

She said, "Gluskap is here and wants something to eat and he says he must have it."

But Half-stone Man laughed and gave her some meat that had been lying about for a long time, and said to her, "That is good enough for him. He is no better than I am. If that does not suffice, let him come himself and try to obtain something better."

So Groundhog took the bad meat back to Gluskap and told him what had happened. He became very angry and told Groundhog to take it back and tell Half-stone Man that Gluskap must have good meat. When the old woman returned this to Half-stone Man, he only laughed and said, "That is good enough for him."

The old woman said, "He will come himself if you do not give him better meat," and threw the meat at him. Half-stone Man only laughed at this; and when Groundhog came back and told Gluskap what had happened, he immediately started to go over to Half-stone Man's camp. But his brother Mikumwesu called him back and said, "You start too quickly. You have forgotten yourself. You don't yet know how you are going to kill Half-stone Man."

"No," said Gluskap, "I have not forgotten myself. I could easily kill all the people in the world."

Mikumwesu replied, "I know you can, but you do not want to use your power till you have to.¹ You will have plenty of use for it later in your travels. Now Half-stone Man is on the other side of the river and you had better wait till he returns."

So Gluskap began to think how he could kill him. Mikumwesu said, "He is getting some fresh meat, so that when we come to his camp we will see the good meat there and will be the more insulted. You should tarry a little while and consider the matter."

So they lingered and perceived Half-stone Man returning in his canoe. Then Mikumwesu spoke, "You can kill him only by shooting him with my bow and arrow." Gluskap decided to do this, but was somewhat piqued to think that Mikumwesu should offer his bow, which was very small.

But Mikumwesu added, "Your bow is not powerful enough." To this Gluskap replied, "What! My bow not powerful enough? It is a stone bow and the strongest in the world."

¹ There are many instances in the mythology of this region of where a person has been rendered helpless by using up all his power.