Text Twenty-Four

tipâcimôwin awahkânak ohci

ôma tipâcimôwin wîna awahkânak ohci.

pêyakwâ wêskac ê-'pišîš'iyâpân n'kiskisin ê-kî-'yâwakihtipan amisk êy-otawahkâniyâhk. mêkwâc ê-nipâyâhk, âpatisîpan k'-ênikohk. mêkwâc mâk' ê-kîšikânik, nipâpan k'-ênikohk.

êko mâka mêkwâc ê-tipiskânik ê-nipâyâhk, nîkinâhk, mîkiwâmihk, iškwâhtêmihk mâka, kâ-ohci-wanawînâniwahk, k'-ênikohk âpatisiw. kîškîškahtam nîpisiyâhtiko-mistikwa; êko mâka pêtâw iškwâhtêmihk.

ê-kêkišêpâyâk ê-waniškâyâhk, mitoni kî-kakêpaham n'tiškwâhtêminân. mêkwâc ê-tipiskânik 'kwân' êtôtahk: ênikohk âpatisiw ê-kipahahk iškwâhtêm, ¹ tâpiskôc kâ-itôtahk sîpîniw. ²

êko mâka ê-waniškâyâhk ê-kêkišêpâyânik âšay pimišin ê-nipât, mêkwâc ê-kî-âpatisit ê-tipiskânik.

About animals kept as pets

1 This story is about pet animals.

Once long ago when I was little, I remember that we used to have a beaver for a pet. While we were asleep, he used to work as hard as he could. During the day, however, he used to sleep for all he was worth.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

So then, during the night as we were sleeping, in our home, in the tent, he would work as hard as he could at the door by which one went out. He cut willow sticks with his teeth, and then he brought them to the door.

When we got up in the morning, he had completely blocked up our door.

During the night he did it: he worked as hard as he could closing up the door, just as he did to a river.

And then, when we got up in the morning he was already lying asleep, because he had been working in the meantime during the night.