cahkâpêš nêsta mâka mistâpêskwêwak

1 âšay manâ mîna pêyakwâ kihtohtêw cahkâpêš.

papâmohtêw manâh. mêkwâc manâ mâka ê-papâmohtêt pêhtam manâ kêkwâniw, "tangg, tangg, tangg," manâ kâ-itihtâkwaninik.

nîpawiw manâ ê-n'tohtahk.

"tânika kêkwân kâ-itihtâkwahk?" manâ itên'tam.

'kwâni manâ êši-kîwêt. "n'ka-n'tawi-wîhtamawâw nimišêh," manâ itên'tam.

hâšay manâ tâpwê takošin wîkihk, ê-tipiskânik.

"nimišêh, ê-kî-pêhtamân kêkwân," manâ itwêw.

"tân' êtihtâkwahk?" manâ itik' ômisa.

"'tingg, tingg, tingg, 3' ê-itihtâkwahk," manâ itwêw.

"šââ!" manâ itwêw ana iskwêw. "'kwâni kwayask kâ-kî-pêci-kîwêyin," manâ itwêw. "mistâpêskwêwak oš' ân' ê-kêkišêpâ-manihtêcik, anima kâ-pêhtaman," manâ itwêw, "ê-matwê-kahikêcik oš' âni animêniw kâ-itihtâkwaninik," manâ itwêw. "'kâwina mîna wîskâc antê ohc'-îtohtê, kâ-k'-îši-pêhtaman anima kêkwân," itwêw.

"ê'kwâni, 'kwâni, nimišêh. kisêkimin. môna mîna n'ka-ohc'-îtohtân antê kâ-k'-îši-pêhtamân anima kêkwân," manâ itwêw cahkâpêš.

'kwantaw mâk' ani ê-itwêt. 'kwâni piko mîna kê-wâpaninik 'ci-kîwêt antê kâ-k'-îši-pêhtahk animêniw kêkwâniw, mâtih tâpwê ê-ytên'tahk.

âšay manâ '-'ti-tipiskânik, "wîpac waniškâhkan," manâ itêw omisa. "wîpac n'ka-kihtohtân. êkâ wîskâc kâ-ohc'-îtohtêyân, êkotê 'ni kê-'tohtêyân," manâ itwêw.

âšay manâ tâpwê, "êh," manâ itikow omisa. "wîpac isa mâka kawišimo," manâ itikow.

'kwâni manâ tâpwê êtôtahk. wîpac manâ kawišimow. âšay manâ mîna wîpac waniškâw ê-'ti-wâpaninik, ê-kêkišêpâyânik.

kêkišêpânihkwêw manâ mâka. kâ-iškwâ-mîcisot manâ mâka, "šâ!" manâ itwêw. "tânika kî-nîmâwâpânê wîhkway," manâ itwêw. "ê-nipahak oša mâna pinêw ê-nawacîyân mâka; mitoni mâka m'pâsitênikon," manâ itwêw, "wêsâ êkâ ê-tômisit," manâ itwêw.

âšay manâ tâpwê mînik' ômisa pêyak wîhkwâniw namêsi-pimîniw. 'kwâni manâ mâka tâpw' êši-kihtohtêt, ê-'ti-payahtinâkwaninik.

pitamâ manâ mâka nêtê 'kwantaw iši-kihtohtêw...,

Chahkabesh and the giant women

Now once again, Chahkabesh went away.

He walked around for some time. While he was walking about he heard something which sounded like "tungg, tungg, tungg."

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

He stood listening to it.

"What can it be that's making that sound?" he wondered.

At that he started back home. "I'll go tell my big shishter," he thought.

2 And now he arrived right back at his home, as it was dark.

"Big Shishter, I heard something," he said.

"What did it sound like?" his older sister said to him.

"It sounded like 'tingg, tingg,' " he said.

"O-oh dear!" said that woman. "Then it was right that you came back home," she said. "It was the giant women, you realize, gathering wood early in the morning, that is what you heard," she said. "As they were noisily cutting it, indeed that is what made the sound," she said. "Don't ever go there again where you heard that thing," she said.

"All right, all right, Big Shishter. You're scaring me. I won't ever go there again where I heard that thing," Chahkabesh then said.

But he just said it off-handedly. Simply to go back there the next morning to where he had heard that thing, that's what he really had in mind.

Now since it was already getting dark, he said to his older sister, "Get up early. I'll be going away early. I'll be going somewhere where I've never gone before, that's where I'll be going," he said.

"Yes I will," his older sister said to him. "But be sure to get to bed early," she said to him.

That's just what he did. He went to bed early. Then he got up early again as daybreak was coming, in the morning.

He had his breakfast; but then, after he had eaten, he said, "Dear me! I wonder if I shouldn't have taken a food hamper, – of course I usually kill a partridge for a snack though; but I get very bad heartburn," he said, "when it's not fat enough."

Now then, his sister gave him one bladder of fish-fat. Then he set off in real earnest as soon as dawn broke.

At first, however, he just went ..., pretended he was going away

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-hkâsow. 5 kâ-nihtâ-tôtahk mâna piko: "êkâ 'ci-kiskênimit nimis," ê-itên'tahk.

nêtê manâ mâka wâhnaw nawac êkotê 'n' ê-'ti-ohci-n'tawâpahtahk omêskanaw, otâkošîhk kâ-kî-pêci-ohtohtêt.

'kwâni manâ mâk' ê-'t'-îši-nâtahamêt pîniš manâ mâka nêtê pêšiwâpahtam kâ-k'-îši-pêhtahk ê-matwê-kahikâniwaninik.

âšay manâ tâpwê mîna pêhtam. pêyakwan manâ ê-'tihtâkwahk: "tingg, tingg, tingg, "6 ê-itihtâkwahk.

"âšay manâ mâka kê-wawêniyân," manâ itên'tam.

kêtawatêw manâ wîwat. wâpamêw manâ mâka wîskacâna, ê-pêci-twêhon'ci mistikohk.

pimotêw manâ. kâ-pimiwêpahwât manâ piko.

'kwâni manâ êši-pahkwêpinât. pîhtôšakêpitêw manâ.

kâ-iškwâ-pahkonât manâ mâka, 'kwân' êši-pîhtômot animêniw onamêsi-wîhkwâm. 7

'kwâni manâ mâka êši-pohci-wêpiškawât anihi wîskacâniši-wayâna.

'kwâni manâ mâka êti-iši-kihcihnât.

nêtê manâ mâka kâ-tatawêkahikên'ci mistâpêskwêwa êkotê 'n' ê-'t'-îšihnât. âšay manâ tâpwê wâpamêw mistâpêskwêwa, ê-manihtên'ci wanawîtihmihk wîkinîhk. nânâtwâkahihtêwak manâ.

âšay manâ cahkâpêš pêšoc manâ ant' âtiy-akosîw.

kêka manâ mâk' âti-nîhci-twêhow. âhcîhkên manâ pêšoc ant' âti-iši-kwâskwâškwatiw.

kêka manâ mitoni pêšoc.

âšay manâ kêka pisiskâpamêw ana pêyak mistâpêskwêw.

"šâ!" manâ itwêw. "tân êtôtahk awa wîskacâniš?" manâ itwêw.

"pimwâhtikonahihk pîwikahikaniniw," manâ itwêw ana kotak.

"ta-kînikwânâciwoswâkaniwan mistaskihkohk," manâ itwêw. "cahkâpêš oš' ân' êtikwê mîna kâ-tôtahk," manâ itwêw.

'kwâni manâ tâpw' êtôtahk ana pêyak iskwêw. 'm'wâhtakonahêw⁸ manâ pîwikahikaniniw ê-âpacihtât.

kâ-mohci-ninihkikaškwê-wêpahwât manâh. 'kwâni manâ mâka êši-otinât. pîhtokwê-wêpinêw manâ.

"êh," manâ itwêw anih' îskwêwa kâ-... kâ-kanawên'tamin'ci mîk'wâminiw "kapastawê' 'wa mistaskihkohk," manâ itêw. "ta-kînikwânâciwosow," manâ itwêw.

'kwâni manâ tâpw' êtôtahk ana kâ-apit iskwêw. kapastawêhwêw manâ

somewhere, as he was given to doing: "so my older sister won't know," he thought.

But then, away off, quite far in the distance, he began to look for his path in that direction which he had come from the day before.

Then he started to follow it until he began to come close to that place where he had heard the sound of noisy chopping in the distance.

Now then, he definitely heard it again. It sounded the same: "tingg, tingg," it sounded.

Then he thought, "Now I'll get ready."

He unslung his pack-sack. And then he saw a whiskey-jack coming to alight on a tree.

He shot at him. He simply knocked him down and killed him.

Then he began to skin him. He stripped the skin off the meat.

Then after he had skinned him, he tucked that fish-bladder inside his clothing.

Then he quickly put on the little whiskey-jack's skin.

Then he began to fly away.

5 He flew over to where the giant women were making the banging noise, that's the very way he flew.

Now he actually saw the giant women gathering wood outside their home. They were cutting wood into small lengths.

Now Chahkabesh perched close by there.

Finally he even alighted down on the ground. He kept hopping still closer and closer.

At last he was right close by.

Now at length one of the giant women noticed him.

"Oh, oh!" she said. "What is this whiskey-jack doing?" she said.

"Throw a chip at him," said the other. "He'll swirl around boiling in the big pot," she added. "It's likely Chahkabesh who's doing it again," she said.

Then that one woman did just that: she took a shot at him using a chip.

She just swept him away with talons trembling. Then she picked him up and tossed him indoors.

"Huh," she remarked to the woman who, who looked after the tent. "Put this fellow in the big pot," she said to her. "He will swirl around boiling all right," she said.

Then that woman who was sitting down did just that. She put him in the

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mistaskihkohk. 'kwâni manâ mâka êši-akonât anta iškotêhk.

6 kêka manâ mâka osow an' askihk.

kâ-mohci-kînikwânâciwosot manâ cahkâpêš.

"mâmân êkwâni kêkât," manâ itên'tam cahkâpêš.

mêkwâc manâ mâk' êy-osot, pâskicênam manâ animêniw otôwîhkwâm kâ-kî-pêci-nîmât.

'kwâni manâ mâk' êši-kipihtâciwosopanit an' âskihk. mitoni manâ šôšawakohtin pimiy.

pêhtawêw manâ mâk' ana mistâpêskwêw ê-kipihtâciwosopaninici omistaskihkwa.

itâpipanihow manâ. kanawâpamêw manâ anihy âskihkwa.

"šā!" manā itwēw, ispî wiyāpahtahk pimîniw mitoni ê-šôšawakohtininik. "pēci-kanawāpamihk aw' āskihk," manā iši-tēpwêw wanawîtimihk.

'kwâni manâ tâpwê misiwê pêci-pî... pêci-iši-pîhtokwêpanihocik mistâpêskwêwak. pêci-wâskâkâpawîstawêwak man' ânihy âskihkwa. kanawâpamêwak manâ ê-mâmaskâtên'tahkik.

"šââ, šââ," 'kwâni manâ piko ê-'twêcik.

"mâmân êkwâni misiwê," manâ itên'tam cahkâpêš.

âšay manâ koškopanihow. 'kwantaw manâ piko wasaswê-wêpinam nipîniw, otahtahkwana êy-âpacihtât. 'kwâni manâ mâka misiwê êši-kakêpwâtâmwâskiswât misiwê, anihi mistâpêskwêwa. 'kwâni manâ êši-wanawî-kwâškwatit anta oh... mistaskihkohk ohci. 'kwâni manâ êš..., êt'-îši-sâsîkahahtâwât, animêniw môskamîniw â..., anihi mistâpêskwêwa.

'kwâni misiw' '-kî-nipahât.

omišwâkana manâ mâka nêtê kâ-pimišinin'ci, anihi nâpêwa, kâ-kî-mišwâkanikâtâspan.¹⁰ 'kwâni manâ ê-'ši-n'tawâpamât, sâsîkahahtawêw animêniw môškamîniw ê-âpacihtât.

kâ-mohci-catîtwâskopaninici manâ piko, êkwâni misiw''-kî-câkihât mistâpêskwêwa nêsta misiwê omîšwâkana.

'kwâni piko êskwâpihkêvâk.

big cauldron. Then she hung it over the fire.

6 At last the pot boiled.

Chahkabesh just swirled around boiling.

"I would think it's about time now [for me to do something]," thought Chahkabesh.

While it was boiling he opened up his bladder which he had brought for food.

At that, however, that pot stopped boiling. The fat spread completely over the top.

But that giant woman heard her big pot stop boiling.

Suddenly she glanced over. She looked at the cauldron.

"Oh dear!" she said when she saw the fat completely spread over the top. "Come and look at this pot," she called outside.

At that they all came i... all the giant women came rushing in. They came and stood around that cauldron. They looked at it with amazement.

"Oh my, oh my!" was all they could say.

7 "I would think it is time now," thought Chahkabesh.

Now then, he made a sudden move. He splashed water just any way using his wings. Then he used the fire to make them all gasp for air, all those giant women. And then he leapt out from there... from the giant pot. And then he dr... began to pour that broth all over them...those giant women.

Then he killed them all.

But the wounded one was lying some way off, that man [giant] who had been wounded. Now then as he came looking for them, he [Chahkabesh] drenched him all over with that broth.

When he was stunned with shock, at that point Chahkabesh finished them all off, the giant women and the wounded giant altogether.

That's the length of the story.