Text Eight

wîsakêcâhk kâ-itâcimikisot nêsta pinêsiwak kâ-papâmihnâcik

- âšay manâ mîna pêyakwâ, wîsakêcâhk ê-'tâcimikosit, êko mâka ašic awiyâšîša kâ-papâmihnâcik.1 'kwancaw tahkwâw ôm' âtanôhkân; šâkoc mâka n'ka-tipâcimon.
- pêyakwâ manâ kî-mawitônêw misiwê kâ-pimihnân'ci 'wê...,2 pinêsiwa cahkâpêš3 ê-wîci-tašîhkêmât. kêka mâka k'-îtên'tam, "cân'ka ... 'cê4 kê-tôtamowâpânê misiwê 'ci-câkahakik?" manâ itên'tam.

âšay manâ kî-šîhkimêw 'ci-nîmin'ci. nîmihiwêw manâ, 'ci-nîmicik aniki pinêsiwak, ê-wî-..., ê-wî-mîcisot oš' âni wêhci-tôtahk pêškiš.

- êko, êko kâ-kihcišimocik, pinêsiwak misiwê ê-tahtowêkinâkosicik.
 - "'kâwin' ayitâpik mêkwâc ê-nîmiyêk," manâ itêw.
 - "pasakwâpišimok mêkwâc ê-nîmiyêk," manâ itêw.

âšay manâ kihci-wêpinikâniwan ê-nîminâniwahk. nîmiwak manâ, nîmiwak manâh pinêsiwak.

- kêka manâ mâkah, kiskênimâkaniwan kêkwâniw wâ..., 'ti-kiskênimikow pêyak anihi awiyâšîša tâni wâ-tôtahk.
 - "manâwin' âwa mîna 'kwantaw niwî-tôtâkonân, wêhc'-îtwêt ê-..., 'ci-pasakwâpiyâhk ê-nîmiyâhk," manâ itên'tam mâkwa.5

mâkwa manâ mâkah kîmôc, kîmôt tôhkâpiw.

êko manâ mâka ê-wâp'mât, âšay manâ wî-nakwâtahonêw ..., wî-nakwâtahonêw anihi kâ-nîmin'ci, "pasakwâpišimok," kâ-kî-itât.

"âšay kinipahikonaw wîsakêcâhk!" manâ it...,

wanawîpanihow manâ mâka anima kâ-'škwâ-itwêt, nôso-wêpiškâtâkaniwan.

ê'kwâni mâka wêhc'-îšinâkwaninik ošôkan anima mâka itwâniwan, anima kâ-ya-..., kâ-yšinâkosit, kâ-napošêkânik êšinâkosit, ê'kwâni kâ-ytiškowâkopanê wîsakêcâhk ê-kišiwâhikot.6

êko manâ mâka k'-âti-..., k'-âti-pôni-pimâtisit ana mâkwa. kâ-yškw' ânima, sâkahikanihk ê-ayakomot, âskaw ê-..., ê-'mâponot' piko šîpîšiša nawac ê-..., êy-âpišâšininiki.

êko, êko pêyakwâ aniki kotakiyak awiyâšîšak ispî kâ-pa..., kâ-..., kâ-nakatâcik wîsakêcâhkwa, êko kâ-..., k'-âti-otinât nîšo ..., nîšo 'skwêwa

Weesakechahk and the birds who flew south

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

- Now then once more, a story about Weesakechahk, and along with him the creatures which fly about. This is just a short tale; but I will tell the story.
- Once then Chahkabesh gathered together all the birds which fly as he lived with them. At last though, he thought, "What should I do to finish them all off?" he thought.

Now then, he persuaded them to dance. He threw a dance then, so those birds might dance, since he wanted ..., since he wanted to eat, of course, was the reason he did it.

- So, so they started dancing, all the birds of every kind.
 - Then he said to them, "Don't look about while you're dancing."
 - "Swing with your eyes closed, while you're dancing," he said to them.

Now then there was a great shaking of feet as the dance went on. They danced then, then the birds danced.

But at last it was realized that he wanted something ..., one of the creatures realized what he wanted to do.

"Maybe this one wants to do something wantonly to us again, which is why he said ..., for us to shut our eyes as we danced," thought the loon.

And then stealthily, stealthily the loon opened his eyes.

So then as he [Weesakechahk] saw them, now he wanted to snare them ..., he wanted to snare those who were dancing, to whom he had said, "Dance with your eyes shut."

"Weesakechahk is killing us now!" he sai...,

Then he dashed out when he had said it and he was chased and kicked as he was leaving.

And that, they say, is why his lower back, which is flat in appearance, looks the way it does. That is the shape which Weesakechahk put on him when he made him angry.

Well then he grad..., that loon gradually died, after that, drifting about on the lake, sometimes as -, as he drifted with the current down quite li..., little creeks.

So, so one time when those other creatures had wa..., had ..., had left Weesakechahk, then Shingibish, as he was called, took ..., began to take

manâ, šinkipiš kâ-itiht. nîšo isk..., nîšo kî-kanawênimêw.

êko, šinkipiš išinihkâsow ana nikik ..., šîšîpa.

nîšo mâka kî-kanawênimêw ê-wîci-tašîhkêmât 'wênihkâna.

êko mâka kî-kiskênimêw anihi mâkwa nâspic ê-minwâšišin'ci. mâkwa mâka pišišik mîkis išîhokopan itwâniwan.

êko manâ mâka êyamihât anihi wîwa, "n'ka-maskamik kistinât mâkwa kišâspin wâpamikotê ..., wâpamikotê nîwa ê-'spîhci-minwâšîšit," manâ itên'tam.

êko manâ kâ-..., kâ-'yamihât wîwa: "'kâwina ka-wayêšihikowâw⁸ mâkwa. ta-'mâponô' 't'⁹ âsay wîpac," manâ itêw. "pišišik mîkis ta-išinâkosiw," manâ itêw.

7 âšay manâ wêhci-'mâponot mâkwa. âsay manâ pêci-sêskaham. pêci-n'tawâ'mêw man' ânihi šinkipiša.

êkwâni manâ ê-kî-maskamât mâka wîwinîw ê-nîšin'ci.

nêsta manâ mâka pakwâtam šink..., šinkipiš anim' ê-kî-tôtâht. šâkoc mâka tašinê kî-nânakacihêw anihi mâkwa tânt' ê-'tiy-êhtin'ci. 10

êko manâ pêyakwâ kî-nânakacihêw 'ci-nipân'ci. "nipâtê mâk' êkot' ânta kê-sêkahak," ê-ytên'tahk.

êko manâ nipâw mwâkwa. tâwatônêwêhkwâmiw manâ mâk' ê-nipât. miconi manâ šâpohkwâmiw.

êko manâ kâ-kišâpiskisahk êškaniniw šinkipiš; mêkwâc mâk'
'âstawêyâpiskitênik¹¹ manâ kî-pohcikonêwêyâsko-wêpahwêw mwâkwa ê-nipân'cih.

miconi manâ mâka kî-nâspitâskisow.

êkwâni mâka ê-kî-otinât mîna wîwa, anihi kâ-kî-..., kâ-kî-maskamiht. anima mâka kâ-niscikikonêwênâkosit mâkwa, ê'kwâni kâ-k'-îtâskisot itwâniwan wêhc'-îšinâkosit.

êkwân' êskwâpêkahk anim' âtanôhkân cahkâpêš pîniš mâka mwâkw' ê-kišipipanik. two ..., two wives then. Two wiv..., he kept two of them.

So, Shingibish was the name of that otter ..., duck.

He kept two persons with whom he lived.

Now then, he knew that the loon was very handsome. The loon, for his part, it was said, was dressed all in beads.

So then he spoke to that wife of his, "The loon will surely take her away from me if he sees her ..., if he sees my wife he's so good-looking," he thought.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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So then he spo..., spoke to his wives: "Don't let the loon deceive you. He will drift along here soon now," he then said to them. "He will look like beading all over," he said to them.

Now then, suddenly the loon drifted by. Now he came to shore. He came to see that Shingibish.

And then he robbed him of both his wives.

And Shing..., Shingibish for his part didn't like being treated that way, and he kept an eye constantly on what that loon's movements were.

So then at one point he watched for him to sleep. "When he's asleep, that's the point at which I'll scare him," he thought.

Now then, the loon slept. But he slumbered with mouth wide open while he slept. He slept very soundly.

So then Shingibish heated up a chisel; and while it was white hot he shoved it down the throat of the sleeping loon.

He was instantly burned up.

And then he took back his wives again, the ones which ..., of which he had been robbed.

And that part where the loon appears dark-throated, it is because he had been burned, they say, that he looks that way.

That is the length of that legend, finishing up to Chahkabesh and the loon.