

Iktomi & the Pointing game - Duane Hollow Horn Bear

- Storytelling

I would like to share another story about Iktomi who had on these very, very nice clothes...Who was very proud of himself and he always thought he was the one who could do everything the best. Gambling, horseback riding, games, hunting...everything...he was always the best. He could out-shoot, out-run, out-swim... he could do everything. Everything was the best. Nobody could beat him.

He went to a village one day. They were gambling, and some of the men thought they would take their chance. Iktomi was there. And he's gambling...having a great time. It got way late into the night and many of the guys who were gambling, the others, they said,

"It's late. We want to get some sleep."

"OK. I won enough from you anyway."

So Iktomi packs his horse up and there's a path on the way home. So he's following this path in the moonlight going home. He knows the way home. He can't ride his horse because he has all his winnings tied onto his horse. And as he gets up around this path he stops. Up ahead there's a man standing there. He's pointing at him. So Iktomi says,

"Are you pointing at me? Are you pointing at me?"

But the man says nothing.

"Yes, you're pointing at me aren't you? You can stop pointing at me. Why are you pointing at me?"

He was getting a little nervous.

"Why are you pointing at me? Stop pointing at me. Oh. I know what it is. You want to play the pointing game. I know the pointing game. I can point longer than you can. OK let's play."

So Iktomi puts out his hand. He's pointing and pointing.

"There, you see? I can point too. I can point longer than you. You might as well quit."

But the other is standing there pointing at him.

Iktomi says, "You can quit anytime you want to."

Pretty soon Iktomi says, "You know, I don't want you to stand there all night pointing. You should go home and rest. Stop pointing because I'm not going to stop until you are done. I win at everything. You should know who I am. I win at everything."

He put his hand up because his arm is getting tired.

"You can stop pointing now because I'm not going to stop."

But the other one is still standing there pointing at him. Pointing and pointing. And Iktomi is getting tired.

"I'm getting tired."

"Are you tired now? I am not tired."

"I wish he would stop."

"You can stop and go home now."

Iktomi is so tired now. He has to always brace his arm up. Slowly the sun comes up and Iktomi looks very closely because there's an old dead tree with just one branch on it. That branch is pointing like this. Iktomi had a game with the pointing tree and he lost.