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Bill Greenfield and the Devil

Joseph Bruchac

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BILL GREENFIELD AND THE DEVIL

The Adirondacks have spawned, folks say,
some great yarn-spinners, but the biggest one
was Old Bill Greenfield who told the story
of how he met up with the Prince of Liars.

Old Bill was out walking in his field
when suddenly, from a cloud of smoke,
The Devil appeared and grabbed Bill by the arm.
“Bill Greenfield,” he said, “Your time has come!

Old Bill was not one to give up easy.
“Satan,” he said, “I’ll come with you
unless I can think of just one thing
on this Earth you cannot do.”

Then The Devil said, “Bill, you’ve got a deal,
but three chances are all I’ll give to you.”

Bill sat down for a moment, then said,
“Look here, Satan, can you pull that big elm
I’ve been meaning to cut right up out of the ground?”

Then The Devil plucked that big tree up
with one hand like it was a daisy.

Bill sat down once again and then said,
“Tell me, Satan, can you take that big boulder
I’ve been meaning to drag up out of my corn
and squeeze water from it?”

Then The Devil reached out and squeezed a stream
of water from that rock like it was a sponge.

A cold wind then began to blow
and The Devil smiled, sure that he
would soon have Bill's soul, but just then
Old Bill looked up at him with a grin.

"Satan," he said, "In this great wide world
can you find just one liar bigger than Bill Greenfield?"

Then The Devil sat down and cried.