

The Story of Dawn Boy



Dawn Boy was born with a severe leap in his walk, however, he had a strong heart and mind. He was cast aside with other infants and children who had some type of infirmity. They were sent to live on their own. They were dirty, hungry, had lice, and were crying all the time. Some were blind, three fingered, not able to walk, or speak, and physically, emotionally, and spiritually discontented and deprived of LOVE.

At that time Dawn Boy was a very young boy but he was old enough to recognize that it was wrong to be cast out because they were not like others. At that time there was no K'é created by the Diyin Diné, the Holy People. Nevertheless, he understood k'é. Guided by the four directions, he would carry other children on his back, and took them one by one to the water, bathed, fed and cared for them, held them and played with them, and told them not to cry. To eat, they foraged in the wilderness for plants like roots, berries, and wild spinach and the older ones cooked. They lived in a makeshift shreb house, made from cedar branches far from the village where their parents and grandparents lived. The children got stronger and began to grow taller and bigger.

And at the water, they were visited by Diyin Diné, who told them stories and taught them how to make BEAUTIFUL clay pot dishes, tobacco stems, and other instruments designed for ceremonies. The imprints of the children's deformed fingers could be seen on the clay pots they made. To this day the bowls, pots and tobacco stems taught to the children are used for prayers, healing ways, everyday use, and ceremonies. The children left

their work behind with healing prayers for the relatives who had cast them aside.

Everyone in the village thought by now the children would be gone. Villagers began to spy on the children's daily life. They followed them to the water, and saw the children were happy and they carried one another with compassion and love, and they were strong hearted, with a good state of mind, and becoming spiritual people.

One day, Dawn Boy went to the village and told anyone who would listen to him, that he and the children were going to leave and will not return. After they left, their relatives began to miss the children. They ran into the hills, wooded areas, to the water, to the old shreb hogan, and they found the beautiful dishes and tobacco pipes that the children had left behind for them. The parents cried and cried and called their children's names to the four directions.

As the children walked along the WATER, once again the Diyin Diné greeted them, and they lifted the children up off the EARTH, and they disappeared into the heavens to become the holy helpers. However, Dawn Boy stayed behind. Every dawn, he comes to hear the peoples' prayers that they offer with white corn meal for the survival of all people, to be spiritual connected, physically strong, mentally conscious, and emotionally connected to all living beings and relations. Dawn Boy has LOVE and COMPASSION in his heart and has authority for humanity which is imperfect. He watches humanity's everyday life and represents all LIFE ways.

In today's life we have relatives and community and health professionals who provide care with a spiritual heart, with no judgement. The prayer is to respect, and learn to love, learn to care, learn to be spiritual, and learn to have high regard for all living beings.

*Ahé'hee for the Diné Story from
Jim Redhouse, medicine man*



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