

## The Legend of the Surf

(Respect for weather, ocean, and survival.)

This man lived near the Columbia River near Point Adams  
No Companion/wife – only a dog.  
This was in the time when all animals could speak

One night  
The dog and the guy talked about the day  
and heard a knock at the door.  
The man opened the door and was startled to see Che-at-co – a tall big hairy creature,  
like a monster

Che-at-co asked the man if he could spend the night there.  
What else could the man say but yes, or else he thought he'd be eaten right then and  
there.

The man cooked a great meal and showed him where he could sleep

The man woke up in the middle of the night and heard Che-at-co talking and chuckling  
to himself about what a nice meal the man would be.

The guy was scared to death to be eaten  
So knowing he couldn't get out the front door  
He dug a hole through the ground under the walls near the end of the lodge.  
He then stuck a stick in his bed and covered it with his robe so the Giant would think he  
was still in his bed.

He told his dog he was going to escape to way beyond Tillamook head and the dog  
should tell Che-at-co that he went the other way.  
He said goodbye to his friend the dog and ran as fast as he could go.  
The dog laid in the hole the man made just like the guy told him to.

Che-at-co woke up and jumped on the bed to eat the man, but he was gone.  
Che-at-co was mad.  
He looked around the room and knew the man had escaped.  
Che-at-co asked the dog which way did the man go?  
The dog said, "Yawa" (that way).

Che-at-co ran out after the man  
After about two miles he decided the dog lied and turned around.  
He went back to the dog and found out which way the man really went.  
Then he took off after him.  
He was so big that as he ran along the ocean beach he made a huge rumbling sound like thunder.

About two miles north of Tillamook Head, the Necaynihum (Necanicum) River empties into the ocean.

Old Thunder sat somewhere on Tillamook head and his huge foot would lift people over the water.  
Che-at-co asked Old Thunder for a lift over the water.  
Che-at-co carried a walking stick made of bones.

Old Thunder didn't want this ugly thing to touch him and make him dirty so he told Che-at-co he would lift him over the water, but don't touch his foot with the ugly dirty walking stick.  
Che-at-co said o.k. "no problem."

Old thunder swung his foot across the river, and about half way over, Che-at-co forgot and touched Old Thunder with his ugly walking stick.  
Old Thunder felt the ugly dirty walking stick and pulled his foot away and Che-at-co fell into the river. The current pushed him out into the ocean into the breakers and carried him to sea.

Then Old Thunder said that from this day forward when storms are gathering, Che-at-co will pass and roar at the south;  
And when the storms pass away, he will roar at the north.

And ever since, you can still hear Che-at-co roar in the south when the storms approach  
And when they roll away, you can hear him roar to the north.

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