



The Breath of Creation: An Apache
Legend

Kady

An Apache Legend



In the vast, silent darkness of the beginning, a shimmering disc of yellow and white appears suspended in the void. Within this glowing circle sits the Creator, a bearded man who rubs his eyes as if waking from a long, peaceful sleep.



With a single gaze, the Creator transforms the void, sending rays of light upward and creating a shimmering sea of brilliance below. To the east, streaks of golden dawn break through, while soft clouds of every color begin to drift through the new expanse.



The Creator wipes his brow and rubs his hands together, sending a shining cloud drifting into the air. Upon this cloud sits a young girl, known as Girl-Without-Parents, who gazes at the Creator with wonder as she begins her journey.



Sun-Spirit and Small-Boy emerge from the Creator's hands, joining him and the girl on their small, floating cloud. Together, the four spirits sit in deep thought, wondering how they will build a world large enough for everyone to live upon.



The spirits mix their sweat together to form a tiny brown ball, no larger than a small bean, which the Creator drops into the air. One by one, they take turns kicking the ball, watching in amazement as it expands further with every strike.



Tarantula spins four long cords of black, blue, yellow, and white, stretching them to the far corners of the horizon. With mighty pulls, the earth is stretched into a vast, smooth plain that reaches as far as the eye can see.



A tiny Hummingbird is sent to explore the new world, darting to the north, south, east, and west. He returns with joyful news, reporting that the earth is beautiful and that sparkling water now rests on the western side.



Because the earth continues to roll and dance unsteadily, the Creator fashions four giant, colorful posts to hold it in place. The Wind carries these pillars to the cardinal points, finally making the world sit still and firm beneath the spirits' feet.



High above the new earth, the Creator and twenty-eight helpers work together to fashion a magnificent sky. During this time, Lightning-Maker discovers three mysterious creatures hidden within a turquoise shell, waiting to be given their true forms.



After a sacred ritual in a cloud-covered sweat house, the Creator gives the strangers their features and their holy purposes. Sky-Boy, Earth-Daughter, and Pollen-Girl stand ready to protect the sky, the crops, and the health of all people.