## wêskac ê-iši-pimâtisinâniwahk

- now, nîštam ililiwak wêskat êši-pimâtisicik ê-wî-kakwê-p'mâcihocik nôhcimihk ê-n'tahokocik, pišišik mîcim kî-mîciwak môla kêkwân wêmistikôšîwi-mîcim, piš'šik mîcim, môla nêsta tîy. misiwê kêkwân piko kâ-nipahtâcik mîcisôwak. mistahi mâka mîcîpanak mîcim ispîš wîla anohc kâ-tôcikâtêk ê-mîcisonâniwahk. êko, nêsta nîla n'kî-ihtân antê nawac ê-awâš'šîwiyân, nôhcimihk. âskaw kêkât n'kî-kawahkatânân, micon' ê-kitimâkisiyâhk ê-mîciyâhk, piko wâpoš, môla kêkwân pimiy, misiwê ôma kâ-k'-îhtiyâhk. âtiht ililiwak kî-kawahkatêwak. kî-kawahkatêwak ililiwak nôhcimihk nêtê. môla miskawâkaniwinwak.
- êko, êko kî-..., kî-..., kî-nipahêpanak mâka âskaw atihkwak,¹ mihcêt nipahêpanak atihkwa âskaw, ê'kwâni wêhci-pimâtisiyâhkipan. êko mâka, kêka n'kî-miskawânânak ê-kawahkatêcik ililiwak. n'kiskêlimâwak tân' êšinihkâsocik ôk' îliliwak kâ-kawahkatêcik. êko n'kî-kocihtânân 'ci-pimâcihakihcik. môl' âta wê...² 'mwâci pêyak kîy-ohci-...
  -nâspici-kawahkatêwak.³ n'kî-'šamânânak. êko, wêskac mâk' awas'tê, awasitê kî-kawahkatêpanak ililiwak. âskaw misiwê nipîpanak ê-kawahkatêcik. pêyak piko iskôpan.⁴ môla kî-kawahkatêw pêyak. êko pakwantaw n'taw'-papâmohtêw, tâpiskôc, ah, wîhtikôw ê-ytakimâkaniwit. êkwâni, mm ..., êkwâni môla wîskâc kî-nipiw, pakwantaw ê-papâmohtêt nôhcimihk.
- âskaw mâka otihtêpan ililiwa, ê-..., ê-wî-kakwê-n'šiwanâcihât. môla mâka k'-îtôtawêpan. êko 'sa mâka ililiw ê-yhtât, ê-kišê-'l'lîwit, ê-mitêwit mâka ..., ê-mitêwit il... aw' ililiw. êkwân' êši-mâhkwapitahk ostikwân, tâpiskâkan kâ-mihkosit. êkwâni ê-'šiy-ohpipalit nêtê yšpimihk, êko wî-..., wîhtikôwa nôspinêhokow. wâlaw nêtê n'taw'-pakitinêw ôhi wîhtikôwa, aw' ililiw kâ-mitêwit. êko mîna pêci-kîwêpaliw aw' ililiw. pêci-pahkišin ant' êškwâhtêmihk. êko misiwê tipâcimow tântê kâ-išiwilât ôhi wîhtikôwa. êko mâka kî-... kotakiy' ililiw' ê-wtihtât ôhi..., awa wîhtikôw, ê'kot' ân'a kâ-nipahikot ôh' îliliwa.
- êko mâka, pâskisikan 's' âyâpanak piko pêyakwâhtik ê-matwêtêk pâskisikan êyâwak ililiwak anima išpîš. môl' êškwâ kâ-milwâšihki pâskisikan' êyâpanak. êko mâka, pêyakwâhtik pâsk'swêw. môla, môla, môla šawahwêw. êko mâka mîna ocipitam pôpâs'sikan, êkâ kî-..., êkâ kêkwân ê-pîhcitihk, êkâ '-pîhcipihkwâtahk. pâskisikêw kiyâpat êkâ '-pîhcitihk anta

## Life in the old days

- Now, the way people used to live at first long ago as they tried to make a living hunting in the bush, they ate nothing but country food, no White-Man's food, just country food, no tea either. They ate only whatever they killed. They use to eat a lot of food as much as what is now usual to eat. Well then, I was there too in the bush when I was fairly young. Sometimes we almost starved, poor as we were in foodstuffs, only rabbit, nothing fat, all this happened to us. Some people starved. People starved away off in the bush. They were not found.
- Then, but then sometimes they used ..., used ..., used to kill caribou, sometimes they killed many caribou, that's what we used to live on. So then, finally we found people starving. I knew the names of these people who were starving. So we tried to rescue them. Nonetheless there was hardly any ..., not even one was really starving. We fed them. So, longer ago though, the people used to starve more. Sometimes they would all die of starvation. Only one would be left. One couldn't starve; so he went walking aimlessly about, considered as, ah a windigo. Then, one, mm ..., then he could never die, walking about aimlessly in the bush.
- But sometimes he would come up to a person, be..., because he wanted to try to destroy him; but he was unable to do it to him. But then there was a man, an old person, and a conjuror ... a conjuring per... this person. So he wrapped his head up in a red kerchief. Then he rose away up high so the win... windigo followed him. He took this windigo far off, this person who conjured. Then this person came back again. He came and fell in the door. Then, he told all where he had carried off this windigo. So then he ..., as this windigo came to some other Indians, these ..., that's where he got killed by these Indians.
- So then, they used to have as a gun only the single-shot gun ... the people had up to that point. They didn't yet have the good guns. So then, he fired one shot at him. He didn't ... didn't ... didn't harm him. So then again he pulled the gun, even though ..., even though there was nothing in it, even though he hadn't loaded it. He shot again although

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

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kêkwân. êko picêlak nipahêw.<sup>7</sup> miconi tâtwahwêw ê-'spihcikitit wîyawilîhk, ôhi wîhtikôw.<sup>8</sup> ê'kot' âni mâk' êši-..., kišipipalit ana wîhtikôw. ê'kotê 'ni êhtiwâspan wêskac-ililiwak tânta wêhcîspan,<sup>9</sup> ôki ililiwak kâ-kawahkatêt,<sup>10</sup> pêyak iskopalîpan. môla kî-kawahkatêw. a, ah. ê'kwâni mâk' êskwâk anima. Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

Text Fifty-Nine

not a thing was in it there. Then at that point he killed him. He ripped him completely, the full length of his body, this windigo. And that was the ... end of that windigo.

That's how the old-time people used to be, originally; when these people starved there was always one left. He couldn't starve. A, ah!

And that is the length of that story.