Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

Text Nine

## âtanôhkân wêskac, pêyak kišê-'iniw ê-itâtanôhkâsot okosisa âyâs kâ-išinihkâson'ci

êko, kê-tipâcimoyân âtanôhkân wêskac.

pêyak kišêy-'iniw ê-'tâtanôhkâsot okosisa âyâs kâ-išinihkâson'ci. kî-wîci-pimâtisîmêw owîkimâkana nêsta okosisa anihi kîšikâwa. šâkoc awa kišêy-'iniw ê-'ši-tipâcimonâniwahk ôm' âtanôhkân, môna ohci-minopaniw owîkimâkana âskaw. (âhk' ôti piko, šâkoc itâtanôhkâniwan.)

šákot áskaw máskôc kî-mášihkêpan'htwáw. okosisa máka, má..., má..., mihcêtwá môna ohci-sápên'taminiw ôm' ê-tôtahk, âyâs kâ-išinihkáson'c' ôkosisa.

pêyakwâ k'-îtên'tam, kici-kihtahonât anim' ê-tôtâkot ê-nanâskostâkot êkâ kwayask, êk' êkâ kwayask ê-tôtawât owîkimâkana, ê-pakwâtamin'ci mâka os..., okosisa.

ê-wâpamikot ôm' ê-tôtahk kî-ayamihikow mihcêtwâ.

kêka mâka kî-kisiwâsiw kišêy-'iniw.

êko kâ-itên'tahk tâwic wâhnaw ministikohk 'ci-n'tawi-pakitinât okosisa, êkâ, êkâ nêsta ê-wîhtamawât ê-wî-nakatât anta; tâpiskôc êko kwayask ê-wî-wîcêwât k'-îtôtam. ê-wayêšihât.

êko kây-..., êko kâ-nimitâwahahkik.

wâhnaw tâwic ministikohk.

êko ispî kâ-kapân'ci okosisa, êkot' ânta kâ-'ši-nakaci-wêpahwât.<sup>2</sup> môna mâka mâši tâpwêht' ât' ê-têpwâtikot.<sup>3</sup>

'kwâni pêyakwan, kî-..., kî-nakatêw anta. môna ohci-kitimâkênimêw. êko mâka awah, aw' awâšiš, aw' ôškinîkiw, âyâs kâ-išinihkâsot, kî-'pâmâšakâmêw<sup>5</sup> ant' ê-mâtot ministikohk, êkâ ê-'yât tântê kê-kîy-ohci-âšaw'hahk.

éko, pêyakwâ ê-ytâpit, anta nipîhk, kî-wâpamêw 'wênihkâna ê-pêtâtakân'ci awiyâšîša, ê ê-otêškanin'ci.

êko mâka k'-îtikow ê-kakwêcimikot, "tân' ..., tân' êhtiyan?"

"môna, môna wayêš n'kîy-ohci-âšaw'hên, ê-kî-nakatahot $^7$  nôhtâwiy ôta ministikohk," mâka itêw.

"kay-âšaw'hon'tin, nîna," itêw.

"êko mâka, têhtap' ôta nistikwânihk. mêkwâc mâka ê-pimiwinitân, kišâspin pêhtawatwâwê ominiskiwak, wîhtamawin."

## The legend of Ayas

Now then, I'll tell a tale of long ago.

The story is told of a certain old person whose son was called Ayas. He lived with his wife and son in those days. However, this elderly person and his wife, according to this legend, sometimes did not get along well. (It is just make-believe, but that is how the story goes.)

Indeed he may well have started fighting sometimes. His son fre..., fre..., frequently didn't relish his doing this, – Ayas his son was called.

At one point he thought he would take him away in a canoe because he did that to him, because he continually fought back, because he [the father] didn't treat his wife properly ..., not properly, and his son didn't like it.

Since he was observed doing this he was spoken to by his son many times.

Finally the old man got angry.

So he thought he would put his son far away offshore on an island and not, not tell him that he wanted to leave him there. So he made just as if he were going out properly with him as a partner. He wanted to deceive him.

3 So they ..., so they pulled away from shore.

Far away offshore on an island.

Then when his son had stepped ashore, that's where he dumped and left him. And he didn't even listen to him although he called to him.

It had no effect, - he lef..., left him there. He had no pity on him.

So then this, this child, this young man who was called Ayas, walked along the shore-line there weeping on the island, because he had no way to cross from it.

So, as he looked around at one point, there swimming up towards him from the water was a certain creature with horns.

Then the creature spoke to him and asked him, "What ..., what's the matter?"

"I've no ..., no way to get across because my father left me here on the island," he said to him.

"I'll take you across," he [the creature] said to him.

"Now then, sit here on my head; but while I'm carrying you, if you hear thunder, tell me."

ê'kwâni kâ-itât ..., ê'kwâni kâ-itikot.

êko, êko kâ-têhtapit awah awâšiš ostikwânilîhk ôh' awiyâšîša. kêka kî-pêci-nôkwan ê-ominiskîskâk nêsta kî-pêci-nohtâkosiwak ominiskiwak.

môna oht..., môna mâši wîhtamawêw.

'kwâni pêyakwan, kêka kî-pêhtam aw' âwiyâšiš kêkwâniw ê-nohtâkwaninik.

"kêkwân kâ-itihtâkwahk?" itêw, ôh' awâšiša.

"'kwantaw ani kink..., kitêškanak ani kâ-itihtâkosicik, ê-..., ê-kî-... cîwêyâšiwak,"<sup>8</sup> itêw.

êko ..., êko mîna k'-âti-kiht... k'-âti-kiht... k'-âti-... k'-âti-kihcipanihot awa awiyâšiš.

êko mâk' âšay '-pêšonâkwahk askiy.

êko, âšay pêhtawêw ominiskwa awa awiyâšiš.

âšay kî-..., âšay wî-pakici-wêpinêw anihi âyâsa. âyâs mâka k'-îtikot šâkot, "pistêw anima k'-âtîtakwahtihk, êkot' âni, êkot' âni at'-îši-pimohtê. môna mâka ka-šawinên nipiy." 'kwâni kâ-itikot.

êko mâk' êkwâni kâ-'ši-wêpipanihot mâka; kî-nimitâwêpanihow aw' awiyâšiš ê-pêhtawât ominiskwa. ê'kwâni mâka kâ-tôtahk âyâs, kîy-atih-... pimohtêw wakît pîstêhk, êkâ '-šawinahk<sup>9</sup> nipîniw; pîniš ê-..., pîniš ê-w..., êy-oš..., êy-otihtahk kâ-'ši-pâhkwânik.

êko, kêtahtawin kî-pâskiskwahikêw ominiskiw ê-pâskiskwahwâ $\mathbf{t}^{10}$  anihi awiyâšîša.

êko, êko mâka kâ..., êko mâka kâ..., kâ-pimohtêt nânih. nânêwêw ..., kî-nânêwêw kihcikamîniw aw' âyâš. kî-wâpamêw mâka ant' ê-'ti-nômakê-kihtohtêt watoya ê-pâhpahkišinin'ci, ê-waswêhwân'ci ..., ê-waswêhwân'ci anihi kâ-kî-pâskiskwahwât, anih' ê-waswêhwât ..., ê-waswêhkwakwahwât mâka anta kî-pâhpahkišininiwa watoya.

êko mâka âyâs ê-kanawâpamât anihi watoya, kî-ayamihikow ê-itikot: "mâtika mâka, ê-'spîhci-kopâsinâkosiyân êkâ kâ-wîhtamawiyan ê-pêtwêwitahkik ominiskiwak. 'kwâni mâk' ôma wêhc'-îšinâkosiyân." êko, kîy-ati-kihtohtêw âyâs ê-mihcinawêsit. šâkot pêškiš môna wayêš ohc'-îtên'tam, têpinâhk ê-kî-pimâtisit.

êko ê-pimohtêt, kîy-otihtam ..., kîy-otihtam mîkiwâmišiš ê-cimatêk. kîy-ati-pîhtokwêw mâka.

kî-wâpamêw anta ôhkôma ê-apin'ci.

S SHIPPER PARK

Text Nine

That's what he said to him ..., that's what was said to him.

So, so this child sat on the head of this creature.

At last a storm appeared coming towards them and the thunder was rolling towards them.

He didn't ..., he didn't tell him at all.

No change. At last this beast heard the sound of something.

"What is it that made that sound?" he said to the child.

"It's only that ..., that's your horns which are making the sound, since they were ..., they are whistling," he said to him.

6 So ..., so again he kept on ... he kept on ... he kep... this beast kept on with his trip.

Now the land drew near.

And then this creature heard the thunder now.

Now, - now he wanted to drop Ayas off; and he said to Ayas firmly, "That froth, which is floating this way and that, right there, keep walking along, right there. You won't dislodge the water." That's what he said to him.

And then, he flung himself off. The creature swam quickly away because he heard the thunder. And so that's what Ayas did: he began ... to walk about on top of the froth, not budging the water, until he ... until he ..., he reached where it was dry.

Then suddenly the thunderbolt struck, striking that creature.

So, so then he ..., so then he ... walked alongside. He skirted ..., this Ayas skirted the seaside. He saw, however, as he began to walk away for a while, blood-clots falling in all directions as the lightning bolt had knocked to pieces ..., as it had knocked to pieces that [animal] which it had struck, – it was the thunder which had ... had blown that one to pieces, knocking him to bits ... and because it shattered his face there the blood clots were falling all around.

So then, as Ayas was looking at that blood-clot, it spoke to him saying: "Look now, how miserable I appear because you didn't tell me the thunderstorm could be heard coming. That's why I look this way." Then Ayas began to walk away feeling sorry. Indeed, as long as he himself was alive, on that account he hadn't thought of it.

So as he walked along he reached ..., he reached a small wigwam which was set up. He began to go into it.

There he saw his grandmother sitting.

"A-a-ah my grandchild, Ayas," said the old woman. "My grandchild Ayas

Text Nine

## SIMEON SCOTT

"a-a-ah, nôsisim âyâs," itwêw kišêy-iskwêw. "takošin nôsisim âyâs."

âšay kiskisiw anihi ôsisima kâ-kî-nakatahomihci tâwic. êko mâka, kî-mihcinawêsiw mâka ôsisima ê-kiskênimât tântê wâ-itohtên'ci.

êko kâ-ayamihât: "nâspic âniman kâ-wî-..., kê-'ši-šâpoškaman, nôsisim," itêw. "môna kêhcin kê-kî-šâpoškên.11 mihcêtiwak awênihkânak antê kê-'t'-îši-pimohtêyin, maciy-awênihkânak. môšak mâka ka-wî-maci-tôtâkwak tahto kê-'ti-wâpamacik. šâkot mâka, pitamâ n'ka-ošihtân kê-mîciyan."

awa kišê-'skwêw kî-'yâwêw askihkoša, ê-apišîšišit, - nâspic ê-apišîšišit askihk.12

êko mâka kîy-ošihtâw anta kêkwâniw tâpiskôc anôminâpoy mâškôc ê-'šinâkwahk, nêstapiko pahkwêšikanâpoy. nâspic ê-apišîšišic askihkoš. êko kâ-mînât ôsisima. êko kâ-itât: "kišâspin kaškihtâyanê ôma misiwê 'ci-mîciyan, ê'kwâni kici-šâpoškaman ..., 'ci-šâpoškawacik aniki maci-awênihkânak. êkâ mâka kitâyanê, môna ka-kî-šâpoškawâwak. ka-nipin pwâmoših otihtaman nêtê, kâ-iš'-îhtât kikâwiy nêsta kôhtâwiy."

êko ..., âšay mîcisow âyâs, nâspic ê-apišîšic askihk.

êko mâka, môna mâši kî-kitâw, môna mâši kî-kitâw. ât' êy-apišîšišit, tašinė, tašinė kîy-ati-kîšponėw ana askihkos ėy-apišîšit. 13

"êkw êcik' ân' tâpwê nipiyân," 14 k'-îtên'tam.

kêka mâka, kêka kêka kîy-atiy-aciwipaniw anima ..., animêniw kâ-mîcit. kêka kî-kaškihtâw ê-kitât.

"ha-a-a, nôsisim. âšay mâka kî-..., âšay mâka kî-kaškihtân," itêw. "êko âšay ..., êko mâka ka-mînitin kêkwâna, nisto kêkwâna ka-mîn'tin," 'têw; "nisto kêkwâna ka-mîn'tin kêy-âpacihtâyin ôko maciy-awênihkânak kêy-ati-wâpamacik, kê-'ti-sâpoškawacik. êwakwâniki mâka kêy-âpacihtâyin kê-..., kê-naskowâkêyin." kî-mînêw mâka mîsâhk'-wayâna nêsta šákwêši-wayana pêyak, pêyak maka cîstahikan. 15

"ê'kwâni ê-'t'-îšinâkwahk anima, kêy-at'-îši-pimohtêt."

êko, êko kâ-..., êko wênawît âyâs.

"âšay n'kihtohtân nôhkom," itêw. "wâhnaw mâka ta-itohtêw âyâs."

êko ê-pimohtêt kî-wâpahtam mîkiwâm, 16 mîkiwâm ê-cimatêk. âšay kî-pîhtokwêw mâka.

arrives."

Now she remembered that grandchild of hers who had been left in mid-stream. And then she was sorry because she remembered where her grandchild wanted to go.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

Then she spoke to him: "It is very difficult where you wa..., where you will be passing through, my grandchild," she said to him. "For certain you won't be able to pass through it. There are many people there where you will be setting out to walk, wicked people. And they will always want to do you harm, each one whom you'll begin to see. But first I shall make something for you to eat."

This old woman had a kettle, a little one, - a very little kettle.

So then she made a thing there that looked probably something like porridge or flour-soup. The kettle was very small. So she gave it to her grandchild. Then she said to him: "If you are able to eat all this, that will take care that you get through, that you pass through those wicked persons. But if you do not eat it up, you will not be able to get through them. You will die before you reach yonder where your mother and your father are."

So ..., now Ayas ate, - since the kettle was very small. 10

But then, even so he couldn't finish it, - even so he couldn't finish it. Although it was little, steadily, steadily, that little kettle kept on filling him.

"It really seems that I'm going to die," he thought.

At last, however, at last, at last that stuff began to go down, that stuff which he was eating. At last he managed to eat it up.

"Ha-a-a, my grandchild. And now you've - ... and now you've managed it," she said to him. "So now ..., and now I'll give you some things, three things I'll give you," sh' said; "three things I'll give you which you must use when you begin to see those evil people, when you pass through them. And these are what you'll use to ..., to fight back with. And she gave him a sleeping-skin and one mink-skin and one pointed stick."

"That's how that'll begin to look, where he'll begin to walk."

So, so then, - so out went Ayas.

"Now I'm going away, Grandmother," he said to her. "Ayas will go far away."

Then, as he walked along, he saw a wigwam, a wigwam sticking up. And now he went inside.

Two old women sat there. They were blind.

Text Nine

êko mâka šâkoc kî-pîhtokwêw kîmôc. môna, môna, môna ayamihêw. nêtê k'-îtohtêw wêskwâhtêmihk. êkotê 'ni kâ-nahapit.

êko mâka môna kiskên'tamwak ôko kišê-iskwêwak awênihkâna ê-pîhtokwên'ci, êkâ ê-wâpicik.

êkot' ânta mâka k'-âpit.

12 kêkah, kêka pêyak kišêy-iskwêw k'-îtwêw, "êko minawê," itêw anihi wîci-kišêy-iskwêwa. "minawê êko."

êko kâ-otinât otaskihkw' âwa kišê-iskwêw. êko kâ-pakitinahk anta mîciminiw, pîhci otaskihkohk. iškotêhk mâk' anta kî-pakitinam 'ci-ohtênik.

mêkwâc mâk' ê-ohtênik, âyâs kîy-otinêw anihi askihkwa. pîtoš ant' âpišîš kî-pakitinêw, êkâ ê-kiskênimikot anihi kišê-iskwêwa.

êko, âšay ..., âšay âšay wî-miskawêw ..., âšay wî-natawênimêw otaskihkw' âna kišêy-iskwêw. kî-wanihêw otaskihkwa anta kâ-'ši-apinispan.

êko kâ-it..., kâ-itwêt, "âyâs mãškôc kâ-tôtahk. mâškôc kî-takošin âyâs," itwêw.

13 êko kâ-otinahk mistik.<sup>17</sup>

kî-nâtawi-miskawêw antê wêskwâtêmihk. kîy-..., kîy-ayi..., kî-ayitâskwanam animêniw mistikoniw.

êko mâka kî-miskawêw.

"mâtik' awah âyâs ê'kwâwa kâ-kîw-otinât n'taskihkwa," ê'kwâni êtwêt.

"âyâs nâ kîna," itê... 18

"êh'." îtêw, "nîna âyâs."

"êko, âšay ..., âšay nâ wîpac k'-wî-ati-wanawîn?"

"êhê, wîpat âšay n'k'-âti-wanawîn," 'têw.

"wîhtamawinân, wîhtamawinân isa mwêhci wî-wanawîyanê."

ôko mâka kišê-'skwêwak k'-îšinihkâsowak otôskwanêsiwak.

otôskwaniwâhk kîy-ohci-nipahêwak awênihkâna. êko mâka, êko mâka k'-îtên'tamwak, "ispî wanawîtê ant' êškwâtêminihk, n'k'-êspanihonân êko mâka, kêy-otôskwanahwakiht anah. n'ka-nipahânân âyâs," k'-îtên'tamwak.

êko, êko kâ-otinât omîsâhkwayânah, hâyâs.

k'-îtâskwahwêw antê iš..., iškwâtêmihk.

êko kâ-itât: "âšay niwî-wanawîn." êko kâ-itâskwahwât antê. êko kâ-ispanihocik aniki otôskwanêsiwak ê-wâwâhcipiskwanêpanihocik anta, ê... iškwâtêmihk.

êko kâ-itâškwahwât anta omîsâhkwayâna âyâs.

êko mâka kîy-otôskwanahotowak aniki kišêy-iskwêwak, pîniš ê-nipahitocik

Now then he went in stealthily indeed. He didn't, didn't, didn't speak to them. He went over to the back part of the wigwam. There he seated himself.

Now then, these old women didn't know that anyone was coming in, since they were blind.

And that is where he sat.

2 At last, at last one old woman said, "Cook something." She said it to her fellow old woman. "Cook something."

So this old woman took her kettle. Then she put some food there, inside her kettle. And there on the fire she put it to boil.

While it was boiling, however, Ayas took the kettle. He put it in a slightly different place without that old woman knowing it.

Then, now ..., now now she wanted to find it ..., now that old woman was about to want her kettle. She lost her kettle from where it had been sitting.

Then she sa..., she said, "It's probably Ayas who did it. Perhaps Ayas has arrived," she said.

13 So she took a stick.

She went looking for him there at the back side of the wigwam. She ..., she pro..., she prodded with that stick.

And then she found him.

"Here's this Ayas, the very one who has taken my kettle," she said then.

"Are you Ayas?" she sai...

"Yep," he said to her, "I'm Ayas."

"So, now ..., now do you want to start going out soon?"

"Yes, I'll begin going out soon now," he said to her.

"Tell us, tell us exactly, when you want to go out."

Now these old women were called 'The Elbowed Ones'. With their elbows they killed people. And so, and so they thought, "When he goes out from the door there, we'll spring and then, we'll elbow that fellow. We'll kill Ayas," they thought.

14 So, so he took his sleeping-skin, did Ayas.

He held it on a stick at the d..., door.

Then he said to them, "Now I want to go out." Then he held it there.

Then those elbowed ones jumped up, jostling with their backs there a..., at the door.

Then Ayas held up his sleeping-skin there.

So then those old women elbowed each other until they killed each other

tâpiskôt, "âyâs kâ-tôtawakiht," ê-'tên'tahkik.

êko mâka, - 'kwâni, 'kwâni mâka k'-âti-wanawît âyâs kâ-'škwâ-nipahiton'ci. mîna kîy-ati-kihtohtêw.

êko mîna mêkwâc ê-pimohtêt, êko mîna kâ-wâpahtahk mîk'wâm<sup>19</sup> mîn' ê-cimatêk.

êko mâka, otinîkêkanak ê-nîpitêhpisocik mihcêt, mihcêt ê-nîpitêhpitêki.<sup>20</sup> awênihkân mâk' anta pimohtêtê, môna ta-šîpâsow.

ta-pâšici-kwâškwatiw piko. 'kwân ēšinâkwahkipan ana kâ-iši-ihtât ana, ana ininiw anta.

pêyak mâk' acimošiša kîy-'yâwêw. kišâspin mâk' awênihkân ê-kitawê-wêpiškawât anihi otinîkêkana, ênikohk mikisimow atim.

êko mâka kâ-kwâškwatit ..., êko mâka piyâšici-kwâškwatit âyâs, kî-kâhciciškawêw anihi oskana otinîkêkana.

kî-nôhtâkwanwa mâk' anihi oskana.

16 êko mâka acimošiš hênikohk<sup>21</sup> kî-mikisimow.

êko mâka kâ-kihcipahtât âyâs, kî-'mitišahokow $^{22}$ an' ana... anihi atimošiša. $^{23}$ 

êko wê..., wênawîpanit ana kišê-'iniw; kî-'mitišahwêw anih' otêma.

êko ..., êko ê-wîhpâpiskâk24 kî-pîhcipanihow hâ... âyâs.

êkot' âni mâk' ê-'tâpit an âtim ê-mikisimot ênikohk, êko mâka, kî-sâkit... sâkit... ciwê..., -sâkit-ciwêpinêw<sup>25</sup> anihi šâkwêši-wayâna kâ-kî-mînikot ôhkoma. ê'kwân' tâpiskôt šâkwêšiw mâka mân' êy-ocipanihot k'-îšinâkosiw ana šâkwêši-wayân, antê 'ni... antê atâmihk animêniw êy-ohci-tôtahk anah âyâs.

êko, êko wiyâpamât ana, an' ininiw; šâkwêšiw piko k'-îtên'tam, êkwâni kâ-'ši-kîwêkâpawit. "kâkê oš' âni tâpwê mîna kišišaw kêkwâniw n'titênimâw," manâ itwêw ê-kîwêkâpawit anihi otêma ê-mikisimon'ci.

môna kiskênimêw âyâsa ant' âtâmihk êy-ihtân'ci.

ispî mâka ê-'ti-nâwinâkosin'ci anihi ininiwa, âyâs mîna kî-kihtohtêw.

êko mîna ê-pimohtêt, mîna kî-wâpahtam mîk'wâminiw kotakîniw ê-cimatênik.

êko mâka k'-îhtâw anta kišê-'iniw ê-mâ..., ê-..., ê-mâskisit..., ê-mâskânik pêyak oskât, nâspic ê-mišânik. êko mâka kî-mihcêtwâ..., kî-nipahêwâkêw animêniw opwâm, ê-pâhtakwahwât piko 'wênihkâna. êko mâka kî-nîšiniwa ocawâšimiša, ê-wîci-tašîhkêmât.

êko mâka k'-îspaniniw mâkah, âyâs, âyâs anta 'ci-nipât. 26 môna mâka mâši kawêšimow ana kišê-'iniw.

altogether, thinking, "It's Ayas to whom we're doing it."

5 So then, - then, and then Ayas began to go out after they had killed each other. Again he started to go away.

Then again while he was walking along, then again he saw a wigwam set up again.

So then, there were many shoulder blades hanging from a line, many strung from a line. And if anyone walks there, he's not supposed to go underneath [the shoulder blades]. He is only to jump over them. That's the way it looked where that, that person was staying there.

Now he had one pup; and if anyone were to touch those shoulder-blades and make them rattle, the dog barked really hard.

So then he jumped ..., so then Ayas, leaping over, caught those shoulder-blade bones with his foot.

Then those bones gave off a sound.

16 At that the pup barked for all it was worth.

And then, when Ayas ran away tha' that ... that puppy chased after him.

Then out ..., out came that old man; he ran after that dog.

So ..., so, as there was a cave in the rock, A..., Ayas jumped in.

The dog was looking around right there, barking like anything; so he threw threw ... out ... threw out that mink-skin which his grandmother had given him. Then that mink-skin looked like a mink sticking its head in and out [of the hole], there that ... as Ayas did that from down inside.

So, so that, that person saw him; he thought it was only a mink, so he turned back. "I thought it was really something important that he saw," he said as he turned back, because the dog was barking.

He didn't know that Ayas was down there inside.

17 When that person began to appear at a distance, Ayas once more went away.

As he was walking along again, then, once more he saw another wigwam set up.

Now then, there was an old person there cr... c... crippled ..., with one leg crippled, and very big. Now there were many ..., he killed with that thigh of his, just by crushing anybody [with the big leg]. So then, his two children were living with him.

Now then it was time for Ayas, - Ayas to sleep there.

Text Nine

kêka mâka kî-šâkotihkwašiw ana âyâs. kî-kawêšimohkâsow. kî-kiskên'tam mâka šâkoc ê-ašahokot anihi ..., kî-nipâhkâsow nêst' ana, ana kâ-..., ana kišê-'iniw kâ-mišânik opwâm.

ispî mâka nêskihkwâmin'ci, ê-itên'tahk âyâsa kî-n'tawâ'mêw. êko pêyâ..., êkot' ê-'šiwatât<sup>27</sup> animêniw oskât kâ-... kâ-mišânik, kâ-mâskânik, êko mâka kêtahtawin kî-pâhtakwahokow kêkwâniw âyâs ê-nipât.

êko mâka kâ-n'tôpitahk ê... ocîstahikaniniw kâ-kî-mînikot ôhkoma. kî-cîstaham animêniw, animêniw opwâm... miskâtiniw nâspic kâ-kosiko-mahcihtât ê-pâhtakoškâkot. pîniš ê-nipin'ci anihi kišê-'niniwa 'kwâni kâ-tôtawât.

êko mâka ispî, – ispî kâ-nipahât 'kwân' êši-wanawît 'kwâni mîn' êši-kihtohtêt.

êko, mîn' ê-pimohtêt, kî-wâpahtam, mîk'wâmin'<sup>28</sup> ê-cimatêniki nîšo. êko mâk' animêniw kâ-nîštamiškahk, kî-ohci-wanawîniw' êskwêwa. kî-nisitawêniwêw<sup>29</sup> mâka okâwiya.

êko, awa kišê-'skwêw kî-wâpamêw okosisa ê-pêci-takošinin'ci mwêhci. "âââ, n'kosis âyâs takošin. n'kosis, âyâs takošin n'kosis," 'kwâni kâ-itwêt.

êko mâka, awa kišê-'skwêw kî-pêyakwêw anta mîk'wâmihk. wî-... êko mâka, ana kišê-'iniw, kotakîniw mîk'wâmini' k'-îhtâw, kotakiy' awênihkân' anta ê-wî-'ti-tašîhkêmât. (êko mâka owîkimâkan' antê kî-pêyakoniwa 'kwantaw. êko, môna ohci-..., môna ohci-minototawêw. kî-'wahkâtêw ... kî-'wahkâtêw owîkimâkana.) 'kwânima ..., 'kwâni 'kwantaw antê wêhci-wîkin'ci.

êko mâka anihi kâ-wîci-tašîhkêmât kotakiya iskwêwa pêyak awâšiša kîy-... kî-... kî-'yâwêwak.

êko kâ-..., êkw âwa âyâs ispî kâ-pîhtokwêt wîkinîhk okâwiya misiwê kî-mînikow tipâcimowininiw, ê-itôt..., ê-itôtâmihci.

êko, êko kâ-itwêt âyâs, "mâca n'tawi-pîhtokwê 'nima mîk'wâm. ê-... pwâmoši pîhtokwêyin mâka, ati-pîhtokwêcina<sup>30</sup> mihta, miši-kotawê mâka. ošihtâ iškotêw 'ci-mišâk." êko kâ-wanawît awa kišê-'skwêw kîy-ati-..., "êko mâka ispî kišâkonêkê, macostê-wêpin an' âwâšiš." 'kwâni kâ-itât.

êko, êko kâ-w'nawît awa kišêy-iskwêw, êko k'-âti-pîhtokwêcinahk<sup>31</sup> mihta kîy-ati-pônam piko, tâpiskôc kwayask kakwê...<sup>32</sup> kêkwâniw ê-wî-tôtahk kîy-ati-tôtam.

êko, êko kâ-..., ispîy êti-mišâk iškotêw, êko mâka kîši...,

But that old person wouldn't even go to bed.

Finally, however, Ayas drowsed off. He made as if to go to bed, but he knew very well that he was being watched by that old one ... that one pretended to sleep as well ..., that one who ..., that old one with the big thigh.

When he thought Ayas was sound asleep he went after him.

Then there dr..., that's where he took his leg, that ..., that big one, that big one; but then suddenly something dropped on Ayas as he was asleep.

So then he felt for h..., his pointed stick which his grandmother had given him. He jabbed that, that thigh ... leg which he felt very heavy as it pressed down on him. That's what he did to him until that old person died.

So then when, - when he had killed him, then he came out, that's when he set off there again.

So, as he was walking along once more, he saw tents set up, two of them.

And then from that one which he came upon first, there came out a woman. He recognized his mother.

Then, this old woman saw her son coming towards her just as he arrived.

"Aaa, my son Ayas is arriving. My son, Ayas my son is arriving," that is what she said.

Now then, this old woman was alone in the tent. She want...

But then, that old man was in another tent because he wanted to begin living there with someone else. (And so his wife was alone there to no purpose. So, he didn't ..., didn't treat her kindly. He detested her ... he detested his wife.) That was ..., that was the reason why she dwelt there idly.

Now then that other woman with whom he lived, they d... d..., had one child.

So when, then this Ayas when he had entered his mother's tent, she gave him all the news, how they were ..., how they were treated.

So, so Ayas said: "Go ahead, go into that tent. As ..., but before you go in, push a log of wood in, and kindle a big fire. Make a fire so it's big." So when this old woman came out she began ... "and then when there's a hot flame, throw this child into it." That's what he said to her.

So, so this old woman came out, then when she began to push in wood she just started to build a fire; she began to do it as though she were about to do a proper thing.

So, so when ..., at the point where the fire was big, then she ..., she

kî-kišêwâtotawêhkâsow anihi awâšiša.

"pêšiw, n'ka-tahkonâw," itêw.

môna wî-mînêw ana. "'kâwin' ohci-mîn."

kêka mâka kî-mînâkaniwan tâpwê, 'ci-tahkonât anihi 'wâšiša. êko mâka kišêwâtot..., mêkwâc ê-kišêwâtotawât kî-macostê-wêpinêw anihi 'wâšiša. miconi kî-kipotâmâpasow an' awâšiš.

êkwâni mâk' ê-'ši-wanawîpanit, 'šâstaw kisiwâsiw ana kišê-'n'niw anim' ê-tôtâmihci ocawâšimiša. "mitoni ..., mitoni ka-nipahitin," itêw anihi wî-..., wîci-kišê-'niw' aspin ê-wanawîpanin'ci.

āšay māka wanawîpaniw kišê-'niw: "âyâs n'kosis, âyâs n'kosis, āšay ninipahik kôhtâwiy."

"kwâcistak ô, tâpwê oš' âni ka-wâp'mâw âyâs kikosis," manâ itêw ana kišêy-'iniw. "mô... môna wîskâc ka-ohci-wâpamâw ana kâ-..."

âšay manâ wêhci-wanawîpanit âyâs anta okâwiya wîkinîhk.

âšay kâ-koškwâpišihk manâ okosisa êy-ohci-wanawîpanin'ci.

21 ê'kwâni mâka, aci-wâciyêmêhkâsow33 manâ okosisa.

âšay manâ wani-kiskisiw animêniw kâ-ihkininik anta,

ka-kî-macostê-wêpinimici.

"âyâs êcika n'kosis kâ-cakošinokopanê,"34 manâ icwêw.

êko manâ, cacašiwêkišimêw manâ 'misk'wayân'šiša kê-'ši-tâcâš... -tâtâhkôskên'ci.

"miconi kî-pîkosicoš..., ki-pî..., kî-pîkositêšinôtokê âyâs n'kosis wâhnaw ê-pimohtêt," manâ icwêw.

"ta-âpacihacik aniki35 manâ," itâkaniwan;

îkatê-wêpênimâkaniwiniwa manâ anihi amiskošiši-wayâna.

22 âšay manâ ..., âšay manâ mâka,

kâ-iškwâ-misiwê-'kwân'-mîn'-ati-minopanik, êko manâ wêyâpaninik awa oškinîkiw âyâs kâ-išinihkâsot, kî-môhkocikêw piko isk... iskani-kîšik êy-ošihât akaskwa, nîšo.

êko mâka, ê-kanawâ'mât ..., ê-kanawâ'mât okosis' anim' ê-tôtamin'ci nâspic kî-mikwaškâtên'tam. wayêš kî-itên'tam.

"tânika pâskat, tânika pâskac wâ-tôtamokwê?" k'-îtên'tam.

wî-nanihcîstawêw okosisa âšay wayêš ê-wî-..., ê-wî-tôtâkot.

êko kâ-kakwêcimât, "tâni wâ-..., tâni wâ-tôtaman anima kâ-..., kâ-tôtaman kâ-ošihacik akaskwak?" manâ itêw.

"môna ..., môna ..., môn' âpatan 'ci-kiskên'taman. nîna piko, nîna piko

pretended to behave kindly to that child.

"Bring him here, I'll hold him," she said to them.

That woman didn't want to give him to her. "Don't you dare give it to her!"

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

At last, however, she was actually given it, so that she might hold the child. But then she behaved fondl..., while she was behaving fondly to him she threw that child into the flame. That child was thoroughly smothered with smoke.

But bursting out at that point, that old man was really angry that his child was so treated. "I'll kill you utterly ..., utterly," he said to his old partner as she ran out and away.

But now the old person came out: "Ayas my son, Ayas my son, now your father is killing me."

"Alas, surely indeed you will see Ayas your son," that old woman said to him. "You will no..., not ever see that one who ..."

Now then Ayas suddenly came out of his mother's tent there.

Now he was surprised that his son came bursting out of it.

At that, he then made as if to shake hands with his son.

Now then he forgot what had happened there, when his child had been cast into the flames.

"It must be Ayas, my son, who has arrived," he said to them.

So then, he spread little beaver-skins about where he would ste..., would sten.

"He must have completely blis..., he bli..., Ayas, my son, must have blistered his feet walking a long way," he said.

"What's the use of those then?" someone said; then those little beaver pelts were thrown aside.

Now then ..., and now then, after everything was back to normal again, then in the morning this young man, Ayas, as he was called just whittled all ..., all day making arrows, two.

So then, seeing him ..., seeing his son doing that, he was very much worried. He had something on his mind.

"I wonder what, I wonder what on earth he wants to do," he thought.

He was nervous that his son now wanted ..., now wanted to do something or other to him.

So he asked him, "What do you wa..., what do you want to do in what ..., what you're doing that you've made arrows?" he said to him.

"There's no ..., no ..., no use for you to know. Only I, only I know this

n'kiskên'tên ôma kêkwân kâ-tôtamân," manâ itwêw, âyâs.

âšay manâ wêyâpahk.

êko mâka, êko mâka kâ-..., kâ-tôtahk animêniw kêkwâniw kâ-wî-tôtahk. êko išpimihk kâ-iši-pimocikêt36 anihi akaskwa.

êko mâka, kî-tâwahokow p..., ê-cipêkisinici akaskw' anah, ana kišêy-'iniw. miconi mâka kî-nâspitahokow.

'kwâni mîna pêyakwan anihi kotakiya.

ê'kwâni mâkah, kâ-..., pêyakwan kâ-... kâ-tôtâkot ana kišê-iskwêw kî-nipahi..., kî-nipahikowan anihi akaskwa, - anihi kâ-ošihât anah âyâs.

êko mâka kâ-itwêt anima, êko k'-âti-pasitêk, k'-âti-pasitêk mâk' âskiy, anima<sup>37</sup> kâ-iškwâ-tôtahk, ohcitaw ê-... ê-kî-tôtahk 'ciy-ati-pasitênik.

êko mâka ana kîy-ati-pasisow kišêy-'iniw. anima mâka 'ci-kiskisinâniwahk, kâ-kî-mânên'cikêt ..., kâ-kî-mânênimât wîci-kišê-'niniwa kiskinowâcitikan ..., kiskinowâcitakwan ..., 38 kiskinowâcicikan ihtakwan. kî-wâpahtênâwâw 'n' ânima mâna kâ-pîpotêpanik39 kêkwân kâ-tâtâhkoskâcikâtêki kâ-wîpâki kâ-o..., kâ-osâwâki.

êko mâka, êwakwâna kišê-'niniw kâ-kî-... kâ-k'-îspanit, ispî kâ-'ti-câkâskitênik wîyaw ê'kwâni kâ-'ti-išinâkwahki anihi. anihi cîpayi-pastêw' mâka kâ-'šinihkâcikâtêki 'kwânima kâ-pîkišêpanik ê'kwâni kišêy-'iniw.

êko mâka, asiniy ana kâ-wâpamêk, ininasiniy kâ-mânâcašiškîšit.40 kâ-... kâ-... kâ-askîwâpiskisit kâ-išinâkosit, êwakwâna wîna, êwakwâna wîna kišê-iskwêw.

êko mâka, aniki wînawâw, aniki w..., âyâs wîna êwakwânimah nânih sâkahikan âskaw n... pîhtâpêwak nân..., pîhtâpêkohk kâ-cimasot âskaw wâkinâkan, asâmâhtik ê-minwâšišit.

êwakwâni wîna, âyâs. ê'kwâni kâ-itwêkopanê âyâs, anima 'ci-išinâkosit wîna. êkot' ânta nêsta wîna kâ-iši-kišipipanit.

"êko mâka, êwako t'-âti-âpacihêwak ininiwak kê-'ti-pimâtisicik 'ci-otasâmâhtikocik."41 k'-îtwêw anima kâ-k'-îsinâkohot.

êko wîna okâwiya kâ-minwâšihk sâkahikanihk askiy kâ-nôkwahk 'ci-minwên'tahkik ininiwak ê-pimohtêcik ê-kanawâpahtahkik ê-'šinâkwahk askîhk ana kâ-nanêskamikâk42 mâna, êw'kwâni wîna okâwiya kâ-... kâ-išihon'ci.

ê'kwâni êskwâpêkahk tipâcimôwin, âtanôhkân âyâs ohci.

thing that I'm doing," Ayas said to him then.

Now it was the following day.

So then, so then he di..., he did that thing which he wanted to do. He shot those arrows up high.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

And then, because the arrows were pointed, that, that old man was hit. He was killed outright.

Then again, it was the same with that other one.

And then, it was ..., it was the same ... the same thing happened to that old woman ... she was kil..., she was killed by those arrows, the ones which Ayas had made there.

So then when he had said that, then it began to burn, the earth began to burn, after he had done that, because ..., because he did it deliberately so it would begin to burn.

So then that old man began to burn. And that was to be remembered as a sign of his having abused, of his having scorned his old mate ..., a sign is ..., it is there as a sign. You have seen again and again that thing which makes smoke when trodden on, which are hollow, y..., and yellow.

Well then, that old man the way ..., the way things went with him, when his flesh began to be all burnt out, that's what those things looked like. And those "Ghost-smokes" as they're called, that one that steams, that's the old man.

So then, that stone which you see, Indian stone defaced with mud, which ..., which ..., which appears to have white moss on it, that one is her, that one is her, the old woman.

And furthermore, those ones are them, those ones are th... that one is Ayas alongside the lake sometimes al..., alongside the [lagoon] the tamarack which sometimes sticks up in the lagoon, a fine snow-shoe wood.

That one was Ayas. That's what Ayas must have said so that he looked like that. And that was the end of him too.

"And so the Indians of future generations will go on using them as snow-shoe frames," he said, that one which he made himself look like.

And his mother is the good land which appears on the lake so the Indians may take pleasure as they walk about looking at where the land runs out to little points, - that is the way his mother was dressed.

That is the length of the account, the legend about Ayas.