INDIAN DAYS OF THE LONG AGO

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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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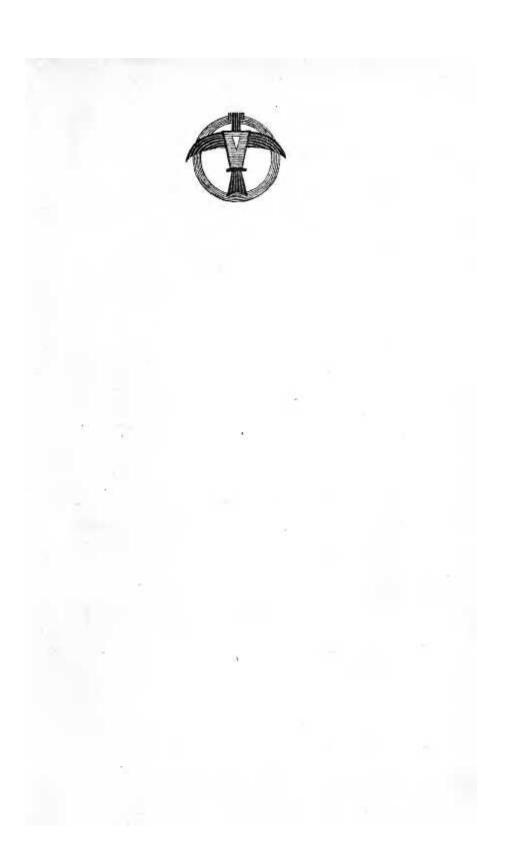
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INDIAN DAYS OF THE LONG AGO

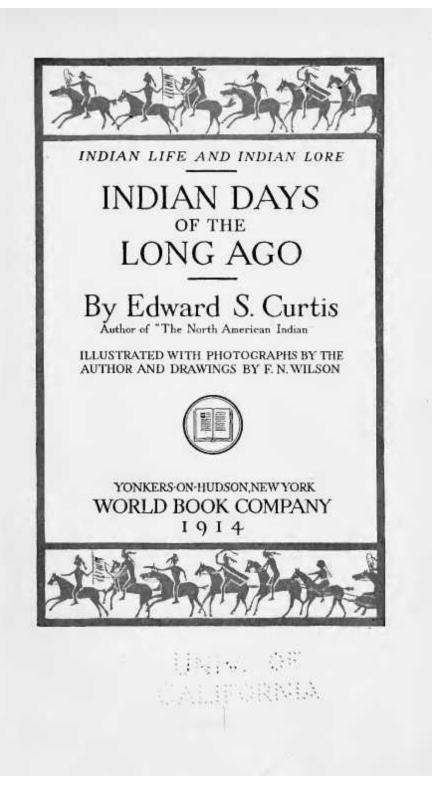
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FOREWORD

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 chil-What could be more powerful in chardren. acter building than the mountain vigil of Kukúsim? This story of fasting and prayer is not vii