cahkâpêš nêsta mâka mistâpêskwêwak

pêyakwâ 'sa wêskac ê-..., cahkâpêš išinihkâtâkaniwinokopan ililiw. ê-papâmohtêt mâka, kî-nîšo-tašîhkêwak mâka pik' ômis' awa cahkâpêš.

papâmohtêw mâk' ana: papâpilâškâw '-papân'tawihot nêsta. kêka manâ wti pêhtawêw 'wê'hkâna ê-matêy-âtahikêl'ci ê-'tihtah'... itohtêw mâk' antê kâ-'ši-matêy-âtahikâniwanilik manâ wtih. wâpamêw kêkât mic..., mištâpêškwêšiša nîšo ê-matê-mâtahwâlici amisk'-wayân' ê-kišêpâyâlik wîpac.

êko manâ wti nêt' ê-wâpamât, kîmôc antê n'tawâp'mêw. kêka wâpamikow mâka, ê-..., ê-pêci-n'tawâpamât kîmôc ê-pêci-n'tawâpamât.

âyâkowiyâskošimow mâka.

kêka pêšoc nawac ant' ê-'htât, nîpawiw anta mistikohk, ê-mîskwâskošimot. kanawâpamikow mâk' anihi apistâpê...¹ anihi mistâpêskwêwa ... mistâpêskwêšiša. êko manâ wtih, ê-'htôtawât ana, sâkasâkinam² manâ wti 'nimêliw 'cayâniš³ antê 'na mistâpêw mi..., an' cahkâpêš.

êko manâ wtih pâhpiwak nâh'c êl'oh' ôki mistâpêskwêšišak.

"kêkwâ'hkân ani kâ-pâhpihtâyin?" itikowak mâk' êkw ôkišê'skwêmiwâwa. antê pîhc' îhtâliwa 'kâwiwâwa mîk'wâmihk.

"wîskacâniš ana kâ-pâhpihakiht," itwêwak man' at'. "'kihtakihtaholêw anihi watoya. mamaskamitowak mâka, ani wêhci-pâhpihakiht. niwîyasinawânânak," itêw.

âšay manâ wti mîna nânâkêh ..., âšay mîn' ê'kwân' ê-'htôtahk awa. pêci-sâkipalihtwâw antê otayân, pêci-sâkinam man' ot', ê-sâsâkikâpawit.

âšay manâ wtih mîna pâhpiwak nâ'c êl'oh' ôki mistâpêskwêšišak.

4 âšay manâ wtih awa kišê-iskwêw, kîmôc itâpiw antê pîhtikom ohcih mîk'wâmihk. kanawâpamêw manâ wtih kîmôc.

wâpamêw anihi cahkâpêš' ê-pêc'-sâsâkâskonamil'ci antê mistikohk ê-nîpawil'ci.

ê'kwâni m'na wt' êši-walawîpalit awa kišê-mistâpêskwêw. mâkwanêw okaškamâlîhk anihi cahkâpêša. pîhtokwê-wêpinêw manâ wti o..., wîkihk.

5 mêkwâc mâka kî-kîšinawasokopan, ê ..., amisk' ê-kîšinawasot

Chahkabesh and the giant women

Once upon a time long ago as ..., there was a person supposed to have been named Chahkabesh. As he was travelling about, this Chahkabesh and his older sister lived just the two of them together.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

That one [Chahkabesh] walked about; he wandered about hunting here and there too. Finally then he heard someone making a noise scraping moose-hide as he imagined. He went over to where there was a noise of hide being scraped. He saw then almost ent..., two giant girls making a noise scraping beaver skins very early in the morning.

So then, when he saw them away over, he stealthily sneaked up on them there. At last, however, he was seen by them as ..., as he came sneaking up, as he came stealthily sneaking up on them.

But he kept ducking behind the trees.

At last when he was getting pretty close, he stood there at a tree, standing behind the tree. But he was watched by the small gian..., that giant woman ..., giant girl. So then, as he was doing that to them, that giant ..., that Chahkabesh kept sticking out [from behind the tree] that little thing of his [his penis].

So then these giant girls laughed very hard.

"What's that that you're laughing at?" their old woman said to them. Their mother was there inside the tent.

"It's that little whiskey-jack that we're laughing at," they said. "He keeps on carrying off that clot. But they keep stealing it from each other, which is why we're laughing at him. They look funny to us," she said to her.

Now then a little bit later – then he started doing that again. He came and quickly poked his thing out there, he came and stuck it out then, standing with his body showing every now and then.

Now then these giant girls laughed again for all they were worth.

Now then this old woman peeked about stealthily there from inside in the tent. She watched him then stealthily.

She saw that Chahkabesh come sticking it out in the open every now and then as he stood there by the tree.

Right away then that old giant woman ran out in a hurry. She seized that Chahkabesh by the scruff of the neck. She threw him into her ..., her tent.

Meanwhile, however, she must have been cooking for herself, uh...,

Text Fifty-Six

mistaskihkohk. ê'kwâ' man' ot' êši-pîhci-wêpinât anta otaskihkoh' anihi, cahkâpêša.

kwâcistak! manâ wti, kâ-kînikwânâciwasot manâ 't' wîla cahkâpêš.

"kanawâpamihk, mâ, cahkâpêš," itêw manâ wtih

kâ-k'-antê-misiwê-'tahil'ci5 anih otânisa, ocawâšimiša nêsta.

kâ-kîn'kwânâciwasot m'na wt', nâš'c êlik' kwâškwâškwêyâciwosow! "misiwê kanawâpamihk. pêšoc itiskwêlik," itêw m'nâ wt'.

âšay manâ wtih misiwê 'ti-'yâkosikâpawiwak ant' askihkohk. kêtahtawêl, manâ wtih cahkâpêš ohciy-ošawêyâkam'palihow manâ wtih. misiwê manâ wt', êyahâw, kipotâmaswêw anihi ê-kanawâpamikot anta. 'kwân' ê-'š'-otihtapipalihât anihi askihkw' anta, mostaskamik anta, pîhci mîk'wâmihk. 'kwân' manâ 't' êtapit anta.

"'kwân' êši-mâtahcikêyân," itwêw manâ 't'. "nimowâw an' amisk," itwêw manâ 'tih.

7 "kêka wêhci-pêci-... pêhtê... pîhtokwêt 'ê'hkân,"⁶ itwêw manâ 't'. "pîht... pêtwêwêšinwak," itwêw manâ wti, "ôk' ôti mistâpêwak."

"'kwâni manâ wt' êši-mâci-otatâmahwâcik anihi askihkwa," 'twêw manâ 'ti, "kâ-'ši-pîhcišiniyân," 'twêw manâ 't'h.

"môla nêsta kî-kwêtipahwêwak anihi n'taskihkwa," itwêwak manâ 't'.
"n'mîtison kiyâpac manâ 'ti. kêka micon' ati-nânapakahwêwak anihi
n'taskihkwa," itwêw manâ 't'. "n'tôhci-walawî-kwâškwatin ant' askihkohk.
niwalawîpahtân," itwêw man' ot'.

"'apiscililîš' êcik' âwa kâ-tôtahk,' n'tikwak," itwêw manâ 'tih.

"ê'kwân' êši-kihcipahtâyân, ninâsipêpahtân mêskanâhk," itwêw 'na 't'h. "n'kîwêpahtân," itwêw m'na 't'h.

"n'tayamihik nimis ê-'ti-pîhtokwêyân," itwêw m'na 't'h. "âšay oš' âwa wîl' âwa mîna wayêš k'-îšilawîtokwê, awa kâ-tôtah' n'tik," itwêw ma' 't'.

"môla n'k'-îton," itwêw mana 'tih. "n'tatimapin," itwêw mana 'tih. "kîmôc nipâhpihâw nimis," itwêw mana 'tih. "n'kiskêlimik mâka wayêš ê-'šilawîyân," 'twêw mana 't'.

ê'kwân' êskwâk.

cooking a beaver in a big pot. Then she quickly tossed that one, Chahkabesh, into her pot there.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

My Goodness, though! Chahkabesh, for his part, spun around boiling.

"See, look at Chahkabesh," she said to all those daughters of hers who were there, and her children as well.

He spun around while boiling, bouncing up and down like anything while he boiled. "All of you look at him. Put your faces close," she said to them then.

Now then they all began to crane their necks there at the pot. All at once, Chahkabesh quickly churned the water brown. Then all of them, uh, he smothered those ones with steam as they looked at him there. Then he quickly overturned that pot there, on the bare ground inside the wigwam. So then there it sat.

"So then I start eating," he said. "I'm eating that beaver," said he.

7 "At last somebody is come ..., heard ..., probably came in," he said. "The footsteps of these giants can be heard," he said.

"So then they're beginning to bang away at that pot," he said, "where I'm lying inside."

"They can't pry that pot of mine over either," they said. "I'll eat some more then. At last they're beginning to flatten out completely that pot of mine," he said. "I'll jump out from the pot there. I'll dash out," he added.

8 "'It's a little person who's doing this,' they said of me," he said.

"So then I'll quickly run away, I'll come down the bank on the path," he said. "I'll run home," he said then.

"My older sister talked to me as I began to go in," he said. "I'm sure he must have been up to some mischief, this one who did it, she told me," he added.

"I didn't say anything," he said. "I had my back towards her," he went on. "I secretly laughed at my older sister," he added. "She knew though that I'd been up to something," he said.

This is the length [of the story].