

THE STORY OF THE MOON AND THE SUN

*Based on a story heard from elders as retold by Dolores Subia BigFoot, 2021
This is a story I heard many times in the past and was told for many generations.
Different tribes have different version of a similar story.*

This story is the one I remember.

Trigger Warning: Content includes information about sexual abuse and may be triggering.

There was a brother and a sister, who were part of a Tribe. They loved one another very much because they had lost many relatives, including their own parents. The brother would do anything for his sister. As they grew into adults, the sister would tell the brother about her longing for companionship, the desire to share her life with someone, and her dreams of having a family. She would pour out her longing to her brother. However, there never seemed to be any one that could pass the scrutiny of the brother.

One night, when darkness covered the camp and when the brother was gone, someone came to her. She could not tell who it was. Darkness obscured his features. He was a mystery. He told her stories, and it made her laugh. He cared for her. She felt tended to and adored by this stranger that came to her. Eventually, the stranger became her lover. She felt very much cherished. She loved the compassion and joy this brought. She would ask, "Who are you?" He would say, "I will tell you later." She would say, "You make me laugh; you bring me gifts and comfort." She sensed there was a deep bond between them. She wanted to know who this man was who slipped into her camp at night.

One evening she stared at the cooling ashes from her cooking fire and an idea formed in her mind. Very slowly she rubbed ashes upon her fingertips. She thought,

I am going to put these ashes on my fingertips and touch his face. In the morning I will know who it is. She was so excited to find out who the stranger was. She started about the camp the next day searching, wondering. The brother was returning from his hunt. She was excited when she saw him. She ran to him to tell him she might discover the stranger. As she approached him, she was shocked and so saddened, her heart immediately broke in pieces.

As she looked at her brother, she saw the ash marks where she had caressed him. This is when the brother knew he had violated his sister. He had taken advantage of her. He was so ashamed; he left the village. Both were heartbroken. In their sorrow, they tell their story. He became the MOON who does not shine except in the darkness of night and she became the SUN. You can still see his shame because he never shines brightly when the sun is out, and by the evidence of the ash marks across his face. The SUN shines bright but can fade away when storms or clouds shield her from earth. She is sorrowful for the loss of the brother on those days.



RESOURCES

Children are sacred. Relationships are sacred. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a significant but preventable adverse childhood experience and public health problem. Child sexual abuse refers to the involvement of a child (person less than 18 years old) in sexual activity that violates the law.

Sexual abuse occurs when...

- A child does not fully comprehend what is going on
- A child does not consent or is unable to give informed consent
- A child is not developmentally prepared or cannot give consent

We know that at least...

- 42 million people in America are survivors of sexual abuse¹
- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys are sexually abused before age 18²
- 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the Internet before age 18³
- 91% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child or child's family knows⁴
- 99% of AI teens report being sexually assaulted in their lifetimes in some communities
- 95% of sexual abuse cases are preventable through education⁵

Help is available...

- For children and youth who have been assaulted
- For victims and perpetrators
- For families and communities

AIAN children and youth are less likely to report CSA/PSB (problematic sexual behavior), and offenders are more likely to be members of a child's extended family.⁶ Stress caused by loss of culture, colonization, mistrust of authority figures, limited guardianship of vulnerable children, communal living, and social and economic strain create conditions where child sexual abuse and PSB may occur.

- Create safe spaces for children to share information with a trusted adult.
- If a child discloses sexual abuse, believe them. Remain calm. Help set boundaries and let children know they have the right to make decisions about their bodies.
- Mandatory reporting requirements vary by state, some professions are required to report CSA or neglect, in other states any person over 18 is required to report cases.

¹ National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse. (n.d.). Statistics of Child Abuse | NAASCA.org - National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse. Retrieved from <http://www.naasca.org/2012-Resources/010812-StatisticsOfChildAbuse.htm>

² Briere, J., & Elliott, D. M. (2003). Prevalence and psychological sequelae of self-reported childhood physical and sexual abuse in a general population sample of men and women. *Child abuse & neglect*, 27(10), 1205–1222.

³ National Child Abuse Statistics. (n.d.). National Children's Alliance. Retrieved from <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/?s=100>

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice (n.d.). Missing and Exploited Children Training. Retrieved from <http://mecptraining.org/wp-content/uploads/Child-Sexual-Abuse-MECP-presentation2.pdf>

⁵ The Child Molestation Prevention Plan. (n.d.). Child Molestation Research & Prevention Institute. Retrieved from http://www.childmolestationprevention.org/pages/prevention_plan.html

⁶ Steele, P. D. (2009). Child sexual abuse among socially marginalized groups: Cultural and governmental influences perpetuating maltreatment in American Indian country. *Forum on Public Policy*. Retrieved from <http://forumonpublicpolicy.com/spring09papers/archivespr09/steele.pdf>

Mandatory Reporting

- Review state requirements and resources [here](#)

National Sexual Assault Hotline: a service of RAINN

- Online chat [hotline](#)
- Spanish online chat [hotline](#)
- Call: 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Helpline for Male Survivors: a service of 1 in 6
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
- National Street Harassment Hotline: a service of Stop Street Harassment
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
 - Call: 855.897.5910
- DoD Safe Helpline: a service for members of the U.S. military and their families, operated by RAINN for the [Department of Defense](#)
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
 - Call: 877.995.5247

Domestic and Dating Violence

- National Domestic Violence [Hotline](#)
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
 - Call: 800.799.SAFE
- [Love is Respect](#): a service of the National Domestic Violence Hotline
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
 - Call: 866.331.9474

Other Victims of Crime

- VictimConnect: A service of the [National Center for Victims of Crime](#), for all crime victims
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
 - Call: 855.4.VICTIM (84-2846)
- National Human Trafficking Hotline: a service of [Polaris](#)
 - Online chat [hotline](#)
 - Call: 888.373.7888
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
 - Call: 800-THE-LOST (843-5678)

For more information about this resource contact the Indian Country Child Trauma Center, www.icctc.org

Developed by the Indian
Country Child Trauma Center
940 N.E. 13th Street,
Nicholson Tower, 4N, 4900
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
icctc.org

Allyson Kelley
& Associates, PLLC
69705 Lake Drive
Sisters OR 97759
allysonkelleypllc.com