

Cabeyu

Comanche Story

How Keawash deceived the White man

One time the Neum (Comanche) saw some white people traveling - they had never seen white people before and were afraid to go near them - Kiawash (their mystic progenitor the Comanche Sinday) showed them how - he went first - he watched the white men to see where they were going to pass and went there first - he built a fire near where they were going to pass and when the ground was very hot he put the fire out and took away the ashes and hid them - after he had put an earthen kettle of boiling water on the hot ground - the water continued to boil - pretty soon the white man came along and saw the boiling water and asked "what makes that kettle of water boil without any fire?" Kiawash replied "that is the way it is - (its nature) that is a medicine kettle - I put water in it and meat and it boils itself" - then the white man wanted to try the kettle but Kiawash said "No, I love that kettle I am very lazy and I do not like to go after wood". the white man said "I'll give you a horse for that kettle?" Kiawash said "No I want to keep it". the white man said "I will give you two horses for that kettle". Kiawash considered a long while - then he said finally - "all right - good" - and the white man gave him the two horses in exchange for the kettle and went on his way - When the sun got overhead he stopped to cook food, he put cold water and meat in the kettle and waited a long while for it to boil, but it would not boil - then he got angry and broke it - Kiawash fooled him" -