

# The Legend of the Keetoowah Cherokee Cornhusk Doll



*The Old People say that the Creator (U-ne-tlanv-hi) gave the Cherokee three foods that could sustain them through any hardship. These were the three sisters. . . corn, beans and squash. Corn, known as Selu, was also the name of the first Keetoowah Cherokee woman. So, young women often made dolls to pay honor to Selu.*

*The young girls wondered why the cornhusk doll had no face, so one of them drew a pretty smile, bright eyes and a cute nose on her doll. The cornhusk doll looked into a pond of water, and saw her face. She saw that she was beautiful! After that, she would not play with the girls anymore, and boasted how beautiful she was to all the other dolls, who had no faces.*

*The girls mother then told them that Selu forbid them from putting faces on their dolls, because you should never focus on yourself over others. At least, this is what the old people say.*



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