

Childhood of Ji-shib'

young Indian said to him: "Thus you outgrew your babyhood." While speaking, the beautiful Indian gradually changed his shape and size, and in a few moments he was turned into a soft-furred beaver. Then he vanished.

Next day Ji-shib' was very hungry. Twice he went to the creek to drink, and all day long he thought how the Indian had changed to a beaver. He had never done that before.

That night the young Indian came again while Ji-shib' slept, and said to him: "Don't you know me?" Then he quickly laid aside his beautiful buckskin garments, and, sure enough, he was a real beaver. "Look," he said. And Ji-shib' looked, and saw himself sitting in the hollow tree with his face blackened, and the beaver said: "Thus will you outgrow your childhood." Ji-shib' awoke, but could see nothing except the green shoots on the leafy ground in front of the tree.

He was more and more hungry that next day, and yet he was getting accustomed to the feeling of hunger, so he walked aimlessly about in the forest.