

Childhood of Ji-shib

It was decided that Ji-shib should climb down the cliff to the nest and bring back the young eagles tied in his breech-cloth slung over his back, while the other boy should try to shoot the old bird if she returned. Ji-shib had nearly reached the nest, and his companion watching the tops of the forest trees over the lake reported everything all right, when suddenly a frightful cry of alarm and anger sounded in his ears. The eagle, coming to her nest from the back way, had not seen the boy until she came fully on him. A young grouse dropped from her startled claws to the ledge near him, and the eagle turned to fight. Not until then had she seen Ji-shib. He was the dangerous enemy. He was the one who would rob her of her darlings. Forgetting her fright, and screaming her fierce cry of anger, she whirled again and again and charged on him.

At first the well-directed arrows kept her from touching Ji-shib, but soon they were gone, none of them having penetrated her lapped armor of feathers.