

## Galahad's Biography

Excerpts from The JGI world report, Summer 2000, Volume 6  
by Bill Wallauer:

Of the many comparisons we can make between chimpanzees and humans, none is so poignant as this: In both species there are certain individuals who have a presence, an indefinable quality, which earns them a special place in the hearts of all. For me, and for many others fortunate enough to spend time with him, Galahad was such an individual.

I first met Galahad in June 1992; he was not quite four. I had just arrived in Gombe and knew little about chimps and even less about their interactions with baboons. Moments after I met him, he gave me my first lesson. It's a memory I will always cherish.

While Galahad's mother Gremlin sat calmly grooming herself, the little chimp turned his attention to a troop of baboons grooming and feeding nearby. I was struck by the glow in his eyes. Even so young and tiny, he was utterly confident as he charged at them, first trying to get them to play chase, then threatening them by wielding branches or throwing stones. The look on his face was a study of intelligence and mischief. At one point he was bold enough to hurl a large rock at an adult male who had to leap aside to avoid being hit. For the next 30 minutes, Galahad terrorized the troop, chasing, then fleeing, grinning and laughing throughout. I would learn that was the way of things between chimps and baboons, and that Galahad had playing and teasing down to an art.

It's difficult for me to write of him in the past tense because in many ways I feel he's still out there in the forest. But the reality is, the life of the wonderful spirit which was Galahad came to a tragic end during an epidemic in the Kasakela community [in] February [2000].