

SCOUTS-L

EAGLE LEGEND

Date: Sat, 8 Mar 1997 15:30:10 -0500
Reply-To: "Anthony J. Mako" <ajmako@APK.NET>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: "Anthony J. Mako" <ajmako@APK.NET>
Subject: Re: Native Americans and Eagles
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

Quoted from "Myths of the North American Indians" by Lewis Spence
(ISBN
0-517-10158-0):

"The eagle appears to have been regarded with extreme veneration by the Red Man of the north. 'Its feathers composed the war-flag of the Creeks, and its image carved in wood or its stuffed skin mounted their council lodges. None but an approved warrior dared wear it among the Cherokees, and the Dakotas allowed such an honour only to him who had first touched the corpse of the common foe.' (1) The Natchez and other tribes esteemed it almost as a deity. The Zuni of New Mexico employed four of its feathers to represent the four winds when invoking the rain-god. Indeed, it was venerated by practically every tribe in North America."

While this book gives a general indication of the importance of the eagle in Native American culture, it doesn't recount any stories relating to the eagle from the various mythologies it explores. I have other resources which may or may not have such stories, but it will be several days until they can be checked. Hope this helps.

(1) Brinton, Myths of the New World
<SIG>

Anthony J. Mako, Eagle '81

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