

## THE SCALPED MAN

Long ago when the Arapahos used to fight a lot, they would go out looking for enemy tribes. One time a number of men left to look for a fight and a young boy went with them. The boy was not very big but still he went along.

The group walked a long distance without encountering anyone. Finally, towards the end of the day, they came to a thick stand of brush and built a wood lodge where they would spend the night. After the lodge was completed they built a fire and cooked a meal for themselves. When night fell they amused themselves by telling stories.

During the story-telling, the chief asked one man to go and get some water. The man refused, so the chief asked another man. The second man refused also, so the chief asked each of the other men. All of the men refused the chief's request because it was too dark. Finally, the young boy volunteered. The other men tried to discourage him by saying that it was too dark, but he went anyway. The boy picked up the water container and set off to the river.

The group had camped near the river and as the boy approached the bank he heard a strange sound. He thought it was the sound of a person moaning. The boy put the water container aside and went looking for the source of the sound. His search led him to a man who was badly wounded but still alive and lying behind a large bush. The boy retrieved the water container and filled it from the river. Then he returned to the wounded man and helped him to his feet. Together they returned to the camp.

Upon reaching the camp, the boy told the man to wait outside while he took the water in to the others. When he entered the lodge the boy told the men, "Here is the water."

The boy and all of the men heard the stranger moaning outside and the men grew frightened. Then the boy told how he had found the man lying wounded and how he brought him back to the camp. The boy told the men, "I will bring him in."