



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION
THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP JOURNAL

“A COMANCHE STORY OF KWASINABOO”

By

Edward Tahhahwah

Edited by

Juanita Pahdopony



HOME OF KWASINABOO AT ENCHANTED ROCK -“Kwasinaboo” translates to “snake” in Comanche. Enchanted Rock is located at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area 15 miles north Fredericksburg, Texas. The massive pink granite dome, rising above Central Texas to an elevation of 1,825ft., has drawn people for thousands of years. Archeological evidence indicates human visitors at the rock going back at least 11,000 years. Many stories are associated with Enchanted Rock. The photograph was drawn from the website of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area located at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-park/enchanted-rock>.

Two friends planned to go hunting for game. The mother told her son, “Hunt during the day and promise that you will not hunt after dark.” This was the only way the mother would agree to allow the two young men to hunt together.

When the friend arrived, the mother asked the friend to watch her son and make sure that he did not hunt after dark. The friend agreed to make sure they would follow the mother’s request.

The first day of the hunt was disappointing, because there was no game to be found. That evening, the two gathered firewood and lit a small fire to keep warm. The son talked of the foods he wished that he could be eating because he was so hungry. The friend asked that he not talk about food; it only made them hungrier. He should go to sleep because the next day would be better. Both went to bed hungry.

Early the next day, the boys determined they would find game. However, there was no game to be found, nor could they find any foods on the land to gather. They were disappointed because, at the end of the day, they would still be hungry. Once again, they lit a fire and sat before it to keep warm. A small kwasinaboo crawled up next to the son to warm itself by the fire.

The son complained of his terrible hunger and the foods that he wished that he could be eating. Finally, the friend said, “Stop talking about food! And do not hurt that kwasinaboo. I gave my word to your mother that I would watch you and not let you hunt animals after dark. Forget about being hungry and go to sleep! I am going to sleep and you should do the same!”

The son did not forget his hunger. He was wide awake as he watched the kwasinaboo. Finally, he killed it and roasted it on a stick before the fire and ate it.

The next morning, as the sun was still low in the eastern horizon, the friend woke up and looked around. There was no sign of the other young man. His clothes were in a pile by the ashes of the fire pit.

The friend could not go home without the son he promised to watch. He searched the area. After a time, he came to a trail where something was dragged through the dirt. He followed it all around the huge granite mountain until he came to a large dark cave. He called out the boy's name several times until an enormous kwasinaboo crawled out of the entrance. The friend drew back in fear but was unable to run away. The serpent said, "Go home and tell my mother that I did not listen to what she said, and now this is where I must stay. She can visit me, but I will never be able to go home again."

Today, the scales of the kwasinaboo can be seen all along the bottom of what is now called the "Enchanted Rock" located near Fredericksburg, Texas.



THE SCALES OF KWASINABOO AT ENCHANTED ROCK-Exfoliation joints in granite at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. Detached blocks have slid along the steeply-dipping joint plane. A WIKIPEDIA Photograph

Background Note: The following story was re-told by Edward Tahhahwah, a Comanche Nation College student, on January 9, 2014, who heard this story from the late Ray Nieto, a tribal historian:

Author: Edward Tahhahwah is a Ten Bears descendent. He is a full blood Comanche from the Poemoceah and Tahhahwah families. He is a Business major and also interested in 'Sports Medicine.' Currently, he works for Comanche Fitness Center and is an advocate for healthy living and being active.

Editor: Professor Pahdopony was an Assistant Professor of Arts and Humanities, a Tribal College Fellow and now a Retired Dean of Academic Affairs of The Comanche Nation College in Lawton, Oklahoma. She is a member of the Comanche Nation. Professor Pahdopony shall share a Comanche historical perspective to build and strengthen cultural bridges of understanding between Texas students and the students of the homelands of the Comanche Nation through art, music, dance and writings. She shall pioneer and lead an effort to share the culture, heritage and history of the people of the Comanche Nation well known as great Texas' Plains bison hunters.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Dennis M. Kulvicki
Editor-In-Chief
THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP JOURNAL
The STAR DAY Foundation
P. O. Box 640010
El Paso, Texas 79904-0010
(915) 751-2244
dennismkulvicki@thestardayfoundation.org
<http://www.thestardayfoundation.org>