

# AESOP'S FABLE: "Lukos Skadu" Based on The Wolf and His Shadow

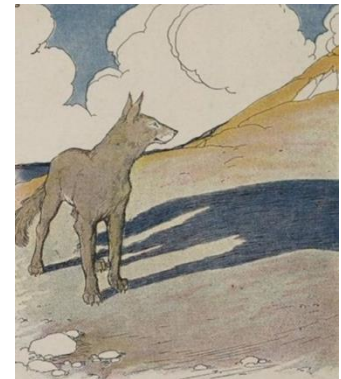
Based on Lukos Skadu

A Dramatic Play Written by Connie Frank



Narrator on the Story: The Wolf and His Shadow. There are a number of religions, legends, and belief systems that describe supernatural entities such as shades of the underworld, and various shadowy creatures have long been a staple of folklore and ghost stories, such as the Islamic Jinn and the Choctaw Nalusa Chito Native Americans. It was believed that every man has a *shilombish* (the outside shadow) which always follows him,

and *shilup* (the inside shadow, or ghost) which after death goes to the land of ghosts. The *shilombish* is supposed to remain upon the earth and wander restlessly about its former home, often moaning, to frighten its surviving friends. It tries to make them forsake the spot and seek another place to live. It is also supposed to assume the form of a fox, a wolf, or an owl; and by barking like the one, and screeching like the other at night, cause great consternation, for the cry is considered ominous of bad things to come. The Choctaw could differentiate between the *shilombish* and the animals it imitates. When a fox or wolf barks, or an owl screech, another fox, wolf, or owl replies. But when the *shilombish* imitates the sound of either animal, no response is heard.



## Characters:

**Narrator:**

**Hattakk:**

**Shikoba humma:**

**Issi:**

## Script:

**Narrator:** The leaves of the trees rustled as a young man walked stealthily through the forest. Holding his bow and arrow, with a hatchet attached to him at the waist with a string, the young man Shikoba humma (Red Feather) was hunting the long-eared hare that sat munching on tender green leaves, unaware that the young man was this close. Shikoba humma, also known as the Wolf, was known for his skills in hunting, his courage and honor in battles, but today he just wanted to take the hares home for dinner to his mother, who would use her magic to make a wonderful meal for tonight's feast. He pointed the arrow, and it flew swiftly and sure. Carrying the hares back to his village, which was buzzing with activity, Shikoba humma saw children running and forth, following their mother's unquestioned orders. Tonight, the village would be celebrating The Feast of the Dead, and Shikoba humma could not wait. Just as he handed the hares to his smiling mother, and hugged his little sister, Issi, his young brother, Hattakk, ran up to him, grinning.

**Hattakk:** Halito, Shikoba humma! Brother, I caught seven fish today! Mother is so proud of me!

**Shikoba humma:** I am proud of you too, Hattakk!

**Issi:** (Frowning) Hattakk! Do not track mud into our home. I just cleaned everything up for tonight's feast. Shikoba humma, have you eaten anything?

**Shikoba humma:** (Smiling at his little sister) I can wait, Issi. Yakoke.

**Narrator:** Issi smiled. She always appreciated being treated as a woman. Shikoba humma knew that time went by quickly and it would not be long before one of their men offered for her hand in the marriage vows.

<b>Hattakk:</b>	Shikoba humma, will you tell me the Creation Story again? (He looked up at his brother expectantly.)
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	(Leading Hattakk to a log under the nearest tree) Will you promise to sit quietly while I tell the story?
<b>Hattakk:</b>	I promise. (He sat down on the log and looked up at his brother, quietly waiting.)
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	In the beginning there was a great mound that the Great Spirit, a good Spirit, had made with his hands. It was called Nanih Waiya. It was from this mound that the Creator fashioned the first of the people.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Shikoba humma cleared his throat as Hattakk wiggled in his seat. Hattakk quietly stopped and sat still.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	The People crawled through a long, dark cave, facing many Shadow People, into daylight and became the first Choctaw. For many years they lived in this area until a great shift occurred. A great flood arose covering the of our lands. The Choctaw people had to flee by canoes to an island as guided by a dove.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattakk looked up at the white-clouded sky and saw a large eagle gliding through the endless expanse. He smiled at Shikoba humma, who smiled back at him.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Thanks to the Great Spirit, the People prospered, and because the land provided so much food and safe shelter, they had too many babies and overpopulated the small island. The People then traveled back to the coast of Turtle Island.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattakk was looking out over the village toward the mountains, which had a hazy blue green look.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Once they arrived back to Turtle Island, the People who had remained were not friendly. Because there was a threat of war, the People traveled for hundreds of years down the coast down south. They finally traveled across what is now the promised home, which we now call Yucatán, in canoes.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattakk nodded.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	The People kept discovering new secrets as they explored the area in their canoes. Once they landed up on the land of giants and fought for territory. They then rebuilt their sacred Nanih Waya and found a sacred home for their ancestor's bones that they lovingly carried with them all those many years. This is one reason why we celebrate the Feast of the Dead.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Shikoba humma looked at Hattak seriously as he spoke his next words.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	We have many powerful beings in our midst. We believe that some are to be embraced, while others are to be avoided at all costs. Do you remember the name of the Great Spirit?
<b>Hattakk:</b>	His name is Nanapesa, the Great Spirit. He takes care of us.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Very good! Always remember that the Sun is the center of our world. We only speak on days that show the Sun. The Sun is the symbol of power and strength. The Sun protects us.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattak was happy to hear this, but his face darkened, fear in his eyes.
<b>Hattakk:</b>	Shikoba humma, tell me about the Shadow People.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Are you sure? You know you always act nervous when we discuss them.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattak looked at him and nodded slowly. Every Choctaw child feared the Shadow People.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	The Shadow People are very elusive. They are the dark black silhouettes you might see and hope you never see. The Shadow people come to us as dark silhouettes with human shapes. For a long time, we thought they were our honored ancestors coming back to visit with us, but that is not true.
<b>Hattak:</b>	You told me they can flicker in and out of the corner of my eye.

<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Yes, this is true. I saw one at the last Feast of the Dead.
<b>Hattak:</b>	How did it show itself to you? What did you do?
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	I was in the forest by myself, hunting, when I saw something that moved through the bushes out of the corner of my eye. At first, I thought it was one of our Brothers from the village, but the Shadow Person would not speak to me.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Shikoba humma grew silent, lost in his thoughts, and Hattak sat respectfully, appreciating the emotions that had taken his brother when he had seen something so fearsome. Shikoba humma was tense, thinking of what had happened to him. Hattak shivered.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	I thought I was daydreaming or just seeing things. I had never done that before and have not since that day. I was beginning to feel uncomfortable, as though someone was watching me, so I moved away from this place, thinking I may have stepped near some burial grounds. That was not the case.
<b>Narrator:</b>	The storyteller was very thorough in his story, but his body language was singing of the fear he had felt that day.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	As I walked a mile or so away from that area, I could feel that something was following me. I kept turning around to look, but I could not see anything there. It made me think of what our father would have done.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattak nodded. Their father had been killed in a battle. After that Shikoba humma had been the man in the family, feeding them and making sure his family was safe. Hattak knew he had never married, though many maidens had been watching him with covert eyes. Everyone in the village respected Shikoba humma, because he had fought in the battle with his father and had been able to bring his father's body back to the village for a proper burial.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	As I walked, I came upon a large cave in the earth that I had never seen in the past. A part of me wanted to go into the cave to see what was there, but the other part of me refused to go, warning me of danger. I feel that the Shadow People were encouraging me to enter that cave, but I still refused. I knew that nothing good could come from that cave. I could feel that bad spirits bidding me to go, but I turned away. That is when it happened.
<b>Hattak:</b>	Tell me, Shikoba humma. I want to know.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	You are not afraid? (He hesitated) I never told you everything I experienced that day.
<b>Hattak:</b>	Tell me, Brother. I am afraid but I feel that I need to know.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	I stomped the ground with my feet. I walked away from the cave. I refused to look behind me, keeping the Shadow People from luring me into the cave. I began to pick up my speed, walking quickly and quietly. But I could feel something near me, close enough to touch me, yet I could not see anyone there.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Hattak held his breath. He could feel what Shikoba humma was feeling.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	With a quickness that I have never seen again, a darkened figure, looking like a shadow, pushed me. I stumbled, but I got sure footing again and then began to run. That is when I felt this thing jump onto my back, pushing me down to the ground.
<b>Hattak:</b>	What did you do?
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	There was no person there. It was just a shadow I could only see occasionally, flickering then appearing. As I turned over to get back on my feet, it jumped on my chest. I could feel hands choking me, but I could not see the hands. I could not see what was choking me.
<b>Hattak:</b>	How did you get away?

<b>Narrator:</b>	Shikoba humma did not answer. His face had grown white.
<b>Hattak:</b>	What did you do to get away! I need to know so that I can get away.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	I was kicking it, hitting it. I could feel something solid there, but I could see nothing. It was an invisible enemy. Suddenly, something good happened.
<b>Hattak:</b>	What happened?
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	I could feel it. It was a good spirit. I could feel its goodness, and I thought I recognized the voice, but at the time I was shocked at what was happening. The Good Spirit yanked the Shadow Person off of me. I was gasping for breath, but I got up. I could see nothing, but I could hear a great battle. The Good Spirit was beating down the Bad Spirit. I could hear it in my ear, telling me to run and blessing me. I ran as fast as I could back to the village. (He shook his head)
<b>Hattak:</b>	The Good Spirit saved you!
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Yes, it did, and I will be forever grateful. I was strong but the Shadow Person was stronger. I have still not been able to understand what I did to make the Shadow Person angry, but it was very angry.
<b>Hattak:</b>	I am so glad!
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	(Looking away) I have felt many times that our Great Father was taking care of us, and I now believe, after careful thought, that it was our grandfather who fought the Shadow Person who saved me.
<b>Hattak:</b>	Our grandfather! Mother's father! He left us several years ago.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Yes, but Mother says he loved us dearly. I know it was him.
<b>Hattak:</b>	Wow! (He looked away and his eyes were glowing.)
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Now, Little Brother, I can see that the Feast of the Dead will be starting soon. Should we go and honor our grandfather who still watches out for us and protects us?
<b>Hattak:</b>	Yes! I am ready!
<b>Narrator:</b>	That evening, as the rest of the tribe celebrated, Hattak watched his brother who sat, contemplative and quiet. Hattak thought of his grandfather. The only man who had played with him and laughed with him was the same who had protected Shikoba humma. Hattak had developed a new respect for his grandfather. Now he wanted to grow up to be just like his grandfather.
<b>Hattak:</b>	Brother, I will never forget Grandfather. He was a great man.
<b>Shikoba humma:</b>	Yes, he was.
<b>Narrator:</b>	The evening went very well. Shikoba humma and Hattak joined the dance and the celebration with their mother and Issi, who ended up dancing with a young man who had been trying to woo her for several months now. It was obvious that Issi liked him too. It was a good day.
<b>Narrator:</b>	Shikoba humma had been on a normal hunt, looking for food for his family. After he was attacked for an unknown entity, his grandfather had protected and defended him. Shikoba humma and Hattak would always be grateful that their grandfather protector would always be there for them.
<b>The moral of this story is:</b>	
<i>"Do not let your fancy make you forget realities."</i>	