

**The Child of Water**

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**Property of the Mescalero Apache Tribe**

- 1 **'Íłtséshí, Bik'ehgu'indán gúlí ná'a.**  
 2 At the beginning, the Creator existed.
- 3 **Dájík'eh bédaagujísi.**  
 4 Everyone knows about him.
- 5 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshé 'íłdú gúlí ná'a.**  
 6 And White Painted Woman also existed.
- 7 **Bik'éshígu Túbájiishchinén guuslí ná'a.**  
 8 Afterwards Child of the Water was born.
- 9 **Naaghéé'neesgháné 'íłdú guuslí ná'a.**  
 10 Killer of Enemies also was born.
- 11 **'Ákuu díí' jilt'é-gu gujílí ná'a, dá'íłtsé gudeeyá-shí.**  
 12 So there were four existing at the very beginning [of time].
- 13 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshén Túbájiishchinén bizhaa ná'a.**  
 14 And Child of the Water was the child of White Painted Woman.
- 15 **'Ákuu Naaghéé'neesghánén ndé duu nzhú-dashégu ndé 'át'í ná'a.**  
 16 And Killer of Enemies was one of the evil people.
- 17 **Ghéé'ye huughén 'íłdú gúlí ná'a.**  
 18 He who is called Giant also existed.
- 19 **Ndé-í duu bánáá da ná'a.**  
 20 He did not permit people to live.
- 21 **'Isdzánádleeshén bizhaa guyaleet ná'a.**  
 22 White Painted Woman's children were being born.
- 23 **'Isdzánádleeshén bizhaa-n 'it'a bizááyé-gu, Ghéé'ye huughé-n kaayinndé ná'a.**  
 24 While White Painted Woman's children were still small, he who is called Giant ate them.
- 25 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshén chaatnaaghá ná'a.**  
 26 Then White Painted Woman went about weeping.
- 27 **"Xa'yágunáhé gúzhú-gu niigusdzání bikázhi ndé gúlaa ná?" ndí ná'a.**  
 28 "How can people be created on the surface of the earth?" she said.
- 29 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshén da'uukąą ná'a.**  
 30 Then White Painted Woman prayed.
- 31 **Nágu naagułtí ná'a.**

32 And it rained.

33 **Tú-í yá da'neestí ná'a.**

34 She lay face upward for the water.

35 **Nágu tú-í yá bizhaa guuslǫ ná'a.**

36 And her child was born of the water.

37 **'Ákuu: "'Ádín bizhááyé-ń Túbájiishchiné huughé-daał," ndí ná'a, 'Isdzánádleeshén.**

38 Then: "This little one will be called Child of the Water," said White Painted Woman.

39 **Nágu 'Isdzánádleeshén bizhaa guslǫ yaa'ihéńzi ná'a.**

40 And White Painted Woman was happy over the birth of her child.

41 **"Dín shishke'-ń xa'yáguhé 'áshlá-gu nsá ná?" jindí ná'a.**

42 "What shall I do that this baby of mine is [safely] reared?" she said.

43 **Dá'altsujǫda Ghééye huuyé-ń kaanádá ná'a.**

44 Every day he who is called Giant customarily came to her.

45 **'Áłchiné káháyintá-gu duuxa'iyáadaí gúzhú-gu bił kéguyaazǫł-gu, 'áńdeeda guch'á 'ináhadááł ná'a.**

46 He was looking for a baby and after making certain that none was there, he went away from her again.

47 **'Ákuu 'ádín bizhááyé-ń kųų dasiká-í bitł'áhyá bá 'gujúúch'i ná'a.**

48 Then she dug a hole for the little one under the fire that lay there.

49 **'Ákaa 'inájǫłtee ná'a.**

50 There she customarily put him away.

51 **'Ákaa jinsá ná'a.**

52 There she reared him.

53 **Dáxaaee taanájiigis-guná hanájǫłtee ná'a.**

54 She only took him out when she washed him.

55 **'Áshǫ, taanájiyagis-gu bi'jiyasǫł-gu, dásí 'ákaa 'ináájiyałtéel-gu Ghééye huughé-ń kaanahadááł ná'a.**

56 Then, after washing and feeding him, she put him back in [the hole] just as he who is called Giant customarily

57 came to her.

58 **K'adi Túbájiishchinén naaghá silǫ ná'a.**

59 Soon Child of the Water became able to walk around.

60 **'Ákuu hanáájúúłtǫ ná'a.**

61 Then [one day] she had taken him out [of the hole].

62 **'Áń bizhááyé-ń bił gúzhú-gu tsíbaąee naaghá ná'a.**

63 The little one walked happily about at the fireside.

64 **'Ákaa bikék'e ná'a.**

65 There [were] his tracks.

66 **Dásí 'ákaa 'ináázhúúftí-gu, Ghéé'yeń kaanáánádzá ná'a.**

67 Just as she had put him back in [the hole], the Giant came to her again.

68 **'Ákuu Ghéé'yeń 'Isdzánádleeshén 'áíłndí ná'a: "'Ádíídí 'iyádí'?"**

69 And the Giant spoke thus to White Painted Woman: "What are these?

70 **Bich'iyuułkqañi kuyá bikék'e!" guułndí ná'a.**

71 Here [are] tracks of something good to eat!" he said to her.

72 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshén Ghéé'yeń 'áíłndí ná'a:**

73 Then White Painted Woman spoke thus to the Giant:

74 **"Díídí? 'Áłchiné béndaashtsaa-gu kuyá bikék'e 'ánágush'ij," ndí ná'a.**

75 "These? I long so for a baby that I often make [such] tracks right here," she said.

76 **'Ákuu Ghéé'yeń 'Isdzánádleeshén 'áíłndí ná'a:**

77 Then the Giant spoke thus to White Painted Woman:

78 **"Hansha! Shindáa! 'ághálá! 'Ákuuná nuushdlá!" guułndí ná'a.**

79 "Well then! Do it before my eyes! Only then will I believe you!" he said to her.

80 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshén, gundáa!, 'áłchiné bikék'e ká'ágúlaa ná'a.**

81 Then White Painted Woman, before his eyes, made the tracks of a baby for him.

82 **Nágu Ghéé'yeń 'ándeé 'uudlá ná'a.**

83 And the Giant now believed her.

84 **'Áshí 'áłchinén bich'ide náhí chaą ná 'át'é-gu kaanááyíiłtsá ná'a:**

85 Just then he saw also those blankets of the baby that were [smeared] with excrement.

86 **"'Iyáahee díídí? Ch'iyuułkqañi kuyá bichaąne!" guułndí ná'a.**

87 "What are these? Here [is] the excrement of something good to eat!" he said to her.

88 **'Ákuu 'Isdzánádleeshén Ghéé'yeń áíłndí ná'a:**

89 Then White Painted Woman spoke thus to the Giant:

90 **"Díídí'ąa? 'Áłchiné béndaashtsaa-gu 'áłchiné bichaąne 'ánágush'ij," guułndí ná'a.**

91 "These? I long so for a baby that I often make baby's excrement," she said to him.

92 **Nágu Ghéé'yeń 'anáágułdihndí ná'a:**

93 Then the Giant spoke thus to her again:

- 94 **"Hansḥ! 'Ágháláshḥ!" 'Isdzánádleeshén biłjindí ná'a.**  
95 "Well then! Make it!" he said to White Painted Woman.  
96 **Nágu 'Isdzánádleeshén 'áłchiné bich'ide-í náinłtsuuz ná'a.**  
97 Then White Painted Woman picked up a baby blanket.  
98 **'Ináshtł'izhe-í yéisjuul ná'a.**  
99 She smeared wild honey on it.  
100 **Nágu dásí 'ághát'é ná'a.**  
101 And it was just exactly so.  
102 **Nágu Ghéé'yeń 'áńdeeda 'uusdląą ná'a.**  
103 And the Giant now believed her.