

The Arrow of Light

(Drum beats slowly.)

AKELA: We have come before you again tonight to fulfill a prophecy spoken in the legends of our tribe. The words of the prophecy say that each year, young braves will be found who have met the challenges of Akela and are ready to become warriors. My brothers and I have watched you the and have found such braves among you. We have come to present them with the highest honor: the Arrow of light. But before this can happen, they must take a journey through their memories.

Many moons ago, you entered the Cub Pack. The first challenges you encountered were from the Bobcat clan. As you met them, you learned what it means to be a Cub, the Law of the Pack, and the three words that would inspire you to meet all other challenges: Do Your Best. You next sought to join the Wolf clan, where you met twelve challenges, harder than the Bobcat tests, and continued on your journey. The trail became darker and fainter as you came to the Bear clan, and again you met twelve challenges, and your knowledge grew and your spirit strengthened. Then you joined the Webelos clan, and the time of your testing began. You learned about Scouting and the ways of the warrior.

In time, you earned the Webelos badge, blazing the rest of the trail on your own. Now at last you have reached the end of this journey.

Let the Arrow of Light be conferred upon them.

(Drumming stops.)

CUBMASTER: Wait, Akela! Before receiving this most high honor, they must hear its legend so they may understand and appreciate what they are to receive.

AKELA: Let the legend of the Arrow of Light be known to all present.

Den Leader or Asst. Cubmaster: In the ages past, when the Nations of the Indians spread across the land, there was a young member of one tribe called Akela. Akela wished to be a warrior as the older men of his

tribe were, but no one would consider him so. "Little Akela, he is too young to join the hunt," they would say. "Too slow to run with the Bobcat clan. Not clever enough to hunt with the Wolf clan. Such a young one is not strong enough to join the Bear clan."

No matter how hard Akela worked, all ways were barred to him. But the Chieftain of the tribe saw Akela differently than the rest. "The spirit of this young one burns brighter than the largest fire. Akela has served his brothers well for one of his age. The time will come when the tribe will need only that which Akela can give."

One night, as the sun was setting, a party of warriors was returning to the village from a hunt. They came to a fork in the trail, and did not know which was the correct path back to the village. They argued with one another, some warriors saying this way, others saying that way.

Akela had climbed that day to the top of a mountain. On his way back down he looked below and saw his brothers standing at the junction of two trails, arguing. He could see that one of the trails led safely back to the village, but the other led to the top of a cliff. He knew that if the warriors went down the wrong path in the dark, they would meet disaster. Working quickly, he kindled a small fire. He tied a leather skin to the shaft of an arrow and set it aflame from the fire. He quickly put it to his bow and shot the flaming arrow over the path below that led back to the village.

One of the warriors looked up and said, "Brothers, look! The Great Spirit has sent us a sign to point out the right path." And the warriors followed the path safely back to camp.

The warriors went to the Chieftain saying, "We were lost in the forest and the Great Spirit sent an Arrow of Light through the sky to guide us." The Chieftain smiled and said, "The sign which led you to safety came not from the heavens but from one who you thought was too young to do anything." He brought Akela forward to the surprise of the warriors.

"Akela has proved himself worthy to wear the name of warrior. He has aided his brothers in their time of greatest need. Hereafter, all young members of our tribe shall become warriors only after meeting the

challenges of the Arrow of Light. Let them each be filled with the spirit of Akela and follow his example of unselfish service to his brothers." And it was made so and carried through to the present day as you Webelos stand before us now, ready to receive the Arrow of Light.

CUBMASTER: Chief Akela, there are some among us worthy of the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. Would the following Scouts parents please come up and stand behind your son.

(Name of the recipients go here)

AKELA: Before this honor is conferred upon you, I must see your devotion to the high ideals of Scouting. Therefore, I ask you all now to raise your right hand to the Scout sign and repeat with me, the Scout Oath and Law.

(Raises hand in the sign of the Boy Scout and recites Scout Oath and Law with the Webelos who will be awarded the Arrow of Light)

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,
Friendly Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean, and Reverent

CUBMASTER: Having met all of its challenges, it is our duty and privilege to award you with the highest Cub Scout honor: the Arrow of Light. The Arrow of Light Badge is the only Cub Scout Award that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. It serves as a link between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and points the way toward the new adventures that lie ahead of you in Boy Scouting.

Akela will present the awards.

(States the name of the Scout, lists the accomplishments of the Scout, and presents the badge to the parents, who then present it to the Scout.)

The Bridging Over Ceremony

(Drumming begins slowly. From the front, the cubmaster lights a candle and holds it up for all to see.)

CUBMASTER: The flame you see before you represents the Flame of Knowledge. You Webelos Scouts who are bridging over to Boy Scouts have shown me that you bring with you a hunger for Knowledge. The flame also represents a Youth who seeks knowledge. Each of you Webelos here with me tonight is that Youth. Seven of these candles stand for the seven great virtues of life. The last candle, making a total of eight candles represents the 12 parts of the Scout Law.

(Cubmaster gives Akela the candle and places the candle in the first holder...waits for Cubmaster-Butch to state the first virtue, then takes the first candle and lights the other candles as Cubmaster-Butch states the seven virtues of life.

Candle 1: The first virtue is Wisdom. Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting the right use to the knowledge that one possesses.

Candle 2: The second virtue is Courage. Courage is not the quality that enable men to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fears.

Candle 3: The third virtue is Self-control. Self-control isn't limited to the control of one's temper, but control of one's self in all things: eating, playing, and even working and talking.

Candle 4: The fourth virtue is Justice. Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color or creed.

Candle 5: The fifth virtue is Faith. Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true. One eight-year-old Cub Scout said

faith was when you turned the light switch, you knew the light would go on.

Candle 6: The sixth virtue is Hope. Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A man without hope is of little good to himself or his community.

Candle 7: The seventh virtue is Love. There are many kinds of love, love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

Candle 8: The eight candle represents the 12 parts of the Scout Law which is...

A Scout is TRUSTWORTHY.

A Scout is LOYAL.

A Scout is HELPFUL.

A Scout is FRIENDLY.

A Scout is COURTEOUS.

A Scout is KIND.

A Scout is OBEDIENT.

A Scout is CHEERFUL.

A Scout is THRIFTY.

A Scout is BRAVE.

A Scout is CLEAN.

A Scout is REVERENT.

AKELA (Standing at entrance to bridge): The time has come for you to begin on the new trail and to join the clan of the warriors: The Scout Troop. Each of you shall now cross the bridge and be welcomed by the Troop members. As the night is a bridge between each day, let this be a bridge for each of you to the fellowship of Scouting. (AKELA moves aside.)

CUBMASTER: As you leave Pack 123, we wish to give each of you two tokens to guide you on your journey. Keep them in remembrance of this occasion. First, a Feather, symbolic of the Eagle, which soars high on the wind, helping you see the world around you. Second, an Arrow. It is symbolic of the Arrow of Light, and will help guide you to the right path.

Drum starts to beat. Slow tempo.

TROOP 123 SCOUTS (on far side of bridge): Troop 123 invites the Webelo Scouts and their parents to join us on the Boy Scout side of Scouting by crossing over this symbolic bridge.

Akela announces each boys name. Cubmaster hands Arrow and Feather to Akela. Akela presents the Feather and Arrow to the Scout and wishes him good luck on his journey.)

(Scout and Parents advance to center of bridge, where they are met by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster from Troop 123. (As the Webelos reach the middle of the span a senior scout from Troop 123 and his assistant stop him to remove the boy's blue shoulder flashes and replace them with red ones. The blue flashings are handed to a parent. The Scout Handbook is given to the new Scout, right hand to right hand, and the Scout Handshake is given (left hands).)

(As the new Boy Scout exits the bridge, he is welcomed by his new Troop.

(When all have bridged over, Akela stands behind the raises his arms.)

(Slow drumming starts)

AKELA: We now call upon the Great Spirit of all for His blessing on these young men. May these Scouts always strive to attain the noblest and highest ideals in life. Be their strength and guide. Cause them to follow a straight trail and to never be a reason for other Scouts to waiver from the path. Protect them for many moons to come. May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

Would the 1st Year Webelos come up to retire our colors.

(Drumming stops)

This concludes the ceremony. Have a safe trip home.