wîsakêcâhk wêhwêwa kâ-wîci-pimihnâmâkopanê

pêyakwâ manâ mîna wîsakêcâhk.

pimâšakâmêw manâ nânih wînipêkohk, ê-'ti-takwâkininik. kêka manâ mâka otihtêw wêhwêwa ê-mihcêtin'c', ê-mîcison'ci, pwâmoši pimâhamin'ci.

"šâ. tân'ka wîcêwakik!" manâ itên'tam.

"mâhti, n'ka-kakwêcimâwak," manâ itên'tam.

2 âšay manâ tâpwê n'tawâpamêw.

"hêy, nišîmak," manâ itwêw, "tâni tôtamêk, ô?"

"ah, nimîcisonân wâso," manâ itwêwak wêhwêwak.

"kêkwân mâka wêhci-mîcisoyêk?"

"nimîcisonân wâs' âšay wîpac 'ci-pimâhamâhk," manâ itwêwak. "nêtê wâhnaw n'titohtânân, ê-takwâkihk mâna kâ-tôtamâhk," manâ itwêwak.

"šâ, tân'ka mâna kiminwên'tênâwâw nêtê kâ-itohtêyêk. wâhnaw n' âni kititohtânâwâw?"

"êhê," manâ itwêwak wêhwêwak. "wâhnaw wâsa nêtê n'titohtânân," manâ itwêwak, "êkâ wîskâc kâ-iši-pipohk."

"šâ, tân'ka kî-wîcêwitakok! mâhti ..., ka-wîcêwitinâwâw."

"êko isa n'tawâc. wîcêwinân," manâ itwêw wêhwêw.

âšay man' ânima kâ-iškwâ-itwêt ana wêhwêw, âšay manâ piko wêhci-nîpawit kihci-wêhwêw. 'kwâni kâ-'ši-kwêskinâkosit mêkwâc anim' ê-'tikot.

3 "ka-kî-wîcêwinân," ê-'tikot.

"êkw isa mâka," manâ itâkaniwan. "âšay wâsa nêsta kîna ka-mîcison," manâ itâkaniwan, "'ci-wî-kakwê-tâhcipohitisoyan pwâmoši kihcihnâyahk," manâ itwêw ana wêhwêw.

'kwâni manâ tâpwê 't'-îši-mîcisot² nêsta wîna wîsakêcâhk; maškošîya³ manâ k'-ênikohk mîciw.⁴

kêka manâ mitoni tâhcipôwak aniki wêhwêwak ê-mîcisocik.

"êko mâh!" manâ itwêw. "tânispî kê-kihcihnâyahk?"

"môna, môn' êškwâ," manâ itwêw ana wêhwêw. "pâtimâ kiyâpic kinwêš nawac," manâ itwêw. "ka-mîcisonânaw mitoni 'ci-tâhcipoyahk," manâ itwêw. "êko mâka kê-kihcihnâyahk."

âšay manâ tâpwê mîcisôwak kiyâpic.

4 âšay manâ mâka itwêw ana kâ-tipên'tahk kâ-nîkânît wêhwêw. "âšay," manâ itwêw. "âšay kê-tipiskâk ka-kihcihnânânaw," manâ itwêw.

Weesakechahk flies south with the waveys

Once again then, here is a story about Weesakechahk.

He was walking along beside the water-line in the early fall. At last he came upon a great many waveys feeding before they flew south.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

"My, oh my! I'd like to go with them," he thought.

"Say! I'll have to ask them," he thought.

2 Then he went right off to see them.

"Hi there, Little Brothers," he said. "What's this you're doing?"

"Oh, we're feeding, as you see," they said.

"Why are you feeding?"

"We're feeding now, y'know, so we can soon fly away," they said. "We're going far away, same as we do every fall."

"Dear me," said Weesakechahk. "I imagine you like it where you're going! Is it far away that you're bound?"

"Yes," replied the waveys. "We're bound off yonder, where it's never winter."

"Mm, if only I could go with you!" said Weesakechahk. "Look here, I'll go along with you."

"You might just as well. Come along with us," said the leader wavey.

As soon as the wavey had said that, straightway Weesakechahk stood there, – a great wavey. He had turned into one in appearance while he was being spoken to.

"You can come with us," he was told. "But then," he was instructed, "you too must eat. You should make an effort to get yourself fat before we fly away," the wavey told him.

Then Weesakechahk too began to feed in earnest. He ate grasses for all he was worth.

At last those waveys were thoroughly fattened up with eating.

"Come on," said Weesakechahk. "When shall we fly away?"

"Not, not yet," said that wavey. "There's quite a long time yet to go," he said. "We have to eat so as to get really fat," he said, "and then we'll fly away."

And then they set to and ate some more.

4 Then, the chief wavey, the leader, spoke. "Ready?" he said. "Tonight," said he, "we shall fly away."

Text Twenty

"kê-tipiskâk? kêkwân êkâ ..., kêkwân êkâ ê-kîšikâk?" manâ itwêw ana wîsakêcâhk.

"ê-tipiskâk is' êk' âwênihkân 'ci-wâpamitahkok," manâ itwêw. "mihcêt wâs' âwênihkânak ka-mikwaškâcihikonawak, mêkwâc ê-pimihnâyahk," manâ itwêw. "ininiwak ka-kitahokonawak. ka-pâskisokonawak; išpimihk mâka šâkoc ka-pimihnânânaw, êkâ k'-êš'-otihtahwât... -otihtahotahkok," manâ itwêw.

"ââ."

âšay manâ tâpwê mîcisôwak kiyâpac.

"pitamâ wâsa ka-sînitakišânânaw pwâmoš' ohpahoyahk êkâ 'ci-kosikwatiyahk," manâ itwêw ana wêhwêw. 'kwâni manâ mâka tâpw' êtôtahkik ê-sînitakišêcik.

ašay manâ mâka wayêš ê-'ti-âpihtâ-tipiskâk, âšay manâ w'wênikâpawiwak⁶ kê-tôtahkik, ê-..., mêkwâc ê-pimihnâcik.

âšay manâ kakêskimâkaniwan wîsakêcâhk: "mihcêt ka-wâpamânawak ininiwak ê-p'm'paniyahk," manâ itwêw ana wêhwêw kâ-nîkânît. "'kâwina mâka wîskâc ohc'-îtâpi," manâ itâkaniwan wîsakêcâhk. "'kâwina wîskâc ohc'-îtâpi kâ-tatawêhtahkik. nêtê piko kâ-itâpiyan..., nêtê piko kâ-išihnâyin itâpi," manâ itâkaniwan.

"êhê," manâ itwêw.

âšay manâ tâpwê.

"pitamâ ka-kicistâpâwan'tisonânaw pwâmoši kihcipaniyahk," manâ itwêw ana wêhwêw kâ-nîkânît. 'kwâni manâ mâka tâpw' ê-tôtahkik: kicistâpâwanêwak omîkwâniwâwa. pahpawipanihêwak miconi 'ti-wâpiskisicik' mêkwâc ê-pim'pan'cik. âšay manâ ohpahôwak, '-tipiskânik. išpimihk manâ mâka pim'paniwak.

âšay manâ 'ti-wâpan'nik. âšay manâ pêhtawêwak ininiwa. kê-inikohk mâka kitahokowak.

"'kâwina, 'kâwina itâpi," manâ itâkaniwan wîsakêcâhk. "nêtê piko itâpi kâ-itohtêyin," manâ itâkaniwan.

'kwâni manâ tâpw' êtôtahk. nâspic manâ w'-îtâpiw antê capašîš ..., wî-wâpamêw awênihkâna kâ-itwêhkâson'c'. âšay manâ kêtahtawin môna pisiskên'tam tâpw' ê-itâpit capašîš.

âšay manâ piko matê-pâskiswâkaniwan.

'kwâni manâ êši-pahkišihk. kaskatahtahkwanêhwâkaniwan. k'-ênikohk manâ mâk' otâmišin.

kâ-iškwâ-pahkišihk manâ wêhci-pasikot; k'-âti-pimohtêt manâ.

7 'kwâni mâka 'kâ⁸ wîskâci-wêhci-nipahišihk êwako wêhwêwak⁹ itwâniwan, wîsakêcâhk anim' ê-kî-tôtamokopanê. ê-pâskisocik mâka wêhwêwak môna "Tonight? Why not ..., why not in the daytime?" asked Weesakechahk.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

"So that at night we won't be seen by anyone. For many people will bother us while we're flying," he said. "People will call us. We will be shot at; but we'll sure fly away high up, where the shots won't reach th..., reach us," he said.

"O-oh," [replied Weesakechahk].

Now they really tucked away more food.

"First of all we shall purge ourselves right out before we take off, so we won't be heavy," said the wavey. And so that's what they did, they cleaned themselves right out.

Now then, as it was getting to be about midnight, they lined up in position, the way they would do in ..., while they were flying.

And now Weesakechahk was given instructions: "We shall see a great many people as we fly along," said the leader wavey. "Don't ever look about," Weesakechahk was warned. "Don't ever look about where they call. Just in the direction you're looking ..., just look in the direction you're flying," he was told.

"Yes," he replied.

Now they were all set.

"First we'll wash ourselves before we set off," said the leader wavey. And that's what they proceeded to do: they washed their feathers. They beat their wings so they would be good and white while they were flying. And then they took off at night. They went along high up.

Now the dawn began to break. They heard people. The people were calling them as hard as they could.

"Don't, don't look around," Weesakechahk was told. "Look only in the direction where you're going," he was warned.

That's what he did. But he wanted very much to look down below, – he wanted to see who was making the call. And then suddenly, he didn't notice that he was actually looking down.

At that point he was shot at from away in the distance.

Then at that he fell. His wing was broken. He fell and struck the earth as hard as he could.

After falling then, he stood up; then he began to walk.

And that, they say, is why that wavey goose never kills himself falling, because Weesakechahk is supposed to have done that.

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

XAVIER SUTHERLAND

wîskâc nipahišinwak. môšak pasikôwak kâ-'škwâ-pahkišihkwâwi. 'kwâni piko êskwâpihkêyâk.

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

Text Twenty

When waveys are shot, they never fall dead. They always get up whenever they have fallen.

That is the length of the story.

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