

INDIAN DAYS OF THE LONG AGO

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649004379

Indian days of the long ago by Edward S. Curtis & F. N. Wilson

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EDWARD S. CURTIS & F. N. WILSON

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INDIAN LIFE AND INDIAN LORE

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INDIAN LIFE AND INDIAN LORE

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LONG AGO

By Edward S. Curtis

Author of "The North American Indian"

ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE
AUTHOR AND DRAWINGS BY F. N. WILSON



YONKERS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
WORLD BOOK COMPANY
1914



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FOREWORD

THIS little book was written in the hope that it would give a more intimate view of Indian life in the old days, in the days when to the far western tribes the white race was but a rumor, and buffalo roamed the plains in countless numbers. A further desire was to call attention to the great divergencies in Indian life, the number of languages, and the striking differences in dress and habits. The pictures, as well as the text, will emphasize this.

We have been prone to regard Indians as being without religion or spiritual life. Instead of being without a religion, they were influenced in every important act of their life by spiritual beliefs and religious practices. This fact is touched upon not as a pedantic lecture but rather as we see its influence on the characters of the story and in the folk-tales. I have tried to show how their religious beliefs influence the character building of the youth. Simple animistic beliefs, which bring the spirit beings close, are easy of comprehension, and the belief in the ever-present nearness has a strong influence upon the children. What could be more powerful in character building than the mountain vigil of Kúkúsim? This story of fasting and prayer is not