

their friend and protector. He first called man into being from the heart of the ash tree. He changed and adapted to man's use the already created beasts and birds of the Acadian forests. He was ever on the watch to shield his people from the unseen powers of evil that filled their hearts with dread, and to him they ascribed the regularity of the seasons and the return of migratory birds and fishes. He is the hero of many poetic legends still repeated around the Indian camp fires, of one of which the following is a literal translation :

In the long ago,
When people lived always in the early red morning
Before the rising of the sun,
Before the land of the Wabanaki¹ was peopled as to-day,
Glooscap went very far north, where all was ice.

He came to a wigwam,
Therein he found a giant,
A mighty giant, whose name was Winter.
Glooscap entered. He sat down.
Winter gave him a pipe. He smoked,
And the giant told tales of the olden time.

The charm was upon him ;
The giant talked on, and Glooscap fell asleep.
He slept for six months, like the toad ;
Then the charm fled, and he awoke.

He went his way home.
He went toward the south ; and at every step it grew warmer :
And the flowers began to come up and talk to him.
He came to where many little ones² were dancing in the forest.

Their queen was Summer.
I am singing the truth ; it was Summer,
The most beautiful one ever born.

The fairies surrounded their queen ;
But the Master deceived them by a crafty trick ;
He cut a moose hide into a narrow strip and bade them hold one end ;
Then, running away with Summer, he let the end trail behind.
The fairies of light pulled at the cord ;
Glooscap ran on ; the cord ran out ;
And, though they pulled, he left them far away.

¹ The tribes of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Northern Maine.

² The flower spirits.