

TLINGIT LEGEND: THE MAN OF LITUYA



“And so the legend of Lituya tells of a monster of the deep who dwells in the ocean caverns near the entrance. He is known as Kah Lituya, ‘the man of Lituya.’ He resents any approach to his domain, and all of those whom he destroys become his slaves, and take the form of bears, and from their watch towers on the lofty mountains of the Mt. Fairweather range they herald the approach of canoes, and with their master they grasp the surface water and shake it as if it were a sheet, causing the tidal waves to rise and engulf the unwary.” ■

-from Emmons, G.T. (1911) “Native account of the meeting between La Perouse and the Tlingit.” *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 13, No. 2. (Apr. - Jun., 1911), pp. 294-298.