Text Thirty-Four

ê-'nâtawimôswâniwahk kwêtipawahikani-sîpîhk

pêyakwâ '-kîšikâk ê-'nâtawimôswêyâhk, pêyak ililiw ê-..., ê-wîcêwak, kêšîciwanohk ohci sîpîhk kwêtipawahikan kâ-icikâtêk ê-iši-'natawimôswêyâhk, êko mâka, ê-'ti-p'miškâyâhk kêkât n'î-pêhtawâw² môs nôhcimihk, "mhaa, mahaham," ê-'twêhkâsot.

êko mâka, môna pêhtawêw ana kâ-cîmak.

n'kosko-wêpiškên mâka cîman apišîš 'ci-kiskên'tahk âšay môsw' ê-pêci-nôkosin'ci.

êko mâka kâ-kipihcîyâhk anta.

ispî mâka, ê-pêci-matâpêt ana môs, kî-pêci-pahkopêw. kî-kipihcîw mâk' anta.

êko mâka kâ-mâci-pâskiswakiht, môsasiniy' pâskisikan'⁴ êy-âpacihtâyâhk.

kêka mâka kî-kisiwâsiw êkâ ê-nipahakiht, ê-mišwakiht, êkâ mâkah mâš' ê-pahkišihk. êko kâ-kîšihtât ê-kihcipahtât têtâwakâm sîpîhk, ê-misaskênâk anâwis êy-âpihtawipênik kêkât wîyaw.

êko mâka kâ-nawahwakiht. nâspic k'-êlikohk ê-'miškâyâhk, kêk' âwasitê kîy-ati-nâwinâkosiw, ispîš ê-'spîhcipaliyâhk nînanân.

êko mâka kêkah, mîna kâ-... kâ-wî-sêskipahtât nôhcimihk iši.

êko mîna kâ-kihcihtâ'hk5 ê-pâhkiswakiht. môna mâka

n'kîy-ohci-nipahânân 'nta mêkwâc ê-nôkosit. ispî mâka, ê-'ti-liskipalit lîpisîhk, kêkât n'k'-îši-pâskisikân ê-'ti-koškopaliki lîpisîya.

êkwâni mâka kâ-ohci-..., kâ-ohci-pahkišihk nipîhk iši.

Moose-hunting on the Kwetabohigan River

One day as we were moose-hunting, as ..., as I was accompanying a certain person from Albany Post on the river which is called Kwetabohigan, as we were hunting moose there, well then, as we were beginning to paddle, I just barely heard a moose in the forest, making the sound, "mhaa, mahaham."

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

Then, however, the person with whom I was canoeing didn't hear him.

I rocked the canoe a little, so he would know that a moose was coming into sight.

2 So then we stopped there.

But when that moose came out of the bush, he waded into the water. But he stopped there.

And then we began to shoot him, using moose-shot in the guns.

At last, however, he got angry since we were not killing him, but were wounding him, though he was not falling. So he finished by running away in mid-stream in the river where there was hardly any bottom with almost half his body in the water.

And so we went after him. As we paddled for all we were worth, finally he began to draw further away faster than we were travelling.

And then at last, once more he was ..., was going to run ashore again towards the bush.

So we again started shooting at him. But we did not kill him there while he was in sight. When, however, he began to disappear into the willows, I shot him almost as the willows began to sway.

And it was then that he suddenly ..., he suddenly fell into the water.