



Eagle Boy


Eagle Boy was tired of having to hunt for his food. He had heard of a place where he would be told how to acquire power that would rid him of the need to work. He went to this place and was told of a great serpent in a nearby lake. Eagle Boy was told that in order to be granted his power, he must kill the serpent by cutting out his heart. He was given instructions to ignore what the serpent would ask him to do. By refusing to do as the serpent asked, Eagle Boy would be given power. His final instruction was to keep his encounter with the serpent a secret. If anyone heard the truth of how Eagle Boy had looked upon the serpent's heart, he would lose his power.

Eagle Boy went to the lake and fought with the serpent. During the fight, the serpent asked Eagle Boy to do three things. Each time Eagle Boy refused to do as the serpent asked. Finally, in a last great battle, Eagle Boy killed the serpent and cut out his heart.

Eagle Boy took the heart of the serpent back to his village where he hid the heart in his lodge. Because he had followed the directions, Eagle Boy no longer had to spend time and energy hunting the animals in the forest; the animals simply came to him! All the young girls of the village began to look upon Eagle Boy with interest and admiration.

Eagle Boy learned that in order to keep his power strong, he had to perform many ceremonies which the Spirits created for him. These ceremonies required much of Eagle Boy's time and had to be kept secret from the all people of his village. Only after all the ceremonies of the day had been performed did Eagle Boy have time to leave the solitude of his lodge.

Over time, Eagle Boy became tired of performing the endless ceremonies the Spirits required of him. He no longer had time to spend with the other boys while they practiced their skill at hunting the deer or building traps. He missed talking to the girls of his village about all they had learned about growing plants and building lodges. Most of all, Eagle Boy was tired of being different from everyone else.



Frustrated by the secrets he was forced to keep, Eagle Boy tore down his lodge, scattering the bark and poles that once kept him hidden from his village. He called to the people of the village. "Come! Look upon the heart of the serpent I have kept hidden for so long!" When the people of the village rushed to witness the commotion, the heart that Eagle Boy held above his head instantly turned to stone. The weight of the stone surprised Eagle Boy, and when he dropped it to the ground, he felt his powers leaving his body.

Eagle Boy soon understood that the cost of his power had been to lose his connection to his people. From that day on, Eagle Boy had to hunt in the forest for his food, just like all the other boys of his village.