER BEAR IS HUNGRY

An Eiven folktale from Siberia, retold by Margaret Read MacDonald.

Grandfather Bear woke up one fine spring morning.
He had been sleeping all winter long!
He came out of his cave.
He was *very* hungry.

“HUNGRY!” said Grandfather Bear. “I am HUNGRY!”

Grandfather Bear went down to the berry patch.
He thought he would have berries for his breakfast.

But it was too early in the Spring.
The berries weren't ripe yet.

“HUNTRY!” said Grandfather Bear. “I am HUNGRY!”

Grandfather Bear went to the salmon stream.
He thought he would catch a salmon for his lunch.

But it was too early in the Spring.
The salmon were not running yet.

“HUNGRY!” said Grandfather Bear. “I am HUNGRY!”

Grandfather Bear went to the old rotten stump.
He thought he would eat some bugs and grubs.

Grandfather Bear began to rake and scrape at that rotten stump.

That stump was the home of little Chipmunk!
Chipmunk felt his house shaking and quaking!
Chipmunk ran to the top and jumped out.

“Grandfather Bear! Grandfather Bear!
What are you DOING!
Why are you shaking my house?”

“HUNGRY!” said Grandfather Bear. “I am HUNGRY!”

“Grandfather Bear, don’t tear up my HOUSE!
I have some nuts and dried berries I saved for the winter.
I will SHARE with you.”

Chipmunk ran down under his stump.
He filled his cheeks with dried berries and nuts.
He ran back to the top.

“Here Grandfather Bear!”

Grandfather Bear took one gulp.

“Thank you Little Chipmunk.
But I am STILL hungry!

“Oh. Well just a minute Grandfather Bear.”

Chipmunk ran down again.
He filled his cheeks and ran up again.

“Here Grandfather Bear!”

“Gulp!

Thank you Little Chipmunk.
But I am STILL hungry!

“Just a minute, Grandfather Bear.”

All day Chipmunk ran.
Down and up.
Down and up.
Down and up.

At last Grandfather Bear was FULL.

“Thank you Little Chipmunk!

I want to give you a present to thank you for sharing.
Stand very still.”

Grandfather Bear pulled his heavy claw SO gently...
right down Chipmunk’s back.

He left five black stripes!

“Now when anyone sees you Little Chipmunk
they will remember how kind you were to share with Grandfather Bear.”

And so it is today.
Whenever you see Little Chipmunk,
you will see his five black stripes
and you will remember.

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