



## Old Indian Legends

*Zitkala-Ša , Agnes M. Picotte (Foreword)*

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### **Old Indian Legends** Zitkala-Ša , Agnes M. Picotte (Foreword)

Early in the twentieth century, a Sioux woman named Zitkala-Ša published these fourteen Native legends that she had learned during her own childhood on the Yankton Reservation. Her writing talent, developed during her education back east, was put to good use in recording from oral tradition the exploits of Iktomi the trickster, Eya the glutton, the Dragon Fly, and other magical and mysterious figures, human and animal, known to the Sioux. Until her death in 1938, Zitkala-Ša stood between two cultures as preserver and translator.

### **Old Indian Legends Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2013 by Bison Books (first published 1901)

ISBN : 9780803299030

Author : Zitkala-Ša , Agnes M. Picotte (Foreword)

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## From Reader Review Old Indian Legends for online ebook

### Sharon says

I love this book. I can tell that the author had heard these legends and was very comfortable re-telling the legends. I have finished reading the book, however I am re-reading it to ensure that I didn't miss something.

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### Illiterate says

Impish mischief amid nature's harmonies.

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### M- S\_\_ says

There are obvious parallels to be drawn between Iktomi and Anansi in the West African tradition, though Iktomi is much more of a bumbling idiot. Iktomi as a character is ultimately a lovable character in that he is a sort of stand in for our childhood selves: acting impulsively, looking out for his own interest above all others, ill-mannered. The lessons of these tales are universal. The translation is a little shaky. Another commenter below pointed out a story about peacocks that doesn't even feel possible given the ecology or whatever of the Americas at the time. Those kind of liberties in translation took me out temporarily, but others were very effective. I appreciated the effort made to make my particular edition of this book feel like a continuous narrative as much as possible. It felt seamless / almost like a novel at places. I think it is important for these voices to be heard. It's good to broaden your horizons and not treat a certain history as the only history. For that reason I think this is a book that is probably more important to read as a sort of global citizen than it is to read for any rich moral lessons that can be squeezed from the text itself.

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### Richard says

This is the first collection by this author, originally 1901. Some years back I read a reprint by Univ of Nebraska Press (1985). I liked it... It has a good home among my collection of folktales.

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### The Docta says

Very interesting to read but several were hard to follow the bigger meaning of. The writing itself I thought to be poor but it could have been that the spoken stories did not translate well or easily into well written language. Although I feel as though the original could have been expounded on to in the written word to lent more guidance and fuller meaning for the reader. I believe that a stronger understanding of the Sioux culture and the lives they live would help to give a better understanding of the stories. This is of course assuming that these stories are like fables or parables made up of metaphors to teach lessons.

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## **Ann Santori says**

The rhythm and structure of the tales is not what most would be familiar with in traditional tales, so it's hard to enjoy them on the page . . . though I'm sure there are tellers who can/do perform these stories extremely well.

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## **White says**

Always a nature person who sees harmony and balance in the most unlikely things, I have a great regard for the Native Americans, their culture, their respect for everything that exists, their appreciation, all that the new American culture takes for granted and discards.

I actually read this book to find stories for my classroom. I found the legends to be more true to metaphor than any fables or Greek Myths. These people really understood so much more than we ever will.

The stories were just myths but they were a testimonial to their culture. I loved that.

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## **Christy says**

Early in the twentieth century, a Sioux woman named Zitkala-Ša published these fourteen Native legends that she had learned during her own childhood on the Yankton Reservation. Her writing talent, developed during her education back east, was put to good use in recording from oral tradition the exploits of Iktomi the trickster, Eya the glutton, the Dragon Fly, and other ma

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## **sweet pea says**

while i was in high school, i stumbled upon a 1901 edition of this book at an antique store. it wasn't until college that i learned that both Zitkala-Ša and the artist Angel De Cora were womyn and pathbreakers. This was the first published collection of First Nations folktales collected by a native. Angel was among the first native artists using "Western" art styles to portray native themes.

the stories themselves are great. Iktomi, a "spider fairy" is both impossible and easy to love. he is rude, self-centered and cares only for himself. so, of course, his shenanigans usually end with a loss for him. several of the tales are hilarious, notably "Iktomi and the Fawn" and "The Warlike Seven". several are heartwrenching. all are fun to re-tell.

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## **John says**

Need more books of Indian Legends. They are very bright and enticing. Enjoyed the sotry of Badger and Bear.

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## **Monique Garcia says**

### **It's funny**

I enjoyed reading this book....just wish it had more stories!

The lessons are good, and give parents, or any adult another avenue for teachings life lessons.

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## **Nicole says**

This is a collection of oral tradition stories which Zitkala -Sa generously wrote down in order to preserve and share them with future generations and I'm grateful that she did. The stories are similar to Aesop's fables read to young children to impart life lessons. While reading this collection I thought each individual story could easily be made into a children's picture book and, indeed, after some searching I found that "Dance in a Buffalo Skull" has been made into a picture book. There are a few sweet and tender illustrations throughout this collection which capture well the feelings and emotions of the stories. A treasure of a book which I'm enjoying to read to my own children at bedtime. Poor Iktomi, the spider trickster, who never seems to learn the lesson, has been quite entertaining for the kids. Behind all of the stories I could feel zitkala-Sa's love for the story tellers and their stories of the plains people.

*The old legends of America belong quite as much to the blue-eyed little patriot as to the black-haired aborigine. And when they are grown tall like the wise grown-ups may they not lack interest in a further study of Indian folklore, a study which so strongly suggests our near kinship with the rest of humanity and points a steady finger toward the great brotherhood of mankind, and by which one is so forcibly impressed with the possible earnestness of life as seen through the teepee door! vi Zitkala-Sa*

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## **Ms. Mielke's Class Make sure you post how your sheets tell you to!!!! says**

This is a very interesting book about an Indian who had problems. I encourage you to read this book for all the strange stories that are in it. It is cool and strange but in the end it is pretty good. IJ

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## **X says**

I think little kids would love these stories.

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