

(Even in the old days did they say this about children?)

Yeah, same way. But in the olden days they stayed together as a family. But today it's different. You see, a lot of these Indian kids among the white homes now. They take them away from their mothers and put them in foster homes or whatever you call it. They don't belong there, but that's the way it's going on now. See, the Big Man, they say He gave us this family to stay together and stay that way. But that thing that's here, they say, it's taking them. Pretty soon you just be by yourself. It's that way today. A lot of Indian kids--and even white kids--they're in different homes. Some of them are in orphan homes. They don't belong there but they're there.

(When you say the "Big Man", I guess you mean God?)

Yeah, the Creator.

OLD TIME KIOWA RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND NAMES FOR GOD

(Is there a different way to say that in Kiowa?)

Well, *dauk^yae' edal*-- that's "big god". He's the head of all the gods. They say there used to be lot of gods here--different kind of gods. I think the Roman people believed in that. But they say he's the head man of all--that's how come--like these bundles we got (the medicine bundles)--we talk to them bundles to pray to your father and let him answer the prayers. That's the way we pray. Some people, they say we're worshipping these bundles--that we get down on our kneew--but it's not that way. Some say we worship trees. Some Indians will go down to the river and someone see an old tree there, and they say, "Hey, tell your father I want to get old like you. Stay here a long time." That's where they did that. But the white people just say we're worshipping trees and mountains and things like that. It's not that way. And big lakes--if they see a big water, like Fort Cobb lake. They used to talk to that lake--"Tell your father I want to get old like you. Stay here a long time."