

pakwaciliw

The Bushman

- 1 wēskac éy-awâšišiyân n'kí-kanawélimik ê..., nôhtâwi ispiy êkâ kâ-pimatis! nikawiy òta é..., é-yhtaspan Moose Factory² ey-apaciħat kampaniwa.
- êko mâka mola ohci-pimatisiw n'kâwiwy. n'kí-péti-nâtahokonân mâka nôhtâwi e-kanawélimiyamilt,³ e-nt'awihot nêlë, wâškeyokâw kâ-jisn'kâtëk, kâ-k-iši-otaskispän môšak, e-péci-pimatisit. êko mâka, n'ki-n..., -n'tahêñân mâk' anima sipy, wâškeyokâw'-sipy ê-išin'kâtëk, e-pôsihiyamîht ê-pâmiškât ê-nâtahâhk otseyâna,⁴ e'-stachikot anté.
- 2 êko mâka, m'pêhtawânân 'wéhkân e'-mîškâyhk. maté-otatâm'ham kë'wâhkâniilw. mol' ani wîskât mâka pêhâkwan 'wênhkân wîskât kici-kalakihât. êko mâka maté..., e-twéhiket⁵ [beats a frying pan]. kinwëš mâka nawac otatâmahwêw pîliš mâka n'tati-lâwinâkosinân. kiyâpac maté-otatâmaham, anima, askikhwa,⁶ kékwanâ c'-tihâkwahk [beats frying pan again].⁷
- êko mâka nôhtâwînân n'hitâñân. iškwéšišak mâk' anta kî-nišiwâk e-pôsihât, nila mâka nêsta. êko kî-kóstâciwak ôko kâ-miškiticik iškwéšišak. êko itwéwak: "pakwaciliw 's' âwa kâ-maté-kalakihât."
- "mayew ana pakwaciliw. pakwantaw ani kitithêñawâw. mistikwak wês' ani man' ayamiwak nestâ.⁸ kaškihtâwak wês' an' e'-yam'cik mistikwak." ê'kwâñ' étwêt nôhtâwi.
- (Héñtry sélors mâka k'-fîshinhkâsow awa nôhtâwi.) ê'kwâñi mâk' êtât ôho iškwëšša, otanisa. pêyak mâka kotak iskwëšiš ê..., e-wficewâkanihât ocawâšimiša, e-kaškél'h tamil'ci ohci. kostâciwak mâka ôko ôk' ſkwëšišak.
- êko mâka kâ-péci-mâhamâhk anima sipy. môla mîna ohci-maté-kalakihât. môla n'kí-whci-péhtawânân mîna. ê'kwâñim' ešpiš⁹ kâ-pêhtawakiht. piko e-maté-otatâm'apiskâhikêt.

- 3 (Henry Sailors was my father's name.) And that's all he said to these girls, his daughters. There was one other girl though uh ... who came along as a companion to his children, since she was lonesome. But these girls were frightened.
- So then we came down that river. He didn't make any further noise. We didn't hear him again. It was only at that time that we heard him, drumming away in the distance on metal.

1 Long ago in my childhood I was taken care of as ... by my father when my mother died, as ... as he used to stay here at Moose Factory working for the Company.

So then, my mother died. My father came to get us by canoe to take care of us, since he was hunting away off, at Grassy Bay Creek as it was called, where he always used to have his trapping grounds, while he was alive. So then, we went u... up that river called Grassy Bay River, with him taking us by canoe as he paddled fetching his trapping outfit, caching it there.

2 Well then, we heard someone as we were paddling. He was hitting away at something in the distance. It was never heard of that anyone should ever disturb the quiet. So this is the banging sound which he made [beats a frying pan]. He beat upon it for a long time, but at last we began to get further and further away. He could still be heard in the distance beating it, that thing, – it sounded somewhat as if he were beating on a kettle [beats frying pan again].

So then we told our father. Now there were two girls there that he was taking with him in the canoe, and myself as well. Well then, these two big girls were afraid. So they said: "This is a Bushman for sure who's making that noise in the distance."³

"That's not a Bushman. You imagine you're hearing things. The trees frequently talk too, you know. You know the trees are able to talk." That's what my father said.

3 (Henry Sailors was my father's name.) And that's all he said to these girls, his daughters. There was one other girl though uh ... who came along as a companion to his children, since she was lonesome. But these girls were frightened.

So then we came down that river. He didn't make any further noise. We didn't hear him again. It was only at that time that we heard him, drumming away in the distance on metal.