

When Animals Talked

WHEN ANIMALS TALKED

PUBLISHED BY THE UTAH-OURAY UTE TRIBE

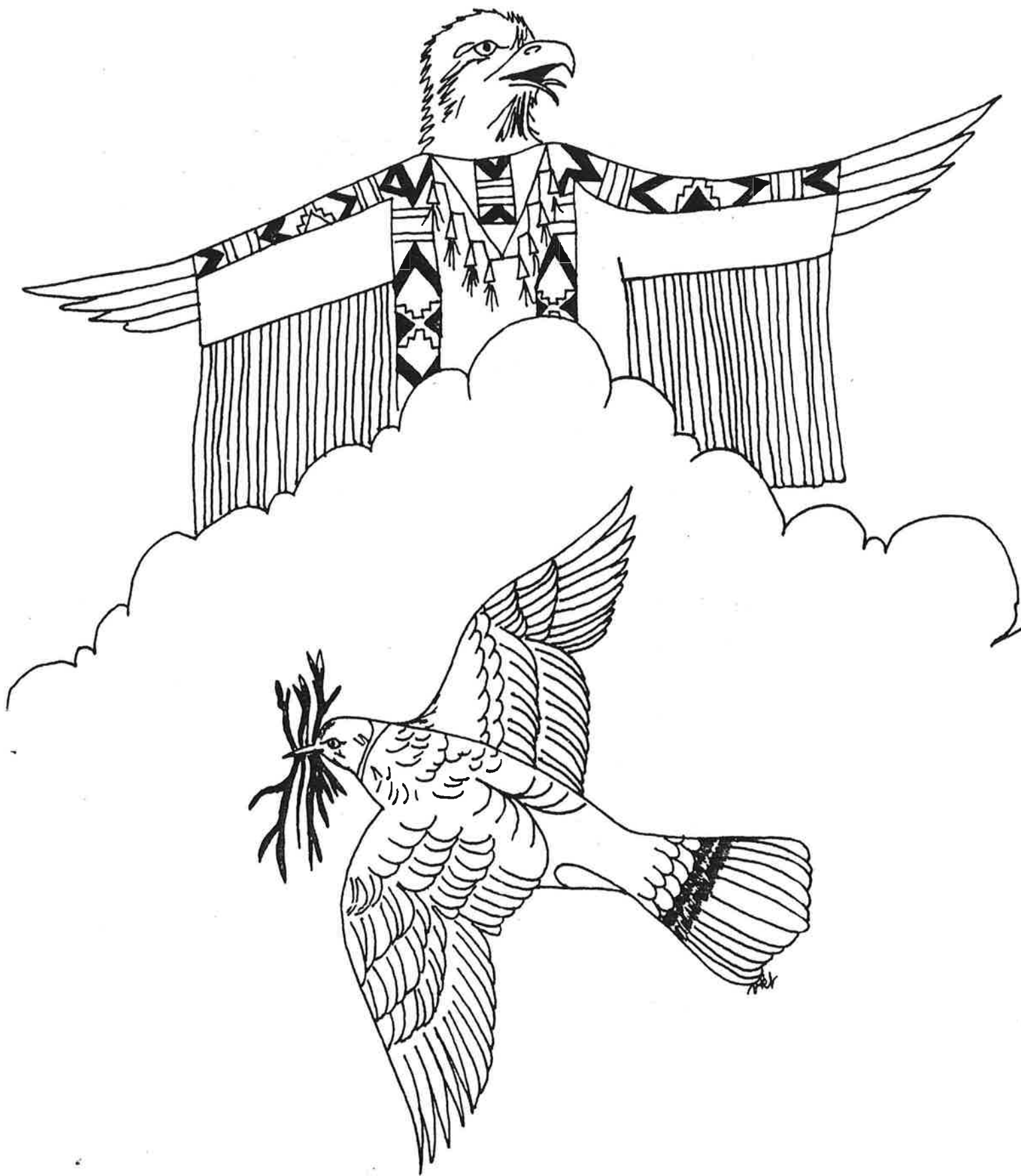
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INTRODUCTION

THESE UTE LEGENDS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND EDITED SO THAT THEY MAY BE USED FOR BOTH CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AND READING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE LEGENDS HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES: THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE DUKE INDIAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (MARRIOTT LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, 1968-1972); JOSEPH GILBERT JORGENSEN, "FUNCTIONS OF UTE FOLKLORE" (M.A. THESIS, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, 1960); A.B. REAGAN, "UTE MYTHS," PROCEEDINGS OF THE UTAH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES 12:47-49; AND THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE UTE CURRICULUM PROJECT ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION (UTE TRIBAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, FORT DUCHESNE, UTAH, 1976-1977). UTE WORDS HAVE BEEN TRANSCRIBED ACCORDING TO THE SYSTEM EXPLAINED IN WEENOOCHEEYOO PEESADUEHNEE YAKIANUP : STORIES OF OUR ANCESTORS (UINTAH-OURAY UTE TRIBE, 1974), PP. IV-VII.

THE MEMBERS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PROJECT STAFF WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT. SPECIAL THANKS GO TO THE TRIBAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE, WHICH ENDORSED THE PROJECT; TO THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION, WHICH PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT; TO THE AMERICAN WEST CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, WHICH GAVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; TO JUNE LYMAN, WHO REVIEWED THE MATERIALS FOR GRADE LEVEL; TO THE TRIBAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, WHICH SUPPORTED THE PROJECT; TO THE STORYTELLERS, HISTORIANS, AND COMPILERS WHO PROVIDED THE LEGENDS; TO HANK LAROSE, WHO DREW THE COVER ILLUSTRATION; AND TO VENITA TAVEAPONT, WHO ILLUSTRATED THE BOOKLET. THE GREATEST THANKS, HOWEVER, ARE EXTENDED TO OUR ELDERS AND TO OUR CHILDREN, WHITHOUT WHOM THIS PROJECT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MEANINGLESS TASK.

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HOW THE TRIBES CAME TO BE	ROSE JOHNSON	UTE
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WHY PORCUPINE (<u>YOO-POOCH</u>) DOESN'T EAT MEAT	SHIRLEY REED	DUKE

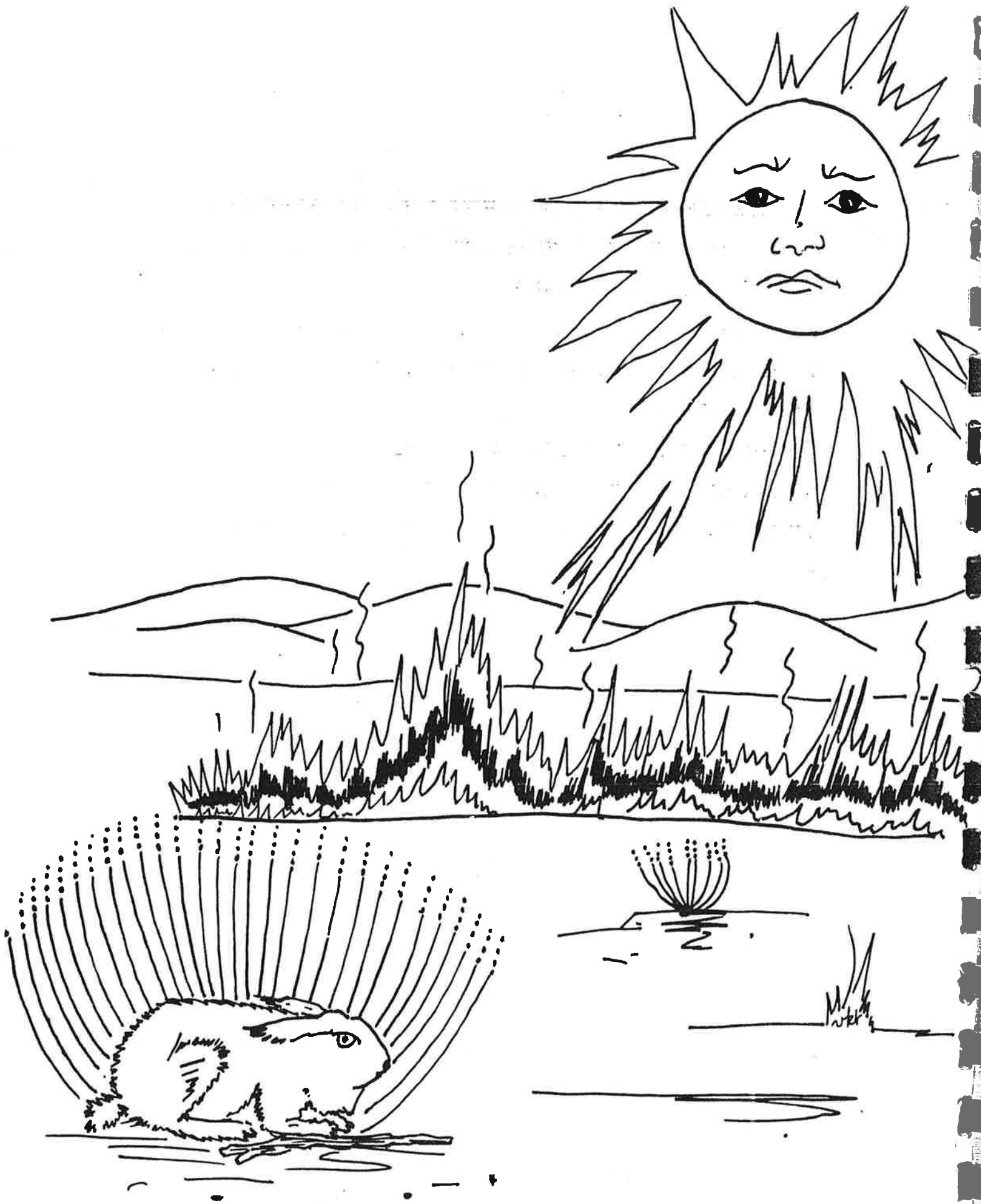


HOW THE TRIBES CAME TO BE

ONCE, LONG AGO, THERE WAS A GREAT FLOOD. IT COVERED THE WHOLE WORLD. SOON THERE WERE NO PEOPLE LEFT. ONLY EAGLE AND PIGEON LIVED. THEY FLEW ABOVE THE WATER.

AT LAST THE WATER DRIED UP. THEN EAGLE TOLD PIGEON TO FLY DOWN TO EARTH. HE ASKED HIM TO PICK UP STICKS AND BRING THEM BACK. PIGEON DID AS HE WAS TOLD.

THEN THE TWO BROKE THE STICKS INTO SMALL PIECES. EAGLE SAID, "LET US DROP THE STICKS ALL OVER THE LAND. THEY WILL BE PEOPLE. EACH GROUP WILL BE A TRIBE." AND THAT IS HOW THE TRIBES CAME TO BE.



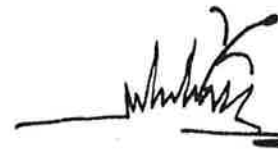
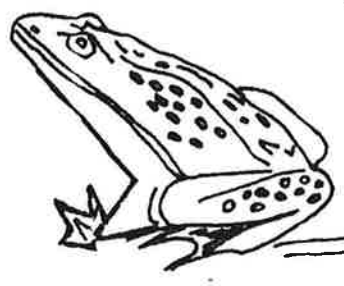
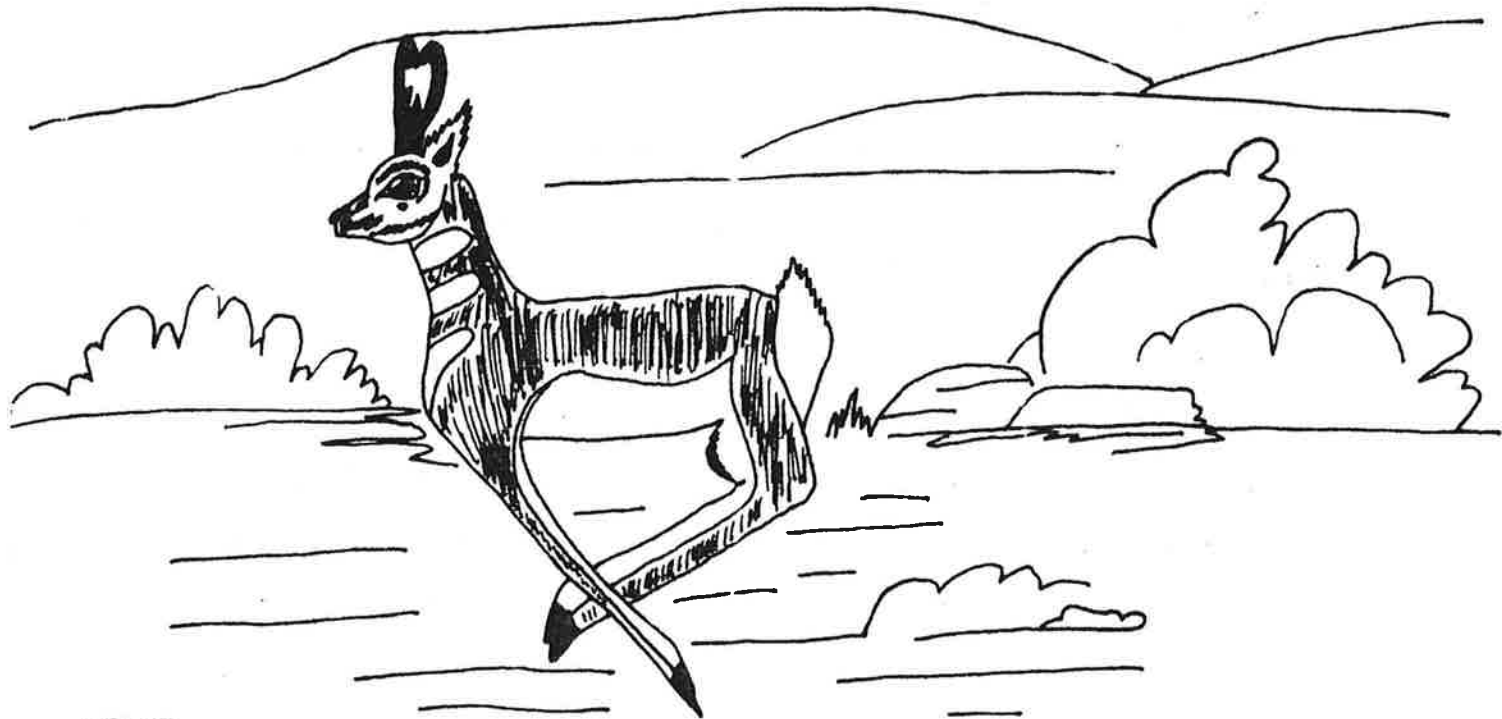
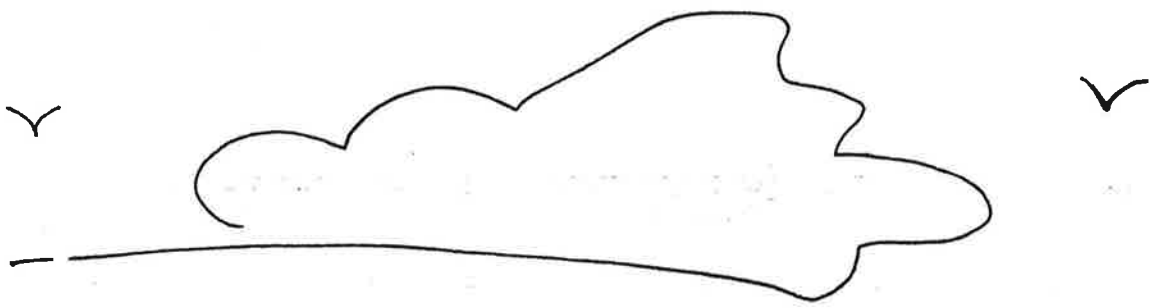
WHY RABBIT (TA-VOOCH) HAS BROWN SPOTS ON HIS BACK

LONG AGO ANIMALS WERE JUST LIKE PEOPLE. THE SUN WAS VERY MEAN THEN. IT KILLED EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH. ONE DAY RABBIT CALLED A COUNCIL. HE TOLD THE ANIMALS THAT HE WOULD KILL THE SUN. THEN HE ASKED THEM IF THE SUN WOULD BURN EVERYTHING UP. MOST OF THEM TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD. BUT LITTLE RABBIT BRUSH SAID, "THE SUN CAN NOT BURN ME UP."

SO RABBIT MADE HIS PLANS. HE DID NOT FORGET WHAT THE SMALL PLANT HAD SAID. NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE SUN CAME UP, RABBIT HIT IT WITH HIS CANE. THE SUN BLEW UP. WATER BEGAN TO BOIL ALL OVER THE EARTH. THERE WAS FIRE EVERYWHERE.

RABBIT RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD. THE FIRE STAYED JUST BEHIND HIM. THEN, WHEN THE FIRE HAD ALMOST CAUGHT HIM, RABBIT FOUND THE RABBIT BRUSH. HE CURLED UP UNDER IT. THE FIRE COULD NOT BURN HIM THERE.

THE FIRE WENT ALL OVER THE EARTH. IT BURNED EVERYTHING BUT RABBIT AND THE PLANT. BUT BECAUSE RABBIT LOOKED UP WHEN THE FIRE WENT OVER HIM, TODAY HE HAS BROWN SPOTS ON HIS BACK. AND EVEN NOW, RABBIT BRUSH TURNS BROWN IN LATE SUMMER. THEN THE HOT SUN REMINDS HIM OF THE GREAT FIRE.



FROG (PA-GWAN') AND ANTELOPE (WA-CHEECH) HAVE A RACE

ANTELOPE RAN FASTER THAN ANY ANIMAL ON EARTH. HE COULD OUTRUN THEM ALL. AGAIN AND AGAIN HE ASKED THEM TO RACE, AND HE NEVER LOST.

ONE DAY A LITTLE GREEN FROG SAID THAT HE WOULD RACE WITH HIM.

"WHAT WILL YOU BET ME?" ASKED ANTELOPE.

FROG SAID, "THE FAT OFF MY BACK."

"I DON'T NEED YOUR FAT," SAID ANTELOPE. "BUT IF YOU HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO BET, I WILL RACE YOU ANYWAY."

SO THEY CHOSE A DAY FOR THE RACE. THEY PLANNED TO START NEAR THEIR HOMES. THEN THEY WOULD RUN ALONG THE RIVER. THE RACE WOULD END AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

ON THE DAY OF THE RACE, ALL THE ANIMALS CAME TO WATCH. FROG AND ANTELOPE RAN OFF. THEN ANTELOPE SAW FROG HOPPING IN FRONT OF HIM. NO MATTER HOW FAST HE RAN, FROG WAS RIGHT THERE. ANTELOPE RAN ON. SOON HE CAME TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN. AND FROG WAS WAITING FOR HIM. FROG DIDN'T EVEN LOOK TIRED.

ANTELOPE WAS PUZZLED. HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW LITTLE FROG STAYED AHEAD OF HIM. HE WAS SURE THAT HE WAS FASTER THAN ANYONE. "FROG SHOULD HAVE BEEN TIRED AFTER SUCH A LONG RACE," HE THOUGHT. HE JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE HAD LOST.

REALLY, THE ANSWER WAS SIMPLE. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF LITTLE GREEN FROGS. EACH OF THEM RAN PART OF THE RACE. THAT IS HOW FROG GOT THERE FIRST AND WHY HE WASN'T TIRED.



THE GREAT FISH (PAH-GOO)

ONCE A HUGE FISH LIVED IN THE SALT LAKE NEAR THE HOME OF THE UINTAH UTE PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE HELD A BIG COUNCIL AT THE LAKE. THEY SET UP THEIR TIPIS AROUND ITS SHORE.

TWO BOYS WANTED TO GO SWIMMING. THE OTHERS WARNED THEM THAT A HUGE FISH LIVED IN THE LAKE. THEY TOLD THE BOYS NOT TO GO IN THE WATER. BUT ONE OF THE BOYS SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO GO SWIMMING, NO MATTER WHAT THE OTHERS SAID.

THEN HE JUMPED IN THE LAKE AND BEGAN TO SWIM. HE SWAM TOWARD A WHIRLPOOL. HE CAME TOO CLOSE TO IT, AND IT PULLED HIM UNDER THE WATER. THEN THE GREAT FISH SWALLOWED HIM.

THE OTHER BOY RAN BACK TO CAMP TO TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THEY ALL HURRIED TO THE PLACE WHERE THE BOY HAD GONE UNDER. THE OTHER BOY SWAM OUT INTO THE LAKE, HOLDING A ROPE MADE OF BARK AND A SHARP SPEAR. THE BIG FISH SWALLOWED HIM TOO.

HE FOUND HIS FRIEND INSIDE THE FISH, STILL ALIVE. SO HE TOOK HIS SHARP SPEAR AND CUT A HOLE BETWEEN THE RIBS OF THE FISH. THE TWO BOYS CRAWLED THROUGH THIS HOLE AND SWAM AWAY. AND THEN, THE UINTAH PEOPLE SAY, THE LAKE FILLED WITH BLOOD AND THE WATER TURNED RED.



WHY BUZZARD (WEE-KOOCH) IS ALWAYS ALONE

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THE BUZZARD IS ALWAYS ALONE? HAVE YOU EVER ASKED WHY HE FLIES BY HIMSELF OR WHY THE OTHER BIRDS WON'T LET HIM COME NEAR? THIS HAPPENED LONG AGO. AT THAT TIME, BIRDS WERE LIKE HUMAN BEINGS. THEY TALKED AND LAUGHED AND DANCED.

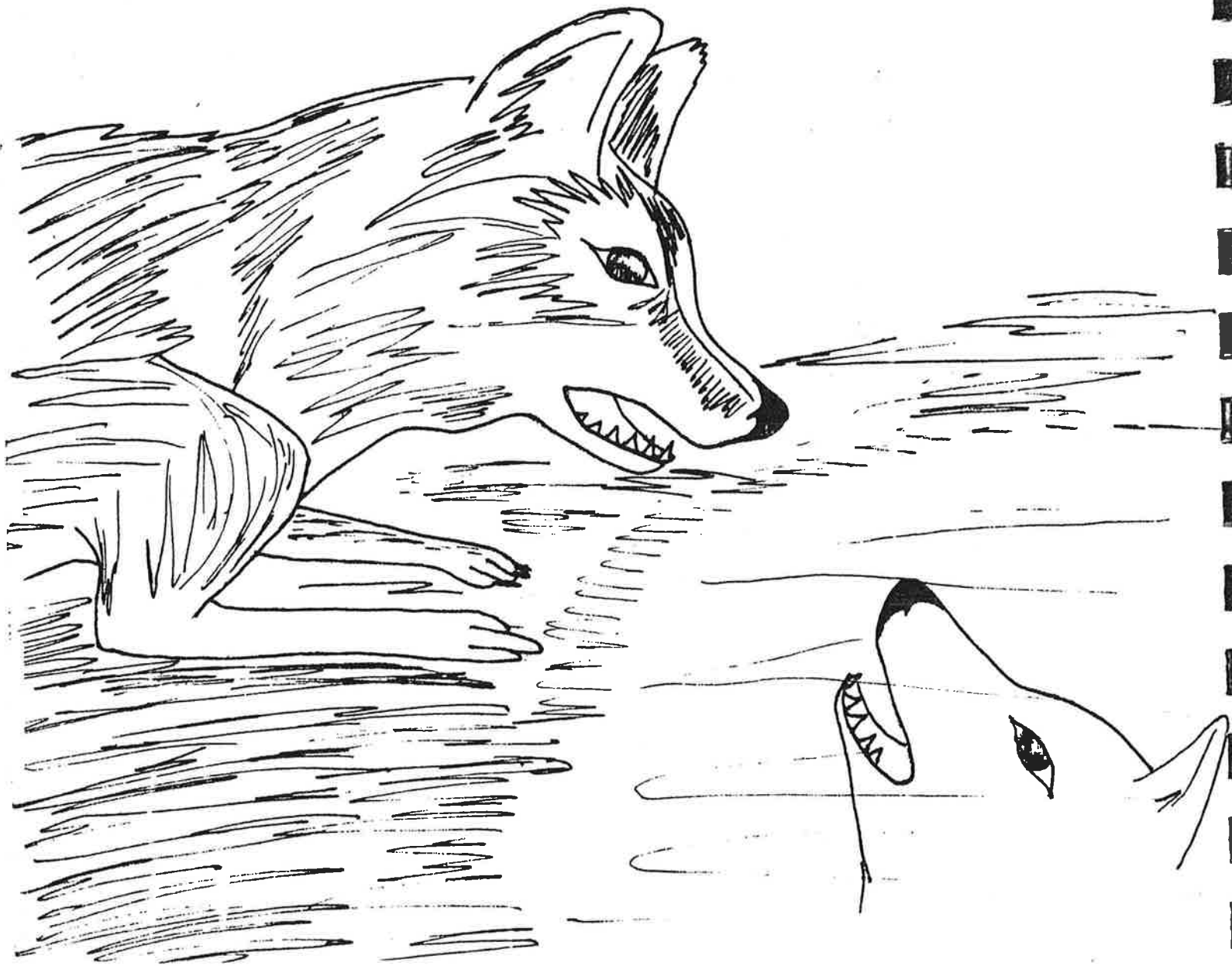
OFTEN THE BIRDS HELD COUNCIL MEETINGS. AT THE MEETINGS, THE BUZZARD ALWAYS SAT BY HIMSELF. HE NEVER SPOKE OR LAUGHED. HE JUST SAT AND LISTENED TO THE OTHERS.

AFTER A TIME, THE BIRDS BEGAN TO WONDER WHY THE BUZZARD ALWAYS SAT ALONE. "WHY DOESN'T HE LAUGH?" THEY ASKED. "WHY DOESN'T HE EVER TALK? WHY DOESN'T HE SAY SOMETHING?"

THEY DECIDED TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH HIM. "WE WILL TAKE TURNS." THEY SAID. "WE WILL SEE WHO CAN MAKE HIM TALK OR LAUGH." SO EACH OF THEM TRIED TO MAKE HIM SAY SOMETHING, BUT THE BUZZARD JUST SAT THERE.

AFTER ALL OF THE OTHER BIRDS HAD TRIED, A LITTLE MAGPIE STOOD UP. "I CAN MAKE HIM LAUGH," HE SAID. "I CAN MAKE HIM TALK. LET ME TRY." AT THE NEXT MEETING, MAGPIE STOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BUZZARD AND BEGAN TO DANCE. HE WHIRLED AROUND AND AROUND. HE LOOKED SO CRAZY THAT SOON THE BUZZARD BEGAN TO LAUGH. HE LAUGHED AND LAUGHED.

BUT ALL OF THE OTHER BIRDS JUMPED UP AND RAN AWAY. FOR BUZZARD HAD BAD BREATH, AND THAT WAS THE REASON HE NEVER SPOKE OR LAUGHED. EVEN TODAY, THE BUZZARD ALWAYS FLIES BY HIMSELF. AND IF HE COMES NEAR OTHER BIRDS, THEY CHASE HIM AWAY. THAT IS WHY THE BUZZARD IS ALWAYS ALONE.



COYOTE (YUR-G:ER-VUECH) SEES A REFLECTION

ONE DAY, LONG, LONG AGO, COYOTE WALKED BY A STREAM OF CLEAR WATER. THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER WAS COVERED WITH SAND. COYOTE STOPPED TO HAVE A DRINK. HE WAS VERY HUNGRY, AND HE SAW SOME BERRIES IN THE RIVER. THOSE BERRIES LOOKED VERY GOOD TO COYOTE. HE SAID, "I WANT THOSE BERRIES. I THINK I WILL EAT THEM."

SO HE DROVE INTO THE RIVER, BUT HE COULD NOT FIND ANY BERRIES. HE DOVE AGAIN, BUT WHEN HE CAME UP, HE HAD ONLY A HANDFUL OF SAND. HE DID THIS THREE TIMES, BUT HE COULD NOT GET THE BERRIES.

COYOTE WAS STILL HUNGRY. HE LAY DOWN ON THE BANK, PUTTING HIS HANDS UNDER HIS HEAD FOR A PILLOW. WHEN HE LAY BACK, HE COULD SEE THE BERRIES ABOVE HIM. THEY HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN THE WATER, AND THAT WAS WHAT COYOTE HAD SEEN. COYOTE SAID, "I'M STUPID. THERE THEY ARE." HE CLIMBED UP THE TREE AND ATE ALL OF THE BERRIES. HE DID NOT LEAVE A SINGLE ONE.



MOUSE (POO-WEE-CHUCH) AND THE TADPOLES (PEE-CHEECH)

ONE DAY MOUSE MET A GROUP OF TADPOLES. THEY WERE SWIMMING SLOWLY BACK AND FORTH IN THE WATER. "YOU LAZY THINGS," SAID MOUSE. "IN THAT WIGGLING WAY, YOU COULD NOT GO THE LENGTH OF A MAN'S ARM IN HALF AN HOUR."

ALL OF THE TADPOLES SPOKE AT ONCE. "WE'LL RACE WITH YOU," THEY SAID.

MOUSE LAUGHED. "YOU CAN'T BEAT ME," HE SAID. "YOUR TAILS ARE TOO FAT."

"WE'LL RACE WITH YOU ANYWAY," THEY SAID.

SO THEY ALL SHOOK HANDS. THEN MOUSE AND THE TADPOLES RACED AWAY. AND FROG'S CHILDREN WON THE RACE.



CHILD SNATCHER (SEE-ATCH) AND THE BOY (AH-PUCH)

ONCE AN INDIAN FAMILY LIVED NEAR THE WOODS. ONE NIGHT THEY HEARD HOWLS OUTSIDE. THE FATHER LOOKED OUT AND SAW SOMETHING IN THE TREES. IT HOWLED AND HOWLED. SO HE TOLD HIS SON, "GO AND SEE WHAT IT IS."

THE BOY WENT SLOWLY. THEN HE PEERED OUT FROM BEHIND THE TREES AND SAW SEE-ATCH. BECAUSE HE WAS SO AFRAID, HE COULD NOT RUN. HE LOOKED AGAIN.

THEN SEE-ATCH SAID, "COME HERE, BOY, COME HERE."

HE ANSWERED. "NO, I WILL NEVER COME."

BUT SEE-ATCH SAID, "IF YOU DO NOT COME TO ME NOW, I WILL COME TO GET YOU WHEN YOU PLAY AT NIGHT."

THE BOY RAN HOME AS FAST AS HE COULD. HE TOLD HIS FATHER THAT HE HAD SEEN SEE-ATCH. BUT BY THE NEXT NIGHT, HE HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT. HE WENT OUT TO PLAY. HE LIKED TO BE OUTSIDE AT NIGHT. HE RAN AND LAUGHED AND SANG.

THEN HE HEARD A NOISE. SUDDENLY SEE-ATCH GRABBED HIM. THE BOY WAS TOO SCARED TO CALL OUT FOR HELP. SEE-ATCH CARRIED HIM FAR INTO THE WOODS. AFTER A LONG TIME, SEE-ATCH GOT TIRED. WHEN HE SAT DOWN TO REST, THE BOY PICKED UP SOME ROCKS. THEN SEE-ATCH STARTED OUT AGAIN.

AS HE WALKED, THE BOY STUFFED THE ROCKS IN HIS SHIRT. SEE-ATCH ASKED, "WHY ARE YOU SO HEAVY?" AND EVERY TIME HE STOPPED REST, THE BOY PUT MORE ROCKS IN HIS SHIRT.

THEN THE BOY SAW A TREE. ITS BRANCH HUNG OVER THE PATH. WHEN SEE-ATCH WENT UNDER IT, THE BOY GRABBED THE LIMB. HE HELD ON TO IT TIGHTLY. SEE-ATCH WENT ON, PAST THE BUSHES. THEN THE BOY LET GO AND RAN HOME AS FAST AS HE COULD.

HIS FATHER WAS WAITING FOR HIM. HE SAID, "WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?"

THE BOY SAID, "SEE-ATCH TRIED TO TAKE ME AWAY. BUT I PUT ROCKS IN HIS SHIRT. I SAW A TREE BRANCH AND PULLED MYSELF OFF OF HIS BACK. THEN I RAN HOME."

SEE-ATCH STILL DID NOT KNOW THAT THE BOY WAS GONE. HE KEPT ASKING, "WHY ARE YOU SO FAT?" NO ONE ANSWERED HIM. AT LAST HE REACHED HIS HOME. HE STARTED TO PUT THE BOY DOWN. JUST THEN ALL OF THE ROCKS FELL OUT OF HIS SHIRT. HE WAS VERY ANGRY.

HE WENT STRAIGHT BACK TO THE BOY'S HOME. IN AN ANGRY VOICE, HE CALLED TO THE BOY, "COME OUT, BOY, COME OUT NOW."

BUT THE BOY'S FATHER SAID, "GO AWAY, SEE-ATCH, AND NEVER COME BACK TO MY HOME." AND THE BOY NEVER SAW SEE-ATCH AGAIN.

WHY PORCUPINE (YOO-POOCH) DOESN'T EAT MEAT

ONE DAY PORCUPINE WENT HUNTING. HE KILLED A BUFFALO AND BROUGHT IT HOME. HE BUILT A FIRE. THEN HE PUT HIS MEAT ON THE HOT COALS AND WENT TO SLEEP. THE NEXT MORNING HE GOT UP AND REACHED FOR HIS MEAT. HE WAS VERY HUNGRY. BUT IT WAS NOT THERE. HIS MEAT WAS GONE. HE KNEW THAT COYOTE MUST HAVE TAKEN IT. COYOTE DID THINGS LIKE THAT.

SO PORCUPINE SHOT ANOTHER BUFFALO. THIS TIME HE CUT THE MEAT INTO STRIPS AND DRIED IT OVER THE FIRE. THEN HE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO KEEP IT SAFE. NEAR HIS CAMP THERE WERE MANY PINE TREES. SINCE THE PINE TREES HAD NEVER DONE ANY GREAT THINGS, THEY WERE SMALL. THEY WOULD ALWAYS BE SMALL. BUT PORCUPINE KNEW THAT THE LITTLE TREES COULD HELP HIM.

HE HUNG HIS MEAT IN THEIR BRANCHES. THEN HE SAT DOWN AND BEGAN TO SING. HE SANG HIS LITTLE SONG, HIS LITTLE SONG. AND AS HE SANG, THE TREES GREW TALLER AND TALLER. STILL HE SANG. THE TREES GREW AND GREW AND GREW, UNTIL THEY HAD CARRIED HIS MEAT UP INTO THE SKY. THEN HE STOPPED SINGING. HE KNEW THAT COYOTE COULD NOT GET HIS MEAT. IT WAS HIGH IN THE TREES. SO HE WENT TO SLEEP.

THAT NIGHT, COYOTE CAME BACK. HE COULD NOT SEE THE MEAT, BUT HE KNEW IT WAS THERE. SO HE LOOKED AND LOOKED AND LOOKED. THEN HE FOUND IT, HIGH IN THE TREES. HE COULD NOT REACH IT. HE ASKED THE PINE TREES TO GIVE IT TO HIM. HE ASKED AND ASKED, AND AT LAST THE TREES GAVE IT TO HIM.

IN THE MORNING PORCUPINE WOKE UP. HIS MEAT WAS GONE. THE PINE TREES HAD BETRAYED HIM. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NEVER EAT MEAT AGAIN. BUT FROM THEN ON, THE PINE TREES HAD TO GIVE HIM FOOD, BECAUSE THEY HAD GIVEN HIS MEAT TO COYOTE.

