The Rabbit and the Coyote--A Mayan Folktale

This is a story of Uncle Rabbit and the coyote. The rabbit **came \_\_\_\_** to a big rock, and there he **deceived\_\_\_\_** the coyote. He **was leaning\_\_\_\_** on the rock when the coyote came by.

"What are you doing, brother?" the coyote **asked\_\_\_\_** the rabbit.

"Come here quickly, brother, the sky is falling down on top of us. Lean against the rock and hold it up while I go for a stick. We'll prop it up with that," **said\_\_\_\_** the rabbit to the coyote.

"All right," **said\_\_\_\_** the coyote and **began\_\_\_\_** holding it up with all his might. Since the coyote **was\_\_\_\_** so stupid, he did exactly what the rabbit **told\_\_\_\_** him to. The rabbit had said that he **was going\_\_\_\_** to get a stick, but he **went\_\_\_\_** and **left\_\_\_\_** the coyote holding up the rock. When the rabbit **didn't return\_\_\_\_** the coyote shouted:

"Come back, brother! The weight of the rock has made me tired."

The rabbit still **didn't come back\_\_\_\_**.

"No matter, I'm going to leave even though the sky may fall down on top of us," **said\_\_\_\_** the coyote. But when he ran away he **fell\_\_\_\_** into a ravine. The rabbit never came back to the rock and the coyote was lost.

Later the rabbit **came\_\_\_\_** to a pond and **saw\_\_\_\_** the reflection of the moon in there. As the rabbit **was\_\_\_\_** very tricky, he **was always deceiving\_\_\_\_** the coyote. The dumb coyote always **followed\_\_\_\_** him and **didn't know\_\_\_\_** that the rabbit was deceiving him. The coyote came to the pond where the rabbit **was\_\_\_\_**. When he **saw\_\_\_\_** the coyote coming he **began** **\_\_\_\_** to drink the water from the pond.

"What are you doing, brother? The coyote **asked** **\_\_\_\_** the rabbit:

"Look, brother, there's a lot of food down there," **answered** **\_\_\_\_** the rabbit.

"What kind of food?"

"Look," the rabbit **told\_\_\_\_** the coyote.

The coyote **looked\_\_\_\_** in the water and **said\_\_\_\_**: "I see it. What is it?"

"There's a cheese in the water," the rabbit **said\_\_\_\_** to the coyote.

"If we drink all the water we can get the cheese. Drink it, you're big and you can finish all the water."

"All right, brother," he **said\_\_\_\_**, and **began\_\_\_\_** to drink the water.

"I'm going for a walk," **said\_\_\_\_** the rabbit, and left. The coyote **continued** **\_\_\_\_** to drink the water, but the rabbit was gone. The coyote's stomach **began\_\_\_\_** to hurt him, and he got the runs. He **wasn't able\_\_\_\_** to finish the water, so the coyote **abandoned\_\_\_\_** the effort and left.