



### STORY NUMBER 3

## *The Sheep Boy*

**W**e have already said that if a person has medicine power from an animal, that person will have no problem communicating with that animal. The other matter is that of parents and grandparents watching carefully over a child at all times for signs that the child might be a medicine power person. If a child behaves or acts strangely or out of the norm, that child is checked out to see if he or she possesses medicine power.

This is a story about a Mountain Indian family that had a child who acted and behaved strangely. The family was advised to find a strong medicine person who would find out if the child had any medicine power. So this was done. The medicine power person reported back, “The child has a very

strong medicine power from an animal. We think it is that of a sheep.”

The parents were advised to look after the boy very carefully. “Don’t interfere. Don’t get mad at him if he acts and behaves strangely. It is not the child’s fault that he is this way. Later on, he may grow out of it. Who knows? People might benefit from this boy. Try to stay alone on the land. Having too many other children around may affect the boy. That is why you have to be careful.” The parents were also advised that when the boy got older, he might wander away a little, but they were not to worry. “Be careful,” they were advised.

The family stayed alone in the mountain country. It was a beautiful land where one could see mountain peaks everywhere. There were not

too many lakes, but there were a lot of river valleys.

The child got bigger, being eight years old. He acted and behaved strangely, but the parents did not interfere. They truly loved the boy. He played by himself quite a bit. The parents noticed that he would wander away on his own for short periods of time.

One day, the parents said, "We will sneak up and spy on him to find out where he goes. We will observe the boy, but take care not to show ourselves, as that might have an effect on him." So, as they spied on the boy, he wandered out alone. Not far away, there was a small pond with a creek nearby. The boy arrived there. He played with stones and started yelling.

Soon a small sheep appeared and went up to the boy. The boy hugged the sheep. They squawked at each other. They seemed to understand each other well. The small sheep jumped into the small pond of water. The boy took his clothes off and joined the sheep. They both tried to swim. They squawked a lot. A small bird, like a spruce grouse, joined them. Robins, whiskey jacks and other birds were making a lot of noise too. Everybody seemed to be having a lot of fun.

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The parents observed them from their hiding place. The parents were really happy because now they knew that the boy had medicine power from the sheep. They were proud of their son. Later in life, the boy outgrew his strange behaviour. He grew up to be a good man and the people really benefited from him. When he got older, he became a leader for a large group of people. He was a well respected Elder until the day of his death. So this is the story of the boy.

