nâpêw kâ-kî-wêpiškâtât kôna

pêyakwâ manâ mîna wêskac nîšiwâkopan manâ oškinîkiwak. pêyakwâ manâ mâk' ê-pipohk, ana pêyak ošîm'mâw¹ kî-sîhkaciw. 'kwâni manâ mâka kâ-ati-nipit anim' ê-kî-sîhkacit; 'kwâni tâpwê kâ-iši-kawacît pêyakwâ '-pipon'nik.

êko manâ mâka ana kâ-ostêsimâwit môna nâspic ohci-minwên'tam anim' ê-k'-îhkininik. kî-kisiwâsiw manâ. kî-pakwâtam anim' ê-k'-îhtin'ci ošîma.

êko manâ mâk' ê-'ti-sîkwan'nik, k'-âti-tihkisot kôn, ê-wâpamât manâ mâka anim' ê-'šinâkosin'ci, kî-n'tawâpamêw êy-apin'ci.

"nah, êko mâka ê-kakwâtakinâkosiyan," manâ itêw.

'kwâni manâ kâ-'ši-wêwêpiškâtât anih kôna, ê-kî-kišiwâhikot.

"kîna nâ kâ-kî-sîhkatimat nišîm?" manâ itêw. "êh ..., mâtih nîna, pêci-sîhkatimin," manâ itêw anihi kôna.

wêhci-naškwawašihikot manâ mâk' anihi kôna: "êškwâ isa ka-pêci-mawâpîstâtin mîna pipohkê," manâ itikow.

sêkimikow manâ mâk' anim' ê-ytikot.

âšay manâ mâka mêkwâc anim' ê-'ti-nîpininik, kwayask manâ mitoni kî-wawênîw, ê-kiskên'tahk tâpwê' ci-pêci-n'tawâpamikot mîna pipon'nikê ..., mîna 'ci-wâpamikot.

misiwê manâ mâwac kâ-... kâ-wahkêwâskitêniki mihta kî-mâwacihtâw, mihcêt kî-mâwacihtâw. misiwê mâka nêsta tahto-pimiy, awiyâšîši-pimiy. misiwê kîy-asawatâw askihkohk. pîhtikomihk mâka kîy-astâw.

ašay manâ mâka mîn' ê-'ti-pipon'nik, âšay man' âti-mikwaškâtên'tam.
"âšay mîna wîpac n'ka-pêci-n'tawâpamik kôn," manâ itên'tam.

âšay manâ tâpwê, mâwac kâ-iši-tahkâyâk, wêhci-pêhtawênahk² man' âwênihkân pêyakwâ ê-apit ...³ ê-'ti-tipiskânik. wêhci-pîhtokwêt manâ kôn kâ-'šinâkosit ininiw.

otiškotêm ana piko 'kwâni wâ-'šiy-âstawêpan'nik.

wîpac manâ sîkwêpahâhtam nip... pimîniw. 'kwâni mâk' êši-pasitêpanik anima pimiy. mêkwâc manâ mâk' ant' ê-kîy-apit ana ..., ana ininiw, 'kwâni manâ wâ-'šiy-âstawêpan' anim' êškotêw tašinê. tašinê manâ mâka, mâka macostêham omihtima mêkwâc ant' ê-apin'c'.

kêka manâ mâka, kêka kîy-at'..., kêkât kîy-ati-tihkisow ana kôn ê-apit, miton' ê-kisisâwêt.

'kwâni manâ n'tawâc kâ-iši-pasikot ana nâpêw kôna kâ-išinâkosit. "êko

The man who kicked away the snow

Once upon a time long ago there used to be, it would seem, two young men. At one point in the winter, one of the younger brothers got a chill. At that point, chilled through as he was, he was approaching death; then one winter he actually froze to death.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

So that older brother was not much pleased at what had happened. He was angry. He did not like what had befallen his younger brother.

2 So then as spring drew on, when the snow had begun to melt, as he saw the way it looked then, he went to see it as it lay there.

"See here, you look a miserable sight," he said to it.

Then he kicked that snow around, in his anger at it.

"Is it you who chilled my young brother?" he said to it. "Well..., here am I, come and chill me," he said to the snow.

All of a sudden the snow answered him: "Just wait, I'll come and visit you again next winter," it said to him.

He was frightened then at its speaking to him like that.

Now then, during the course of that summer, he made proper and thorough preparations, knowing that it would certainly come to see him the next winter ..., that it would see him again.

He gathered all the logs which ... which burn most easily, he gathered a great many. Also every kind of grease, animal grease. He put it all in a pail. And he set it inside the house.

And now as winter drew on again, now he began to worry. "Soon now the snow will be coming to see me again," he thought.

Now then sure enough, when it was at its coldest, someone sitting at one point suddenly heard footfalls ..., as night came on. Suddenly there came in a person who looked like snow.

His fire was about to go out right away.

He quickly poured wat..., grease on it. Right away the grease flared up. But while that ..., that person sat there, the fire kept wanting to go out all the time. And all the time again and again he threw his logs into the fire while the other one sat there.

But then at last, at last he began ..., that snow very nearly began to melt as it sat there, as he put on full heat.

Then that man who looked like snow stood up. "So that's it," then he said.

XAVIER SUTHERLAND

wâs' âni," manâ itwêw. "êko wâs' ân' ê-kî-šâkocihiyan," manâ itwêw, "êkwâni n'tawâc 'ci-kîwêyân," manâ itwêw. "môna mîna ka-mikwaškâcihitin," itikow.

'kwâni k'-ât'-îši-wanawît.

'kwâni mâka tâpw' ê-kî-paskinawât anihi kôna, môna mîna wîskâc ohci-mikwaškâcihikow.

'kwâni piko êskwâpihkêyâk.

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

Text Twenty-Three

"So that's it, since you've overcome me, then I'd better go home," he said. "I won't trouble you again," he said to him.

At that he began to go outside.

And then indeed, having got the better of that snow, he was never again bothered by it.

That's the length of this story.