

The Rainplayer

The city lay in darkness, but the old priest, Ah Kin Mai, had been awake for hours. Trembling, he examined his charts and declared, "A year of terrible drought." The sun's blazing heat would soon devour the corn, and without it, the people would perish. He blew a long note on his conch shell, calling the gods for help.

Meanwhile, Pik played Pok-a-Tok with his father. As they played, the Ah Kin Mai's call reached them.

Pik, frustrated, said, "Things would be different if I were the Ah Kin Mai. I would tell Chac to get to work!"

They then heard the croaking of the Uo frogs, the heralds of Chac, the Rain God.

Pik bowed before Chac, "I beg your forgiveness! Let me earn it by playing Pok-a-Tok."

Chac agreed to a challenge: if Pik won two out of three games, he could earn forgiveness and rain for the people. "And if I lose?" Pik asked.

"You will become a frog and croak my name forever," Chac replied.

Pik sought help from his father, but his father gave him only a few items: a planting stick, a ball, a jaguar tooth, a quetzal feather, and the Sacred Cenote's water. "Ask them for their help," his father said.

The next morning, Pik approached the Jaguar, who gave him the cloak. Then, he sought the Quetzal, who gave him the feathers. Finally, Pik entered the Sacred Cenote and received wisdom from the waters: "Chac's rains are my strength. I will help you."

On the day of the game, Pik wore the jaguar cloak and quetzal feathers. The Uo frogs announced Chac's arrival, and the game began. Chac sent a whirlwind to steal the ball, but the jaguar helped Pik score. Chac then used lightning, but the quetzal intercepted the ball, though the lightning proved stronger.

In the final round, Chac caused the earth to crack, and he fell into the Cenote. Pik scored the final point, and Chac, impressed, lifted him to the heavens. Pik gently tilted the gourd, causing rain to fall upon the land. From then on, Pik was known as the Rainplayer, bringing rain after each victory.

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