

mêkwâc e-awâšišiwiyâpân

- 1 mêkwâc ê-'wâšišiwiyân nimis n'kî-kanawêlimik. tayna cam k'-išinihkâsow. ispiy ê-kaškihtâyân ê-wêspitit'soyân êkâ 'okâwiyân, êko mâka, nâspic tâpwê mâna n'kî-âlimisinân, n'k'-itêl'htên, mêkwâc ê-'wâšišiwiyân.
tâpwê kiy-âliman, n'titêl'htên mâna ô..., anohc ê-mâmitonêl'htamân. âskaw môla n'tôhci-ayân kê-pohciskamân maskisina. n'kî-sâsâkilitân. âta nêsta ê-maskamiwâkamihk¹ ê-wâpahtamân, kiyâpat môla n'tôhci-ayân maskisina. n'kî-pahkopân mošê² n'sitihk. âskaw maškošiya n'kî-n'taw'-manipitên, ê-'šikéyân³ êkâ ê-'yâyân kê-pohciskamân âskipôta, mošê piko ê-'pâmâtakâyân kônâpôhk. êko mâka, kî-kitimâkan mâka šâkoc mêkwâc anima, nêsta kî-manêwan mîcim.
- 2 šâkoc mâka nâspic kiy-âhkosiw môšak aw' ililiw kâ-kî-kanawêlimicik.⁴ kiy-âhkosiw awa ililiw⁵ onâpêma, – ânkas cam k'-išinihkâsow.
êko mâka, ê-pôsiyâhk mân' ê-nîpihk ê-nân'taw'-mîcisoyâhk nêtê tâwic,⁶ nîšo mâka awâšiša kî-'yâwêw. kî-nîšo-p'ponêsiw pëyak: êko mâka kotak mâškôc kî-pëyako-'ponêsiw. ôko mâk' awâšišak mâna n'kî-kanawêlimâwak ê-'pâ-n'tawihonâniwahk, 'nâkacihakik.
êko mâka, nila n'kî-wicêwâw nêsta nimis ê-n'tawahot, 'kî-âhkosit awa 'liliw ê-wî-kak'-mâcihakiht,⁷ 'ci-mîcisocik ôko 'wâšišak nêst' aw' ililiw. êkow âliman âskaw ê-pêci-kîwêholakiht aw' ililiw nâspic ê-âhkosit. nîšwâ n'kî-kiskêl'htên ê-kî-pêci-kîwêholakiht ôt' ê-pêšiwakiht, ministikohk. nêtê m'pap..., ê-'pâ-nân'taw'-mîcisoyâhk anima kâ-ihtit mâkah.
- 3 mîna mâka n'kî-pôsihtân pëyakwâ. êko nêtê kâ-iši-ciméyâhk,⁸ *North, North Bluff*,⁹ macitêwéyâw, kâ-išin'kâcikatêk, âstam'tê 'nima kâ-piskwâhkâw.¹⁰ êkot' ânta kâ-kapâyâhk. pëyako-kîšikâw itêl'htâkwan ê-'miškâniwahk wîla tâpinâ p'm'palîpan cimân antê ..., apwoy piko n'âpaciânân ê-'miškâyâhk. êkw isa mâk' anta n'kî-kapânân. nâspic âhkosiw a' kišê-'liw. nâspic wisakêl'htam. môla 'wên'hkân kâ-pimâsisit ispihci-wisakêl'htam itihâkosiw êy-âhkosit. piko n'tayakopâtinânân kišâkam'têliw. môla nêsta ihtakwan nipiy. nâspic wâlaw ihtakwan nôhcimihk. akâwât piko tēpinâkosiw ililiw ê-kwâpikêt nêtê nôhcimihk. wâlaw milwâpôw ê-n'tawâpahcikâtêk.
- 4 êko mâka, êkot' ê-'piyân ê-kanawêlimakik awâš'šak, pîliš nisto-kîšikâw anta n'tihtânân ê-kakwê... êkâ ê-kî-pimohtêt aw' ililiw, nilanân

Childhood memories

- 1 While I was a child my older sister took care of me. Her name was Dinah Chum. When I was able to dress myself, since I had no mother, well then, – we really had a very difficult time again and again, I thought, while I was a child.
It was really hard, I frequently thought, h... as I reflect on it now. Sometimes I didn't have shoes to put on. I went barefoot. Even though I saw it was icy water, I still didn't have shoes. I had to wade barefooted. Sometimes I went pulling grass for my socks, since I had no husky boots to put on as I just walked around with nothing in the slush. Well then, one sure was poorly off at that time, and food was scarce too.
- 2 But this person who was taking care of me was often very ill. This person was ill; her husband, – Angus Chum was his name.
So then, as we repeatedly went off by canoe in the summer in search of food away along the coast, she had two children. One was two years old; and the other was probably one year. These children I frequently took care of, looking after them as they wandered around hunting.
Well then, I used to accompany my older sister too as she was hunting because this person was ill and we wanted to try to keep him alive, so as for these children and this person to eat. So it was sometimes difficult as we were bringing this person back by canoe since he was very ill. Twice I knew that we brought him back here by canoe, bringing him to the island [Moose Factory]. We were wand... as we were wandering about over there looking for food, the time that happened to him.
- 3 Again we set off by canoe once. So we canoed over there to North ... North Bluff, "The Point" it's called, this side of that sandy shoal. That's where we went ashore. It seemed to take about one day to paddle since the canoe wasn't driven by power there ... we used to paddle only as we went by water. But then we went ashore. This old person was very ill. He was in great pain. He wouldn't be expected to live [from the sound of it], he suffered so much in his illness. We just bathed him with hot water. There was no water either. It was very far off in the bush. A person was hardly within range of sight getting water there in the bush. It was a long way for good water to be fetched.
- 4 So then, I stayed in camp right here taking care of the children, we stayed there for three days trying ... because this person could not walk, just

piko ê-kanawêlimakiht, nimis, nîla máka. n'kí-'pišiš'šín máka; máskôc môla
'wâc n'kí-'hci-mitáhto-p'ponêsín, ômah kâ-itwéyân.

êkw isa máka, kêka máka ispi kâ-nisto-kíšikák, n'kí-pêci-kaškihtânân
ê-pôsihakiht ê-nâsipêtápéyâhk apahkwânihk ê-p'mitápéyâhk piko,
'ci-pôsi-tahkoskêc cimânihk ê-'yši-'tápéyâhk. êl'êhk máka, n'tâlimisin,
n'titêl'htên, êká nêsta tâpwê ê-'htakwahk kê-micinâniwahk, êká
ê-kí-têpi-tôcikatêk nêsta kêkwân, êká nêsta 'wê'hkân ê-n'tawihot anta,
êy-otami-kanawêlimakiht awa êy-âhkosit ililiw, ê-pêci-p'miškâkýâhk máka
piko.

- 5 êko mák' áta mân' ê-koci-p'mâšakâmêpicikéyân nîla, ispi sipiy
ê-pêci-otihtamâhk,¹¹ nâspic mákah êká tâpwêh..., máskôc 'sa, mân'šiš
niwícihiwânâtokwê. 'šákanâpiy n'kí-otinên ê-'mâšakâmêpicikéyâhk.

êliwêhk máka miscêtiwak nêsta sakimêwak! kékât mâna
n'kipotámoškákwak.¹² nimis máka piko ê-tahkohahk anta, 'wâšišak máka
nîšo ant' ê-pôsiwâhk...¹³ ê-kanawêlimakiht, êy-âhkosit mák' aw' ililiw
ê-pêsiwakiht, ê-pêci-kíwêholakiht. êliwêhk máka kinwêš kiy-âhkosiw aw'
êlililw. anim' ê-nîpihk, tašinê kiy-âhkosiw ..., ispiš áta kâ-pêšiwakiht ôta,¹⁴
êká ê-'htât n'tohkolon. môla mat' âna kiy-ohc'-ihtâw n'tohkolon wêskac. môla
kêkwân n'kí-wícihikonân.

- 6 mîna máka péyakwâ ê-pôsiyâhkipan, êkwâni mîna péyakwan
kâ-tôtamâhk. nîlanân piko n'kí-pôsinân ê-iskwéwiyâhk ..., êko máka, wâlaw
nêtê kâ-iši-ciméyâhk. wâlaw nawac n'k'-iši-cimânân. mîniša máka
n'kí-'pâ-'nâtawâp'tênân anima, jam mâna êy-ôšihtâyâhk, namêsak nêsta
ê-mowakiht, ê-pakit'hwâyâhk.

n'kí-'wâšišiwin máka nîl', anima kâ-itwéyân. wilawâw máka, kotakiyak
nêsta kî... kotak cimân iskwéwak kî-pôsiwak, nîlanân nêsta, môla nâpêw¹⁵...
môla nâpêw kî-whci-wíci...êwêwak,¹⁶ ê-pôsicik ê-n'tawahocik.

- 7 êko máka nêtê kâ-..., wâlaw kâ-iši-ciméyâhk, 'pâmiškâkýâhk. êko
mêkwâc ê-kanawêlimakik ôko' wâšišak kî-nîšiwak, nêsta nîla môla
nâcit¹⁷ n'kí-ohci-miškítin. máskôc âšay nawac nimiškítitay
misawâc.

êko, n'kanawêlimâwak ôko' wâšišak nîšo. mîniša máka nêtê
n'tawâpahtamwak, wâlaw ê-ytohtêcik. kêka m'pêhtawâw 'wênihkân
êlikohk nâs'c ê-matê-mâtot.

"tân'k'êtokwê kâ-itwêhkâsot awa nîc'-iškîwêšiš?"

tâpiskôc n'k'-iškîcikitinân.

ourselves taking care of him, my older sister and myself. I was little, though;
perhaps I wasn't even ten years old, at the time I'm speaking of

So then, however, at last when three days were up, we arrived at the point
where we were able to take him in the canoe by hauling him down the bank
on a canvas and just dragging him around so that he stepped into the canoe
as we dragged him. But did I ever find it hard! – I thought – with there not
really being anything to eat, and with nothing able to be adequately done,
and with no one hunting there, as we were busy taking care of this sick
person, and as we came in by paddle only.

- 5 Well then, although I repeatedly tried to track the canoe, once we reached
the river, really wasn't any ... I may perhaps have been a little help. I took
the line as I tracked.

My, but the mosquitoes were bad too! Frequently they nearly choked me.
My big sister, was just steering there, as we took the two children in the
canoe, minding them as we were, bringing that sick person, as we brought
him back by canoe. Was this person ever sick for a long time, though! That
summer he was ill continually, – even up to the time we brought him here,
since there was no doctor there. It would appear there was no doctor there
long ago. We had no help in anything.

- 6 And once again, we went away by canoe, then we did the same thing
again. We went off by canoe, just the women alone ... and then, we canoed
away far off. We went quite far by water. We walked around getting berries
at that time, making jam again and again. We ate fish too, setting out our
nets.

I was just a child though, at the time I'm talking about. But they, the
other ones as well ... the women went off in another canoe, and we too, no
man ... they didn't go ... with any man, as they went off hunting.

- 7 So then we went away yonder ... we went far away by water, paddling. So
during the time I was taking care of them there were two of these children,
and I myself was not very big. Perhaps by now I was fairly big any way.

So I took care of these two children. And they fetched berries away yonder,
going far away on foot. Finally I heard someone weeping very hard in the
distance.

"I wonder what the matter is that my girlfriend is taking on so?"

We were both the same size.

"What must be the matter with her that she is making that sound?"

I thought.

"táytik'¹⁸ kâ-itwêhkásot?" n'titêl'htên.

kêka wêhci-pápahtát. pápahêw ošîma; tihkinâkanihk
akwahpisoliwa.

"tân' êhtiyân?" n'titâw.

"n'kâwiy w'-iskwâsot'sow," itwêw. "wî-pahk'sot'sow. nišîmiša mâka
tahkonêw anta pêyak. n'ka-n'taw'-maskamâw mâka ôho. ana n'šîmiša
n'ka-maskamâw."

- 8 êkota kâ-nakacipahât anihi ošîma; n'kanawâpamâw mâka.
kî-matê-maskamêw¹⁹ mâka okâwiya anihi ošîma. êkwân' ê-kî-kihcipahât
nêtê, patotê k'-ispahêw.²⁰

êko mâk' awa kâ-pahkisot pihkoliw iskwêw. k'-iskwâsotisow. êko mâka,
k'-iskwâsow kâ-pápahtát, n'mâhkîminâhk ant' ê-pêc'-ispahtát. náhtêp'
îskotêw ê-pêc'-îšinâkosit.

êkwân' êšiy-ocipahak aw' awâšîš kâ-kanawêlimak mêmêpisonihk
k'-âkocihk; n'kihcipahâw. pêyak n'sakiniskêpahâw. nišo n'kihcipahâwak
ôko 'wâšîšak. nêtê piko n'taw'²¹ nin'taw'...-âkôšîmôlon,
ê-wî-pimâcihakik.

êko kîwêpa'how²² mîn' an' êskwêw. pêšoc kî-pêc'-ispahtâw. miconi
kî-pêci-pasitêw pêšoc anta kâ-îši-wikiyâhk, maškošîya,²³ ê-pêc'-iskwâsot ant'
ê-pêci-pápahtâw ê-iskwâsot. êko, mêkwâc nêtê ê-kîwêpahtát mîna, mîna
kotakiliw kî-matê-pahkisam pihkoliw, nâspic ê-kîšiwê'têlik,²⁴ mwêhci
miši-pâskisikan ê-itwêwê'têlik. êwakwânim' onâpêm' opihkomilfw misiwê
'kî-câkâhkasahk.

- 9 êko mâk' ôko nimis nêtê wâlaw ê-n'tawi-mawisocik, misiwê nêt' otânis'
aw' êskwêw. mâmišikitiwak aniki iskwêwak. êko, ê-pêci-kîwêpahikocik
nâspic kî-sêkisiw a' nimis. "mâškôc n'cawâšîmišak iskwâsowak," k'-îtel'htam.
"nišiwânâcihowak n'cawâšîmišak."

êkw awa iskwêw ..., êko iskwêw nêtê²⁵ kâ-itohtêt, lâlîpêk nêtê
kî-n'taw'-nîpawiw šîwâpôhk; šîwâkamin mâtâna nîpiy nêtê. môla 'w'ihkân
kî-minihkwêw. môla ... miconi mâka kî-kisisow.²⁶ êkotê mâka twoyêhk
kâ-'spahitocik antê, ê-pâpahitocik.²⁷ nimis mâka êkota kâ-ohci-kâhcitînikot
kêkwân, êká 'wî-milow-ihitit. mâškôc kî-kîškwyêl'htam "n'cawâšîmišak
iskwâsowak," ê-itêl'htahk.

- 10 awa mâka iskwêw, môla kinwêš kî-whci-pimâtîšiw²⁸ mâškôc ispîš
k'-âti-kîwêholâkaniwit. kîwêtinohk mâka ohciwâkopan ôko ililiwak
ê-pêci-kîyôtêcik 'pâmiškâcik ôtê *Moose Fac*... môsonihk ê-pêci-pâmiškâcik

At last, all of a sudden, she came running. She came running
bringing her little sister; the latter was covered up and fastened in a
cradle board.

"What's wrong with you?" I said to her.

"My mother is going to burn herself," she said. "She is going to blow
herself up. She's holding my little sister there alone. I'll go take away this one
from her. I'll take my baby sister away from that woman."

- 8 There she left her young sister and ran; and I kept an eye on her. In the
distance she grabbed that young sister of hers away from her mother. Then
having run away off with her, she ran with her to one side.

And then this woman exploded some gunpowder. She burned herself. So
then, she got burned as she came running towards me, as she came running
to our tent. She looked very much like a fire as she approached.

At that I grabbed hold of this child whom I was minding, who was hanging
in a hammock; I ran away with her. All by myself I ran with her by the arm.
I ran away with these two children. I ran around looking for cover, as I
wanted to save their lives.

So, that woman turned back again in a hurry. She had come running
towards us close by. The burning grass was approaching close to where we
were tenting as she came there burning, running it towards us in flames.
Then, while she was running off back again yonder, she was heard exploding
more gunpowder, as it made a very loud report, sounding just like a cannon,
having at that point burned up all her husband's powder.

- 9 Now then, these women, including my older sister, went gathering berries,
and all this woman's daughters. Those women were big, each one of them. So,
as they were being run back here, my older sister was very much afraid.
"Perhaps my children are burning themselves," she thought. "My children are
destroying themselves."

Then this woman ... so the woman who had gone away yonder, she went
and stood away over along the edge of the salt water; the water is salty away
off there. Nobody can drink it. Not ... She was thoroughly cooked. And right
away they ran each other to that spot, running towards each other. But my
older sister was caught by something there, since she wasn't in very good
state of mind. Perhaps she was distraught, since she was thinking, "My
children are burning themselves."

- 10 But this woman, she didn't live long, – I'd say up to the time they left to
take her home by canoe. These people had come visiting from the North,

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piko,²⁹ é-'ti-kíwéhocik mák' óma ká-ihki. n'kí-'ti-wá pamánanak³⁰ piko anté;
wéhci-kí... kí-wá pamakihcik óma é-ihcik.

Text Sixty-Five

paddling around here to Moose Fac... just paddling around to Moosonee. It
was as they started home that this happened. We first saw them there; this is
why we sa..., how we saw this happen to them.