

wîsakêcâhk kâ-wayêšihâkopanê maskwa

- 1 pâyakwâ manâ mîna wîsakêcâhk.
pimâšakâmêw manâ sipîniw, pâyakwâ 'k'-îškw'-âpihtâ-kîšikânik. mēkwâc
manâ mâka ê-pimohtêt, ohci-wâpamêw manâ maskwa, ê-papâ-nihcikišininici,
ê-môminênici ê-'ti-takwâkininik.
"šâ," manâ itên'tam: "tânika kî-n'tawâpamak," manâ itên'tam.
âšay manâ tâpwê n'tawâpamêw.
"ââh, nišîm," manâ itwêw. "tân' êtôtaman?"
"ââh, pakwantaw ô nimîcin mîniša," manâ itwêw.
"ââh, kēkwân wêhci-mîciyan?"
"êko wâs' âni môšak êtôtamân ê-'ti-takwâkih," manâ itwêw ana maskwa.
"nimôminân pwâmoši kawêšimoyân ê-wî-kakwê-tâhcupohitsoyân," manâ itwêw.
"ââh, mōna ka-kî-wîcêwitihtay," manâ itwêw.
"cikēmânima," manâ itwêw. "wîcêwin isa wî-wîcêwiyânê," manâ itwêw ana
maskwa.¹
- 2 âšay manâ tâpwê wîcêwêw.
papâ-môminêwak manâ nêtê nôhcimihk. papâ-wîcêwitôwak.
"šâ," manâ itwêw. "âstam mâ nêtê nôhcimihk. n'kiskên'tên ôš'
ê-mihcêtihi mîniša," manâ itwêw.
âšay manâ tâpwê kospa-wîcêwêw. nêtê nôhcimihk wakîtâmatin
ati-ayîtohtahêw.
kēka manâ kipihciw wîsakêcâhk.
"šâ, nišîm," manâ itwêw.
"kēkwân?" manâ itwêw ana maskwa.
"hêy, kiwâpahtên n' ânima kēkwân kâ-matê-nihcikihtihk?" manâ itwêw.
"nêma wâhnaw," manâ itwêw.
"šâ," manâ itwêw ana maskwa. "mōna n'ka-kî-wâpahtên," manâ itwêw.
"mōna oša niwâpin," manâ itwêw. "wêskac ôš' êwakwâni wêhc'-ihtiyân,"
manâ itwêw ana maskwa. "mōna niwâpahtên kēkwân kwayask," manâ
itwêw.
"šâ..., nêma mâka wîna," manâ itwêw. "mâškôc wîna ôma ka-kî-wâpahtên
kâ-matê-wâpâk. kâ-miškâk kēkwân kâ-matê-wâsitêk nêma awasitê wâhnaw."
"âh," manâ itwêw ana maskwa. "mōna âpatan nîna n'tawâc 'ci-itâpiyân,"
manâ itwêw ana maskwa. "kikiskên'tên nâ êšinamân ê-itâpiyân?" manâ

Weesakechahk tricks the bear

- 1 Once again, then, a story about Weesakechahk.
He was skirting the river bank one afternoon. While he was walking
along, he suddenly caught sight of a bear moving about like a dot against the
background, as it ate berries in the early fall.
"Dear me," he thought: "I ought to go see him."
Now then, off he went to see him.
"A-a-h, Little Brother," he said. "What are you doing?"
"O-o-h, nothing important, I'm just eating berries," he replied.
"A-a-h, why are you eating them?"
"It's what I always do in the early fall," the bear said. "I eat berries before
I go to bed as I want to try to make myself fat," he explained.
"Is that so? Couldn't I keep you company?" suggested Weesakechahk.
"Of course," he said. "Come with me by all means if you want to keep me
company," the bear replied.
- 2 Now then, he went right along with him.
They walked around eating berries far into the forest. They kept each
other company.
"My goodness," said Weesakechahk. "Come, look over there in the bush.
I know a place where there are plenty of berries."
So the bear went up the slope with him. He took him around about, far
into the forest on top of a hill.
Then at last Weesakechahk stopped.
"Dear me, Little Brother," he murmured.
"What is it?" inquired the bear.
"Sa-a-y, do you see that thing which is a dark blotch in the distance?" he
asked. "That one, away far off," he said.
"Oh dear," the bear replied. "I can't see it. As a matter of fact, I don't
see," he added. "Actually, because I've been this way for a long, long time,"
the bear explained. "I don't see anything properly," he said.
"Dear me, – that one away over yonder," said Weesakechahk. "Perhaps
you'll be able to see this white thing in the distance. The big bright thing
over there further off."
"Ah," then said the bear. "It's no use. I'm just as well not to look around,"
he said. "Do you know how it appears to me when I look about?" the bear

itwēw ana maskwa. "ē'kwāni piko ē-'ši-pikišēyāk n'tišinēn. āh, mōna kanakē
kwayask niwāpin," manā itwēw. "mōna āpatan 'ci-itāpiyān," manā itwēw.

3 "sā!" manā itwēw. "tān'ka kipakwātēn ēkā ē-wāpiyan!"

"āāh, nāspitēpi m'pakwātēn," manā itwēw. "mōna wiskāc kēkwān
n'ki-wāpahtēn āta wāhnaw ē-itāpiyān," manā itwēw ana maskwa.

"sā," manā itwēw wīsakēcāhk. "kikiskēn'tēn nā, nišim?" manā itwēw.
"kwāni nēsta nīn' ē-'htiyāpān. nāspic mōna niwāpihtay. pēšoc māna piko
niwāpahtēhtay kēkwān pātīmā. nāspic māka māna nipakwātēhtay anim'
ē-'htiyāpān. n'kaškēn'tēhtay nāspic. kikiskēn'tēn nā māka tāni kā-tōtamān
wēhci-kī-ati-wāpiyān?" manā itwēw.

"mōna," manā itwēw ana maskwa.

"kikiskēn'tēn nā ōhō mīniša kā-mīciyin anohc? ē'kwānihi
kāy-āpacihtāyāpān."

"tāpwē nā?" manā itwēw ana maskwa. "tāni kā-tōtamapan?" manā
itwēw.

"oh, pikw ani' kā-..., māwac anihi kā-māmihkwāki mīniša,
kā-māmahkicēyāki, ē'kwānihi kā-iši-pāhpāšikicēnamāpān niškīšikohk."

"sā," manā itwēw ana maskwa. "tān'ka kiki-wīsakāpihtay!" manā itwēw.

"oh, – mōna mistahi n'tōhci-wīsakāpihtay. mānišiš piko," manā itwēw.
"ēko māka kā-iškwa-kicistāpawāhtāyān niškīšikwa, nāspitēpi n'ki-nahāpihtay.
'kwāni māka ēhtiyān kiyāpic anohc, nāspitēpi ninahāpin. nāspic wāhnaw
niwāpahtēn misiwē kā-iši-ayitāpiyān," manā itwēw ana wīsakēcāhk.

4 "mātika ka-tōtātin," manā itwēw anihi maskwawa.

"oh, mōna," manā itwēw ana maskwa. "n'ka-wīsakāpin," manā itwēw.

"mōna, apišiš piko ka-wīsakāpin; ēko māka nāspic ka-minwēn'tēn
k'-iškwa-tōtātānē," manā itwēw. "nāspitēpi ka-mino-itāpin; ka-wāpahtēn
misiwē kēkwān wāhnaw tāntē piko kē-itāpiyan," manā itwēw wīsakēcāhk.

"awas! mōna niwi-tōtēn," manā itwēw maskwa. "wēsā n'ka-wīsakāpin
niškīšikohk," manā itwēw.

"apišiš piko ka-wīsakāpin, māškōc piko wayēš nisto-minikošiš
ka-wīsakāpin," manā itwēw. "k'-iškwa māka anima, ka-kicistāpawāhtānānaw
kiškīšikwa. ēko māka tohkāpiyanē, ēko mitoni kē-minwētāpiyan. nāspic
misiwē kēkwān ka-wāpahtēn ē-papā-nōkwahk nētē wāhnaw."

"wāh, ēkw is' ēkoši," manā itwēw ana maskwa.

5 āšay manā tāpwē otinamwak mīniša. māwac kā-mišaniki
kā-māmihkocēyānihi, ē'kwānihi wētinahkik; 'kwāni manā māka tāpw'
ē-'ši-nāspicēk nētē sīpīhk, nīštam kā-k'-iši-wāpamāspan ē-mīcisonici,

inquired. "It simply looks to me as if it's all blurred. Oh, I don't see properly
at all," he said. "It's no use for me to look around," said he.

3 "Oh dear," said Weesakechahk. "How you must hate it, not seeing!"

"A-a-h, you've no idea how I hate it," agreed the bear. "I can never see
anything, even when I peer far away," he added.

"Oh my, oh my!" said Weesakechahk. "Do you know what, Little Brother?
The same thing happened to me. I used to see very little. I often couldn't see
a thing until it was very close to me. I used to dislike it very much when I
ailed that way. I was very sad indeed. But do you know what I did so that
I regained my sight?" he said.

"No," the bear replied.

"You know these berries which you're eating right now? Those are the very
ones which I used."

"Really?" said the bear. "What did you do?" he said.

"Well, just those r..., you know, those real, red berries, the biggest of all
the ones around? Those are the ones which I crushed into my eyes."

"Dear me," said the bear. "It must have made your eyes smart a great
deal!" he said.

"Oh, my eyes didn't smart much. Only a little," he said. "But then, after
I had washed off my eyes, I could see quite clearly enough. And that's the
way I still am now," he continued. "I see quite well enough. I see everything
away far off when I look around," concluded Weesakechahk.

4 "See here, I'll do it for you," he said to the bear.

"Don't bother," said the bear. "I'll have sore eyes."

"No, they'll only smart a little; then you'll like it after I've done it to you,"
he said to him. "You'll see quite well enough; you'll see everything away off
wherever you look," said Weesakechahk.

"Get away: I don't want to do it," said the bear. "It'll make my eyes too
sore," he said.

"It'll only hurt a little bit," he replied, "perhaps only for about three
minutes; and then after that we'll wash off your eyes. And then when you
open your eyes, the...en you'll see extremely well. You'll see every single
thing as it appears moving about, far away in the distance."

"Oh, all right then," the bear agreed.

5 Then they gathered berries in earnest. The biggest ones which are red all
over, those were the ones which they took; and then they went down the bank
over there to the river where Weesakechahk had first seen the bear eating,

ê-mōminēnispan. āšay manā n'tawāpamēw asiniy' anta pēyak, ê-apinici.

"haw," manā itēw, "ê'kotōma iši-aspiskwēšimo awa ... aw' āsiniy," manā itwēw. "kē-ynikohk māka tohkāpi," manā itēw.

"eh," manā itwēw ana maskwa. 'kwāni tāpw' ēti-pimišihk.

- 6 āšay manā tāpwē tohkāpiw ana maskwa. ēko māka, "wisakāpiyanē, kē-ynikohk pasakwāpihkan," manā itwēw. "ēko māka k'iskwā-wisakāpiyanē ēko māka kē-kicistāpawātāyahk kiškīšikwa anta sipīhk," manā itēw anihī maskwawa.

āšay manā tāpwē k'ēnikohk tohkāpiw ana maskwa. 'kwāni manā ê-š'-otinahk wisakēcāhk ôho minīša, k'ēnikohk manā pāhpāšicē-wēpinam anta oškīšikonihk.

"a-h-a-h-a-h-a-h-a," manā kâ-itwēhkāsot ana wisakēc... ana maskwa.

āšay manā mīna nētē kotakiya mistasiniya ocipahēw ana wisakēcāhk.

"pasakwāpi, pasakwāpi," manā itwēw. "kāwin' ohci-tohkāpi."

āšay manā pēcipahēw anihī asiniya. 'kwāni manā ēši-napakicē-wēpahamwāt ostikwāninīw, anihī āsiniya ê-āpaciāt.

kâ-mohci-tihtiipanihot manā piko an' āmisk ..., ana maskwa.

"aha," manā itwēhkāsow wisakēcāhk. "masko-cīpay," manā itwēw, "ēkâ wiskāc kâ-kī-wayēšihit. āšay māka n'kī-wayēšihāw," manā itwēw.

- 7 "šā," manā itwēw, kâ-iskwā-nipahāt. "tān'ka itē māka kē-tōtamwānē? n'ka-akwāwān kākē," manā itwēw. "ha, 'kwantaw piko kē-tōtamān," twēw ..., ayamihitisow.

āšay manā tāpwē manihtēpanihow. mihcēt mihta māwacihtāw. kâ-iskwā-mistahi-kotawēt manā māka, 'kwāni k'-āt'-iši-akwāwān-apašohkēt, kē-iši-akwāwēt anihī omīcimima. āšay manā tāpwē 'ti-pahkwēpinēw anihī maskwawa. ēniwēhk manā wīniniw ana maskwa! minokāmow.

āšay man' āti-papihtošam omīcim. 'kwāni manā māka ēt'-iši-ayakotāt anta misiwē manā 'kwān' ēt'-iši-ayakotāt anta iškotēhk. ē-'ti-kāhkisahk, kâ-mohci-tōmihkāsonici manā piko anih' omaskoma.

"šā," manā itwēw, "mōna nāspic nišiwatān. tāntē māka kē-kī-ohci-mīcisoyān mistahi?" manā itwēw.

ayamihitisow manā mīna. "šā, pitamā n'ka-... n'ka-nīwatiyāskocimon," manā itwēw. "oh, 'kwantaw piko kē-tōtamān."

- 8 āšay kēciko-wēpinam opīskākan. nētē ispahtāw nōhcimihk, mistikwa kâ-iši-cacēmasonici.

wāpamēw manā māka anta minahikwa ê-nīšwāskisonici.

ēkot' āni ēši-sihtawipanihot, omistatāhk anta mwēhci ēkot' ān' ēši-...²

feeding on berries. Then he looked for a certain stone lying there.

"All right," he said to him; "use this stone for a pillow." Then he said to him, "Open your eyes as wide as you can."

"Fine," replied the bear. Then he proceeded to lie down.

- 6 Now the bear opened his eyes as wide as he could, and Weesakechahk said to him: "When your eyes smart, close them as tightly as you can. Then after you've had them stinging, we'll wash your eyes off there in the river," he said to the bear.

Now the bear opened his eyes as widely as he could. Then Weesakechahk, taking the berries, with a swift movement crushed them into his eyes as hard as he could.

"I-y-i-y-i-y-i-y-i," cried Weesakech..., the bear.

Then that fellow, Weesakechahk, quickly grabbed other great stones and said: "Close your eyes, close your eyes! Don't open them."

Then he came running with those stones. Then he threw [them and] flattened out the bear's head with the stones.

That beaver..., that bear suddenly just rolled over.

"A-ha!" cried Weesakechahk. "Bear spirit who can never be deceived. And now I have deceived him," he exclaimed.

- 7 "Oh my," he said then, after he had killed him. "Which way should I go about cooking him? I'll roast him on a frame over the fire, I imagine," he said. "Ha! I'll just do it any way," he said ..., he said to himself.

Now then, he quickly gathered firewood. He collected a great many logs. After he had kindled a big fire, then he began to set up the frame of roasting-poles where he could roast his food. Then he set to skinning that bear in earnest. Was the bear ever fat! He was nice and plump.

Now he began to slice his food up. Then he hung it up right there, he hung it all up there over the fire. As he started to sear it, that bear of his just dripped fat.

"Oh my!" he murmured. "I'm not very hungry. How will I be able to eat a lot?"

He was talking to himself again. "Dear me, first of all I'll..., I'll squeeze my belly with the trees," he said. "Hm-m-m, - I'll do it just this way."

- 8 Now he threw off his jacket. He ran off into the bush, up among the trees. There he saw two spruce standing together.

He squeezed himself in between them, squeezing himself right in there on his big stomach, where those two trees stood side by side.

ēši-nīšwāskwamonici anihī mistikwa.

“ēko mistikwak, pēci-nācistāk,” manā itēw anihī mistikwa.

‘kwāni manā tāpwē pēci-iši-nācistācik anikī mistikwak. miconi
pēci-napakicēhikow anta omistatāhk. k’-ēnikohk manā pēci-nācistāwak
pēhkāc anikī mistikwak.

“ ‘kwāni, ‘kwāni, ‘kwāni, ‘kwāni, ‘kwāni, ‘kwāni,” manā itēw.

mōna manā kipihcīwak. [laughter] mwēhci manā kēkāt ... ‘kwāni manā
māka ē-iši-tahkonikot anima, mōna manā tāpwēhtākow “ ‘kwāni, ‘kwāni,
‘kwāni,” ē-itāt.

kā-iškwā-tōtahkik man’ ānikī mistikwak wēhci-tāpwēcik manā, “ēkwa
awiyāšīšak pēci-mīcisok. āšay kiki-kīšinawatikowāw wīsakēcāhk,” manā
itwēwak.

- 9 āšay manā tāpwē mihcēt awiyāšīšak pēci-īspahtāwak. ‘kwāni manā
pēci-iši-kimotamawācik wīsakēcāhkwa: sihkosiwak, šākwēšiwak, misiwē piko
tōwiw-awiyāšīšak pēci-mīcisōwak anihī ..., pēci-mowēwak anihī maskwawa
kā-kī-kīsiswākanawinici. nētē manā māka k’-iši-wēpinamōpan otōtakišim,
otōskwanim. wāhnaw nētē kī-matē-pahkihtinōpan nōhchimihk.

āšay manā kā-kī-..., wīpac manā piko kitānawēpanihōwak anik’
āwiyāšīšak. misiwē ‘kwāni kā-iši-mowācik anih’ āmiskwa ..., maskwawa.
mōna kanakē kēkwāniw ohc’-iškwahtamwak.

kīšāstaw manā kisiwāsiw wīsakēcāhk!

‘kwāni manā ēši-kwēskipanīhot ana wīsakēcāhk. miconi māškawipanihow.
‘kwāni manā ēši-nātwā-wēpināt anihī pēyak minahikwa, pēyakwayak itēhkē,
mīna kotakiya, kwēskitē itēhkē. ‘kwāni manā ēš’-ispanīhot anta
kā-k’-iši-kotawēspan.

ah, mōna manā mitoni kēkwān iškwahtācātēw.

kā-mohci-mamihkowāskwaniniki manā piko otakwāwānāhtikwa.

- 10 “šā,” manā itwēw. ēko māka miton’ ē-šīwatēt.³

“tān’ka itē māka kē-tōtamwānē?” manā itwēw.

“šā!” kēskisipanit nēmēniw otōskwanim, otōtakišim nētē

kā-k’-iši-wēpinahk.

āšay man’ īspahtāw nētē. n’tawi-nanātawāpahtam.

pētāw ant’ otiškotēmihk.

ē’kwānimēniw piko kā-mīcit animēniw ē-kīšikānik.

‘kwāni māka ēši-kiskinohamākēmakahk ōma, mēkwāc mistahi
ē-htakwahk kēkwān kē-mīcināniwahk ēkā wīskāc ‘ci-wēpinikātēk kēkwān
kā-iškopanik.

Then to the trees he said, “Trees, come close together.”

At that, those two trees indeed came close together. They utterly flattened
out the hollow there in his stomach. As hard as they could those two trees
slowly closed together.

“A’right, a’right, a’right, a’right, a’right, a’right,” said Weesakechahk to
them.

But they didn’t stop. [laughter] Then almost exactly ..., then as he was
being held at that point, they paid no attention to him as he said, “A’right,
a’right, a’right.”

Then, when the trees had finished doing it, they suddenly called out,
“Come, Animals, and eat! Weesakechahk has already cooked for you,” they
said.

- 9 And now indeed, a great number of animals came running. Right away
they came and stole everything from Weesakechahk: weasels, mink, every
kind of animal came to eat that ..., came to eat that bear which had been
cooked. But they threw away his innards, his liver far away, and they fell
far off in the bush.

Now then when..., soon those animals finished everything up. Then
they ate up the whole of that beaver ..., bear. They didn’t leave anything
at all.

My, but Weesakechahk was furious!

Then, Weesakechahk twisting around braced himself firmly. Then with
his hand he snapped off that one spruce, in one direction, then the other
one on the other side. Then he dashed over to where he had made the
fire.

Ah, – not a single thing was left.

There were the spits with just blood stains remaining on them.

- 10 “Tch, tch,” he exclaimed; and then he was very hungry.

“Whatever should I do,” he murmured.

“Tch, tch!” Suddenly he recalled that liver of his and the innards which he
had thrown away.

Now he ran over to that place. He began to search for them.

He brought them back to his fire.

That is all he had to eat that day.

And that teaches this lesson, that while there is plenty to eat, something
which is left over should never be thrown away.

It has also been said that that is why you come on trees lying, one, one

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ēkoš' āni māka wēhc'-īšinākosicik mistikwak itwāniwan: nīšo māna nētē
pēyak kâ-'ši-kawišihk mīna kotak ôtē kâ-īši-kawišihk, wīsakēcāhk animēniw
kâ-tōtamokopanē itwāniwan.

'kwāni piko ēskwāpihkēyāk.

Text Nineteen

way and the other, the other way. That must have been Weesakechahk's
doing, so they say.

That is the length of the story.