ê-nipahihcik ililiwak, ê-mowihcik mâka

a, a..., ôki nîšow ililiwak kâ-kî-tôtahkik ôhtâwiya ê-wîcêwât, kî-..., kî-nipahêwak ililiwa nîšitana piponwa anim' êšpihc¹ kî-tôtawêwak pwâmoši kotakiya kâhcitinikocik ililiwa. êko, êko kî-papânîšiwak iskani-pipon. môla kiskêlimikoliwa ililiwak ê-nipahâcik ililiwa, ê-mowâcik mâka. piko mâka wanihâkanawîpanak ililiwak mêšikwan' pipon.

pâtimâ ê-pêci-mâhahkik, ê-sîkwahk² ê-'škwâ-n'tawihocik, êko picêlak mwêhc' îliliw mâk' itêl'htâkosiwak êsp..., ôk' îl'liwak ôma kâ-tôtahkik. kâ-nipahâcik wîc'-îl'liwâw', môla kiskêlimâkaniwanwak ôma ê-tôtahkik ê-pipohk. êko mâka ê-nîpihk mwêhci kwayask il'liwak itêl'htâkosiwak.

- êko mâka, kî-..., kêka kî-miskawêwak ililiwa ê-kawahkatêl'ci; êko, kî-âtawêlimêwak mâka. wêsâ kawahkatêwak; môla kî-mowêwak. êko, kî-nân'tawihow a..., oškinîkiw. môla kišê-'l'liw nân'tawihow, piko oškinîkiw. êko, pêyakotênaw kî-miskawêw ililiwa. êkwân' ê-pêši-nipahât misiwê. êkw iškwêšisa nîšo kî-pêtiwatêw ant' êliliwa kâ-'ši-kawahkatêl'ci, ê-pêci-mîlât ôma, ililiwa iskwêšiša nîšo. pêci-pitihkwahtin anta kêkwân iškwâhtêmihk walawîtim. êko itêw, "anihi iškwêšisa anta ihtâliwa kotakiya," awa, awa kišê-'liliw.
- mayêw isa wîhtikôw kišê-'l'liw, ililiw piko. êko, "ocipita, ocipit' ânima mîwat," itêw ôh' îškwêšiša. "n'nahâhkaniskwêmê," itêw, "'cipita. pasiko, 'šipaliho." ana iškwêšiš ocipitam. kawahkatêw mâka âpihta. wêhci-pêci-sâkistikwânêpalit 'škwêšiš. kwâcistak! êkwân' êši-sêk'sicik nâsic. m'coni môla kiskêl'htamwak kê-itêl'h... tâcikwê[wak]. mâtôwak misiwê ê-wâpamâcik ililiw' ê-pêci-pîhtokwêpit... -ocipitâcik.

"wa," itwêw. "'kâwila sêk'sik," itwêw ana kišé-l'liw. "môla wês' âni môšak anima n'tiši-mîcisonân. piko âskaw," itwêw. "êko mâka mîna kata-n'tawôhôw⁷ n'kosis wâpahkê," itêw. "êko mâka, ka-nipahtamâkowâw mîcim," itêw. "nîlanân mâka, n'ka-'îkatêsinân ôta ohc'," îtêw.

éko, êko tâpwê n'tawihow mîna aw' ê-kišêpâyâk ôškinîkiw,⁸ okosisa kišê-'l'liw. êko, ê..., pêyak môswa nipahêw. âšay pêtiwatêw ôhi môswa. wîwašiw piko, ê-'spîhci-maškawît. pêyak môs, ê-mišikitit. pêci-pitihkwahtin mîn' anta mîwat.

"hâw, n'nahâhkaniskwêm. ocipita mîwat," itêw.

People killed and eaten

Uh, uh ..., what these two people did as he went with his father, they kill..., killed people for a period of twenty years, they did it to them before they were caught by other Indians. So, they were together wherever they went all winter long. The people did not know about them that they were killing Indians and eating them. It was just [they noticed] that the people were being lost every winter.

Bye and bye as they were coming down by canoe in the spring when they were finished hunting, then at that point these people appeared exactly like an Indian ..., these people who did this. The ones who killed their fellow Indians were not known to be acting this way in the winter. And so in the summer they were considered as quite proper people.

- So then, th..., at last they found people who were starving; so, but they rejected them. They were starving too much; they could not eat them. So, they hunted around, uh..., the young man. The old man didn't hunt around, just the young man. So, he found one family of people. Then he killed them all. Then he carried home on his back two girls of the people who were starving there, giving them this thing, two people, girls. There was a noise of something falling there at the door outside. So this, this old man said to them: "There's one other girl there."
- The old man was, of course, not a windigo, only a person. So, he said to this girl: "Pull it, pull that bag, Daughter-in-law," he said to her. "Pull it. Stand up. Jump up quickly!" That girl tugged it. She was half-starved. All of a sudden a girl popped her head out. My goodness! At that point they became very frightened. They had no idea what to thi..., they screamed. They all wept at seeing the people as they dragged ... pulled them in.

"O-o-oh!" she said. "Don't be frightened," said the old man. "We don't necessarily always eat like that. Only sometimes," he said. "So then, my son will hunt again tomorrow," he added. "And then he'll kill some meat for you," he told her. "But as for us, we'll get away from here," he said to her.

So, so indeed this youth, the old man's son, hunted again in the morning. Then, uh ..., he killed one moose. Now he brought back this moose on his back. He just carried him, he was so strong. One moose, a big one. Again the bag resounded loudly there.

"Now then, Daughter-in-law, pull the bag," he said to her.

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môla kaškipitam, môswa wêhci-pêci-... [laughs] ê-misiwêsit môswa, ê-wîwašit mâka. êko's' âni mâ' kâ-'ši-nakatâcik anta. pahkân nêtê wîlawâw k'-îtohtêwak wâlaw.⁹ "pitamâ 'ci-... ta-âhcikwêwak," ¹⁰ itwâsowak.

- êko kišê-'l'liw, kâ-kî-nipahtamâht môswa, âšay kîšinawêw. misiwê kîsiswêw môswa ê-'tikitit.¹¹ êk' omistatay¹² mâka môswa ..., kikiskêl'htên omistatay môswa ... ê'kot' ânta ê-k'-îši-..., -kîšponahtât môškamiy, misiwê môškamiy; misiwê kîsiswêw môswa ê-'tikitit. êko ispîy ôma kâ-iškwâ-'tôtahk, kâ-'škwâ-mîcisocik misiwê, âšay ê-milomahcihocik, êko nikamow êlikohk awa kišê-'l'liw. hêlikohk nikamow. n'totamâw êlikohk k'ci-kimiwahk. mêkwât mâka mêkwâ-pipon, nâš'c natotamâw 'ci-kimiwahk. tâpwê êlikohk kimiwan. êko, kâ-iškwâ-kimiwahk êlikohk, êko n'totamâw mîna micon' 'ci-wâsêskwahk, 'ci-âhkwatihk. êko, kihtohtêwak, môla kiskêl'...¹³ môla nôkwan omêskanâwâw tânt' êši-kihtohtêcik. kwayêsk lâlih kihcikamîhk itohtêwak.
- êko nâspic, mâwac kâ-iš'-îšpacistihk¹⁴ mihtâliw (kikiskêlimâw mihtâliw, drift-snow ê-mišikitit), êkotê 'ni kâ-ši-wâtihkêcik nêtê. wîkiwâw kî-'šihtâwak atâmihk kônihk. êkot' âni kâ-ihtâcik misiwê, 'n'ma mîcim ant' êtê. êko môla kiskêlimêwak ôki, ispîy ê-nân'tawâpamâcik ôki, awa kâ-nipahiwêt. môla kiskêl'htamwak tânt' ê-'htâl'ci.
- êko ê-'ti-sîkwahk, âšay papâmohtêwak ê-nân'tawâpamâcik. êko mištik âpacihtâwak tânt' ê-tatêlimâcik, ôtê 'tôtamwak. kêkât mâna pakwanêyâw. kêkât mâna pakwanêhamwak kâ-pêci-šîpwâstêpalik mâna mištik antê, antê kêkât ê-pakonêyah'ik. kî-kiskêlimêwak tânt' ê-'š'-îhtâlici. môla piko mwêhci kî-miskawêw.

mî-î-îna mâna p'miwêyâkonêhikêwak ê-cahkahwâcik kôna. môla kî-paskocêhamwak kâ-'š'-îhtâl'ci. êko miconi ê-'ti-nîpihk, ê-..., micon' ê-'ti-nîpihk, kâ-walawîcik anta ohci micon' êkâ ê-'htât kôn, ê-..., kî-pôsiwak.

êko n..., kî-itohtêcik kâ-'ši-n..., -tašîhkêcik. môla 'sa ihtâwin takwan,
'matakwan êškwâ ihtâwin. môla wâskâhikan. pikw îliliwak ihtâwak. êko
mâka kâ-..., kâ-kiskêlimihcik anima, êwakwânihi kâ-mamišimikocik mâk' ôhi,
ôhi kâ-kî-kiht..., -kîtonawâcik antê 'tâmihk kônihk, êwakwânihi
kâ-kî-mišimikocik.

She couldn't budge it because the moose ... [laughs] because it was a whole moose; but yet he had carried it. So then they just left it there. They went separately far away. First so that ... they made as though they would move away.

- Then the old man now cooked the moose which had been killed for him. All of it, big as it was, he cooked. Then the moose's stomach, however ..., you know the moose's stomach ... there is where he ... filled it full of gravy, all the gravy; he cooked the whole moose, big as it was. So when he had finished doing this, after they had all eaten, now since they were feeling good, this old man then sang out lustily. He sang right out. He begged for it to rain hard. Meanwhile, being in the middle of winter, he begged earnestly for it to rain. It really rained hard. Then, after it had rained hard, then he asked for it to be completely clear again, to freeze. So, they went away, they didn't kn... their trail wasn't visible where they went. They went straight alongside the sea.
- So, where the drift bank was very, was highest (you know a drift bank? big "drift-snow"), it was right there that they dug a tunnel. They made their home beneath the snow. And that's where they stayed, all the food being alongside. So these people didn't know, when they were searching about, this one who did the murdering. They did not know where they were.
- So as early spring began, they were already walking about searching for them. So they used a stick where they thought they were; they did it this way. Again and again there was almost a hole through. Repeatedly they almost made a hole where the stick could be discerned coming through there, there as they almost made a hole. They knew where they were. Only he couldn't exactly find them.

Agai-i-n and again they made a noise coming and going on the snow as they poked at the snow. They could not break open where they were. So then as summer was pretty well beginning, uh..., as summer was pretty well beginning, they went out from there since there was hardly any snow, as ..., they travelled away by canoe.

So th... they went to where they w... were living. There was, of course, no settlement, no settlement existed as yet. No house. Only people were there. So then when ..., when they were found out at that time, they were the ones who were informed on by these ones, these ones whom they were un..., whom they were unable to find there beneath the snow, they were the ones who had informed on them.

êko, kî-ništiliwa awa mâka nâpêw okosisa. kî-mîlêw otânisa kici-wîkimâlici ôhi, ôhi oškinîkiwa. êko kâ-n'taw'hocik. âšay wî-nipahêwak, ê-'ti-takwâkihk. âšay tâpwê, âšay n'taw-êškêwak. âšay maškwamiy ihtâw. âšay kišê-'l'liw tipâcimow misiwê kâ-kî-tôtahk, ê-'pit wîkihk. âšay nipahêtokw' ôhi misiw' oškinîkiwa, wîsta' êtêl'htam ..., itêl'htam. misiwê tipâcimow kâ-kî-pêci-tôtahk išpit nîšitana piponwa.

êko kî-..., nêtê mêkwâc ôm' ê-tôtahk ê-n'tôkaminât amiskw' âwa oškinîkiw pêyak, wî-tahkamêw êškaniliw. otâmâskwaham kotak êškaniliw. patahwêw wîstâwa. 'kwân' êši-kwâškwatotât'cik. 15 pêšinâkwan mâka ê-mišâk sâkahikan, nâspic ê-mišâk. êkwâni kâ-mâci-mâšihitocik, 16 môla wîla kêkwân âpac'htâwak, môla môhkomân, 17 pik' ôcihciwâwa. pîliš maskwamiy têtâwakâm mâšihitowak. pêyak âšay miconiy ayêskosiw awa kâ-ostêsimâwit; miconi šâkohikowak ôhi kâ-nipahiwêl'ci wîstâwa. êko mîna kotakiya, kotakiya kwâškwatotawêw âpihta kâ-ohcît. 18 mîna, mîna šâkwêhêw. êkow ispîhci-pakwanêhamwak ôm' ê-'spîhci-mahki-pakwanêyâk kici-têpišihk 'wênihkân ê-pohci-wêpiniht. êkot' âni mâk' âna ô kâ-oškinîkit mâwac' šîm'mâw ..., ê'kwâna kâ-kî-šâkwahât, êkota kâ-pohci-wêpinât.

êko mâka ana m..., n'tâmihk ê-papâmâtakât ôtê, maskwamîhk, miconi tâškipaliw maskwamiy. mîna 's' piko ..., mîna wî-pêci-walawîw ant' ohci; tatâhkamêwak mâka, êškan.¹⁹ kêka môla nôhtâkwan kêkwâ'hkân. êko mâka kâ-nakatahkik. êko k'-âti-kîwêcik.

"êko mâka kâ-n'šiwanâcihakiht, nîstâwinân," itwêw 'wa kišê-'l'liw.

"sôhkatân'²⁰ mâka kiwî-tôtênâwâw, wêhci-kî-n'taw'-êškêyêk,"²¹ itêw awa, awa kišê-'l'liw, ôht..., ôhtâwiya kâ-kî-nipahiht.²²

êko mâka, êko mâka otâmikâtêhwâkaniwin ôta. paskocê-wêpahikâtêliw oskan. opimiy mâk' antê kâ-pîš'tihk²³ wînihk, nisitwâw... saskamoci-wêpilâkaniwin.

"nisitokanêw nâ?"24 itâkaniwan.

"êhê, cikêmân'm, nisitokanêw."

"tântahtôtênaw kâ-mowât ililiw êkâ 'ci-nisitokanêt?" itwêw.

"mihcêtôtênaw kî-mowêw," itwêw. "tântê mâk' êkâ kêy-ohci-nisitokanêt?" itwêw.

"otâmahwâkaniwin cîkah'aniliw ostikwânihk. 'kwân' êši-nipahiht. ê'kwân êši-oh...²⁵ -iskwâsot anta walawîtim.

So then, this man had three sons. He gave his daughter to be wife to this, this young man. So they went hunting. Now they wanted to kill game as fall was beginning. Already in fact, already they were chiselling [for beaver]. Already there was ice there. Now the old man told about all that he had done, as he sat in his tent. He must already have killed all these young men, his brothers-in-law he thought ..., he thought. He told everything that he had done for the previous twenty years.

So he, while this one young man was doing this away off, groping underwater for beaver, he wanted to stab him with the chisel. The other one struck the chisel on the handle. He missed his brother-in-law. Then they jumped on each other. There was a large lake nearby, very large. Then they began to wrestle each other; they didn't use anything, no knife, just their hands. They wrestled each other out to the ice in the middle of the lake. Now one, this older brother, was utterly tired out; the brother-in-law who did the killing was completely overcoming them. Then again he jumped on the other one, the other one, the middle brother. Again, again he got the better of him. Now they made a hole big enough so someone thrown into it would fit. And right there, the one who was the youngest brother ..., that's the one who beat him, and there he threw him in.

Now then, that one who ..., as he was swimming about under the ice this way, the ice was severely cracked. Again, of course, only ... he wanted to come out from there again; but they kept poking away at him with a chisel. At last there was no noise of any kind. Then they left it. Then they began to return home.

"Now then we destroyed him, our brother-in-law," said this old man.

"So that's what you wanted to do, the reason you went to chisel beaver," this one said to him, this old man whose fa..., whose father had been killed.

So then, so then he got clubbed on the leg here. The bone was burst open. The fat, however, which lay inside the marrow, it taste ... he had it thrust into his mouth.

"Has the bone a flavour?" someone said.

"Yes, of course, it has a rich flavour."

"How many families has the man eaten that it shouldn't be rich in flavour?" he said. "He has eaten many families," he went on. "How wouldn't it have a rich flavour?" he said.

"He was hit on the head with an axe. He was killed right there. It was right there he was lif... he was burned there outside. He was entirely

câkâhkaswâkaniwin."

êkot' 'n' âni²⁶ kâ-'ši-câkipalit awa kišê-'l'liw, aw' nêsta okosisa. êkotê kâ-'ši-nipit. nîšitana piponwa mâka ôma kî-tôtam, êkâ '-kiskêlimikot wîc'-îl'liwa. kwayêsk pikw ililiw k'-îtêlimikow. a ah. êkotê 'n' êskwâk mâk' anima.

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

Text Sixty

consumed."

That is where this old man was consumed, this one and his son. That's where he died. Twenty years he carried on this way, unknown to his fellow men. He had always been considered a proper person. Uh-huh.

And there's the length of that [story].