

Kinship Behavior

Myrtle Lincoln, Arapaho  
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When I was young, your in-laws would never let you wish for anything. They gave you anything you ought to have. But now they have no respect--not even for their brothers and cousins.

But back then some people used to ask for things. Some of them would even go around the camp with a cup and ask for sugar and coffee and flour. But they weren't hard on each other. They used to have a big camp, and whoever got up first would invite other women to come and eat. And at supper the same way. They used to invite each other. But now, you eat alone. And they were harder up then. They didn't have as much money as we have now.

And if you gave a child something that he likes, like candy, they used to turn around and give you something like a quilt, or moccasins, and so forth. But now they don't do that. They don't even invite each other.

Early in the morning some old man would get up and go around the whole camp and talk to people. He'd tell them to love each other, and give them advice, to take care of your children and things like that. But now nobody goes around and advises people. And they didn't wear miniskirts in those days.