

# Eskimo story . . . The boy and the rich chief

## ESKIMO STORY BY GRACE SLWOOKO

Once upon a time there was an orphan boy living with his grandmother. There also was a chief of the village who was rich in things that were useful. There also were five brothers living in the same village.

The boy overheard the five men that were brothers that also lived in the same village. The brothers were going to kill the chief of the village and divide his riches among themselves.

So the orphan boy worked on ivory things that might help him climb up the posts when put on the fingers as sharp claws.

Then once in a while he would try them on and climb

supporting pole of his house. He would climb pretty high with them. "What are those claws for?"

In answer the boy said, "They are for me to climb with. Those brothers are going to kill the rich chief and divide his riches among themselves, I want to be able to get up to his storage rack before they get all from up there.

So, at night, the boy went over to the chief's storage rack and was trying his claws in darkness. There in darkness he tried out his claws of ivory. Then a man came to him and asked him, what he was doing. The boy told him that he was going to get some of the rich chief's stuff in darkness

before five brothers get every thing.

The man asked, "Are they going to get his stuff?"

"Yes, he answered, they are going to kill the chief and divide his riches among themselves, I overheard them so I want to get some before they divide it for themselves."

The man helped the boy up, and have him untie the bundles of fur, skins and others and dropped them down. And he was saying, "I'll help you." When he got down and as the man was giving the boy bundles of useful things, he talked to him. "I am the chief, don't be frightened, "the man said as he talked in darkness of night. "Are the brothers going to kill me? he asked.

The boy was so ashamed that

he felt very hot at his face even it was in darkness.

"Yes I over heard the brothers there saying, that they are going to fix some food that will kill the chief so they can divide his riches among themselves," the boy answered.

"Don't be scared, I will give you more now to take home, as I am happy to know this, thank you," the chief said.

So, the boy went home with fur, skins and other things.

So, in a few days the rich chief was invited over for dinner by the five brothers. And over there as the dinner was being served, there was a very appetizing akutaq given to the chief. While the dinner was going on the chief would ask, "Am I the only one eating this food?" He also was saying, as he push the dish to

each one of them, "Here, take some, I'm not going to eat it all by myself, you have to eat with me." One by one brothers took a mouthful and eat. They all sweat and sweat until all of them became liquid and the floor was filled with water.

The chief just got up and went home.