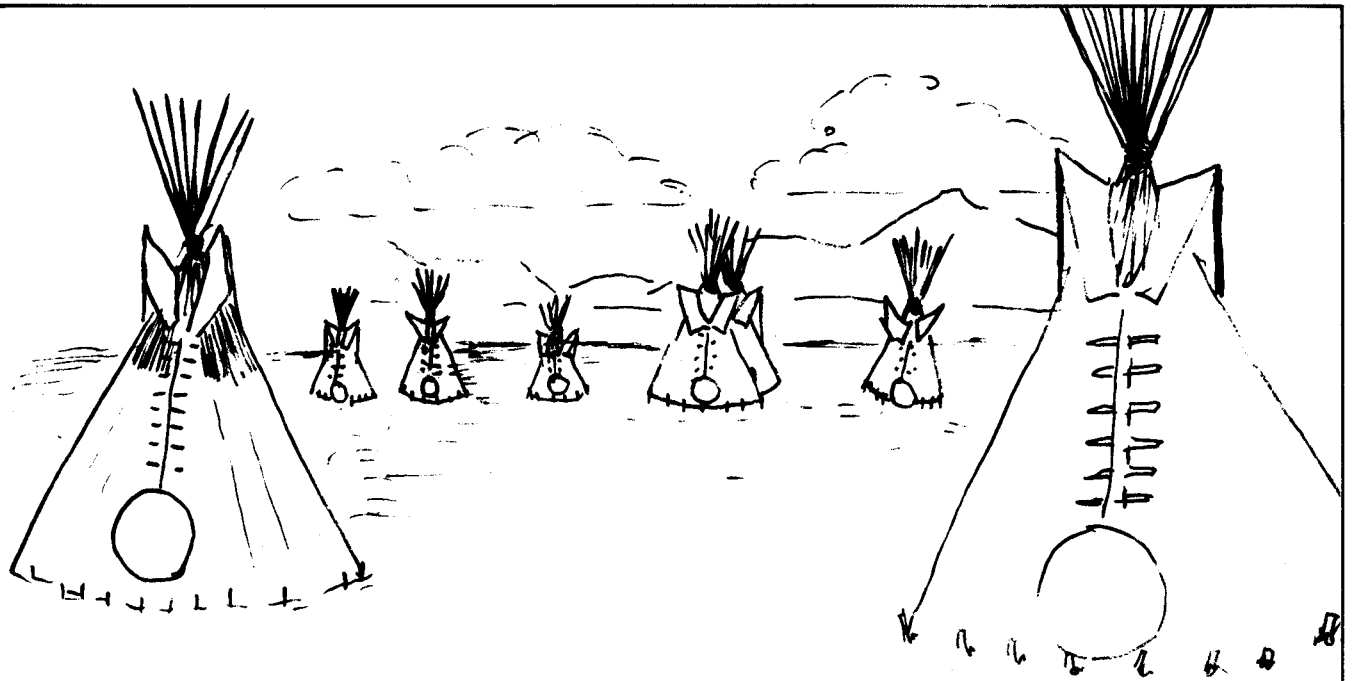


A Young Warrior



A long time ago there was a large encampment of Assiniboine Indians. In those days when a boy wanted to marry a girl, he had to present her parents with gifts of horses and other items such as bear, buffalo robes, and buckskins. That was an Assiniboine warrior's way of proposing to the girl he loved.

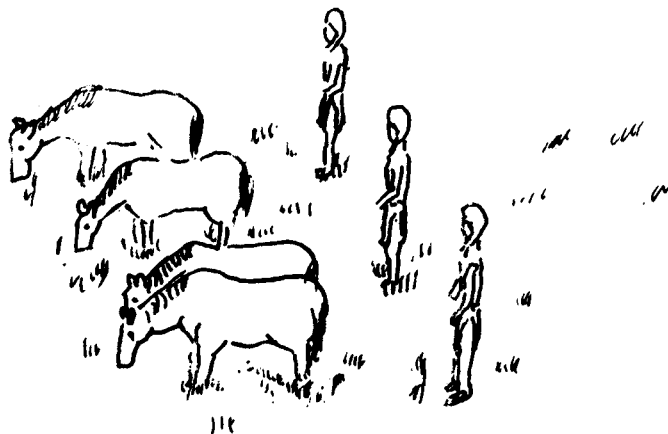
In those days parents never let their daughters marry until they were fully mature (that being about 18 or 19 years old). Until then, they watched their daughters very close, never letting them chase after boys.

With the young men it was the same way. Elderly men would always watch over them, teaching them everything, like hunting. They were lectured and were told stories.

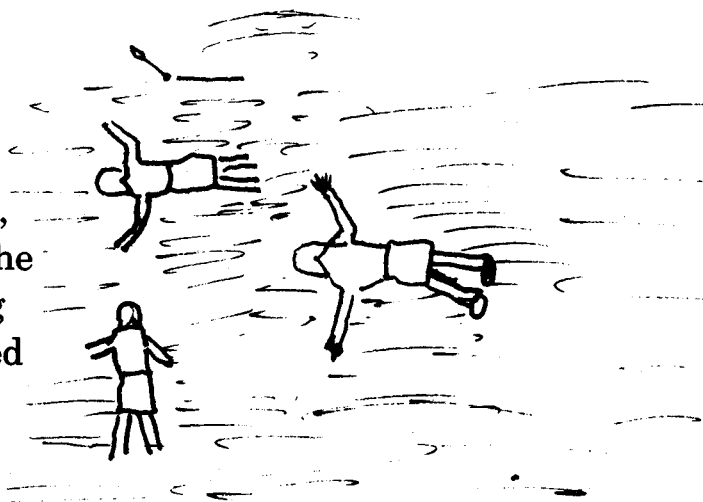
Parents never scared a child by telling them about ghosts or such things. The reason for not scaring them is that when they grew up, they would be brave men with courage to fight the enemy. They were taught to face the enemy and fight back, even if they were alone, never turning their backs on them.

In those days other tribes of Indians were often enemies, fighting and stealing horses from each other.

The Assiniboine Indian boys, around the ages of 10-14 years old, had the job of feeding the horses and taking them to water every day.



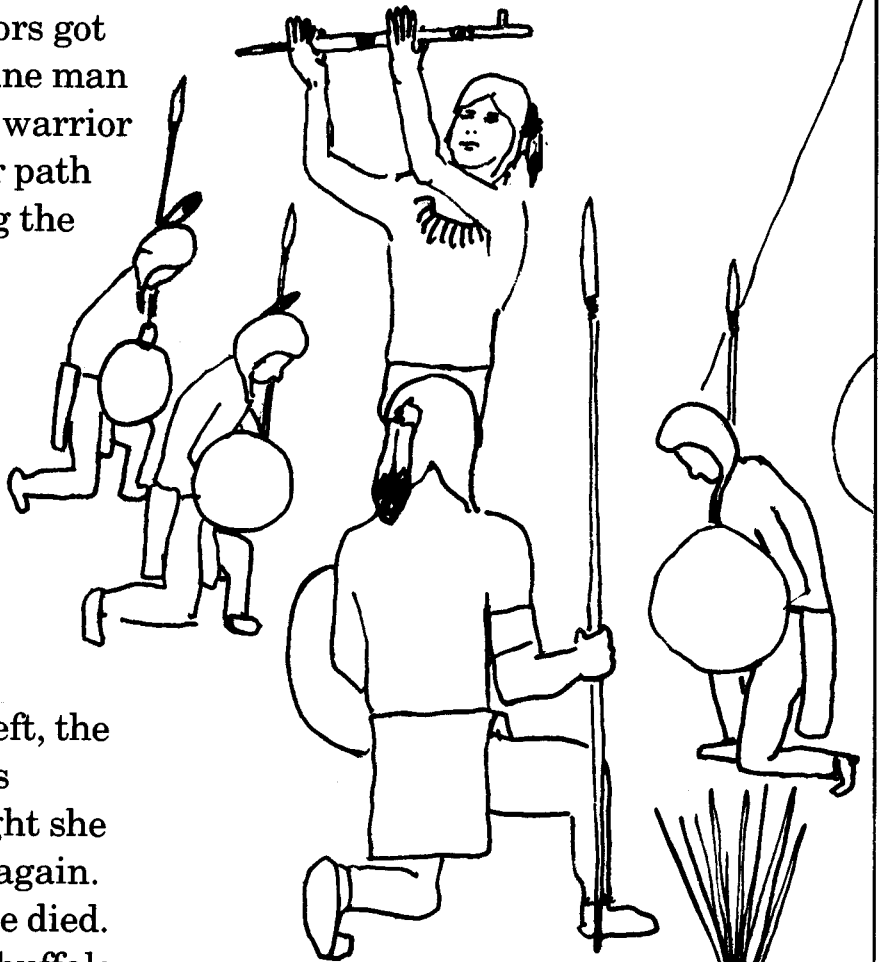
One day, early in the morning, an enemy made a sneak attack on the young boys while they were tending the horses. All these boys were killed and the horses stolen.



Luckily there were some more boys over the hill from where the attack took place. They were also tending horses. When these boys went back to where the other boys were, they found them all dead and the horses stolen.

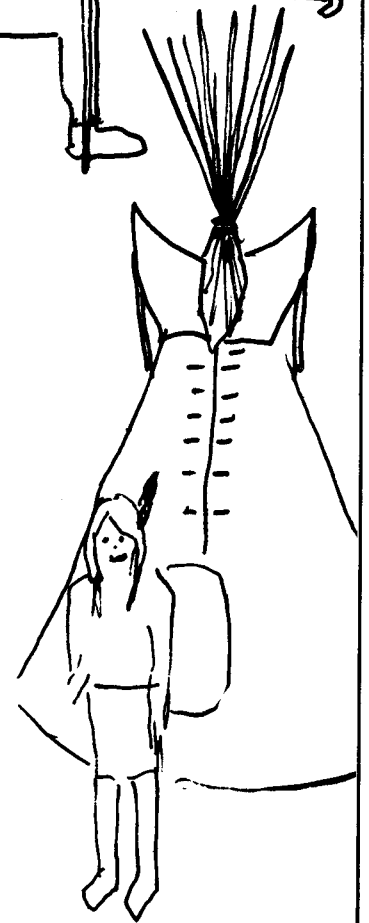
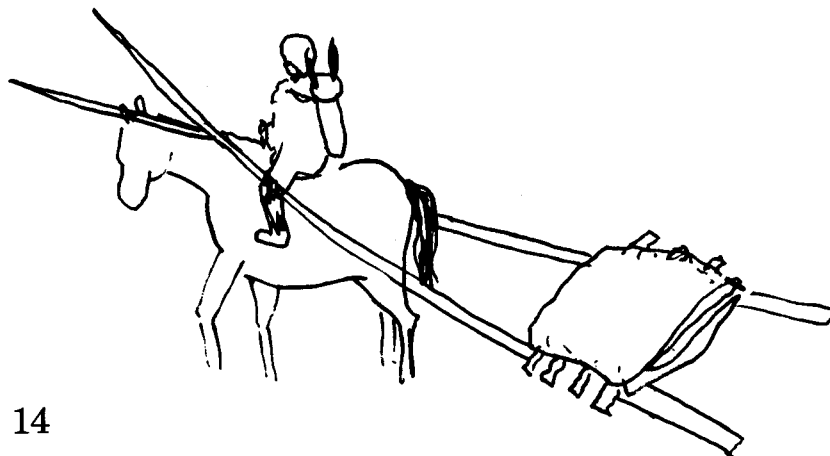


All the young warriors got together and had a medicine man pray for them. One young warrior who was going on this war path was planning on marrying the chief's oldest daughter.



When the warriors left, the chief's oldest daughter was broken hearted. She thought she would never see her lover again. She became so sick that she died.

She was wrapped in buffalo robes and buried in a tepee. They left a man outside the tepee to guard the body against any flesh-eating animals. The entire camp packed up and moved.



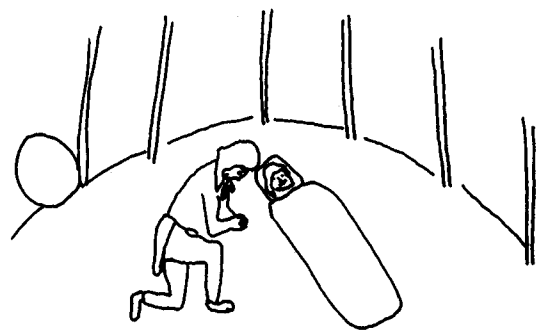
That same day the young warrior returned, bringing with him the horses that had been recovered, plus more that he had stolen from the enemy. The entire camp was nowhere in sight. He saw one tepee with a man standing guard by it. He went up to the man. He asked the man where everyone had gone. The man told him, "Everyone left after they buried the chief's oldest daughter. That is why I am standing guard here. I am to stand here for four days."

According to the Assiniboine Indians, when a person died, that person's spirit stayed around for four days. That is the reason for a feast on the fourth day. A medicine man prays and talks to the spirit, telling him or her that they are no longer with us. He tells them it is time to return to the spirit world and not to look back. They are to keep going until they arrive there.

The young man told the man guarding the body, "You go on and catch up with the rest of the camp. This is the girl I was supposed to marry. The least I can do is stay and guard her."

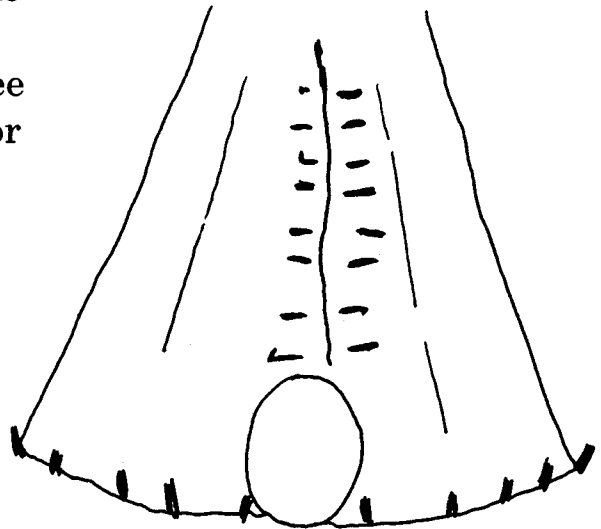
The man left. After he was gone the young warrior went into the tepee and sat down beside the dead girl's body. He started crying and said, "Why did you have to leave me?" He thought he heard something. He looked over at the girl. To his surprise the girl sat up. He said, "Oh, you came back."

The young warrior was so glad to see her sit up and talk that he grabbed her and held her.



They lived together in the tepee for four days and on the fourth day the girl said to the warrior, "Well, I must be going now. You had better go northward and join the encampment. The encampment is four days walking distance from here." She then said. "When you get there tell my father what happened here. Tell him that you are to marry my sister who is the oldest of his daughters now."

They both came out of the tepee and the girl kissed the young warrior good-bye and left.



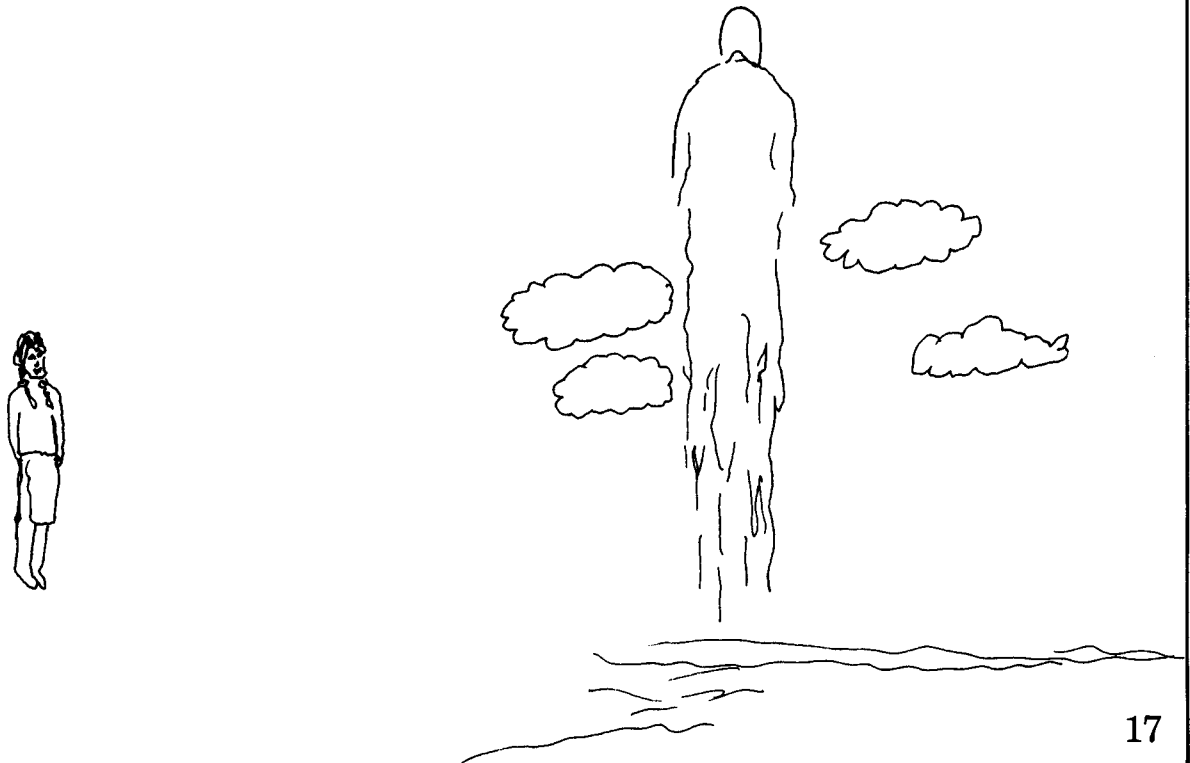
She went southward. As she was going she started to rise slowly and she finally disappeared into the sky.

Because the young warrior gave all his horses to the man who was guarding the tepee, he had to walk. It took him four days to get to the encampment, just as he was told.

After he got there he found his parents were very glad to see him. His parents asked where the other warriors were. The young man told them, "They are coming back with the horses, plus more stolen from the enemy." He also told them what happened with the chief's daughter who had died. He told his parents, "She told me that I am to marry her sister, now the oldest daughter."

He went to find the chief. He told the chief, "Your daughter and I lived together for four days. On the fourth day she returned to the spirit world, telling me that I am to marry her sister. Then she was gone."

The chief told this to his daughter, and she married the young warrior and they lived happily ever after.



Booklets available in the Level IV sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the Planned Sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
Reservation
3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
9. *The Bear Tepee*
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Tepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



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