Nisga’a Adawaak

Tseax Cone

The legend of "Laxmihl: Where the Fire Ran Out"

According to Nisga'a Oral History just before the Volcanic eruption of the Nass Valley there were two children playing by the river. They were playing with and wasting salmon for their amusement. One child cut open the spine of the salmon and put burning sticks in to watch the salmon swim with smoke coming from his back. The second child cut open the side of the fish and placed a heavy object in the salmon to make fun of the way he swam sideways. An elder seen the children and warned them not to poke fun at or waste salmon. "Take care what you do, the salmon will curse you and creator will respond in kind" the elder said. Just then the ground started to shake, smoke and fire could be seen at the top of what is now called "Tseax Cone". The Nisga'a people fled the area, some perished from the lava flow on the river, others fled to higher ground as they watched a wonderous large supernatural being called Gwaxts’agat emerged to stop the lava with his great wind. Days later the lava finally cooled and Gwaxts’agat returned to the mountains where he still remains.