acicamoš wêhci-mihkwacâpit

- êko, ê-'tâtalôhkawâkaniwit acicamoš wêhci-mihkwacâpit.
 pêyakwâ wêskac ê-natawâpamâkaniwit kici-nîkânisît 'wiyâšîš
 mistikoskâhk, acicamoš k'-îtêl'tam wîla kici-nîkânîspan. êko mâka ispîy
 ê-wâp..., ê-wâpamikot kotakîya 'wiyâšîša, kî-mâci-mâlêlimêwak.
 kî-pâhpihêwak mâka ê-ytâcik: "âwas kîla! wêsâ kitapišîš'šin. môla wîskâc
 ka-kî-okimâwin ôta mistikoskâhk ê-'pišîš'iyan."
- êko mâka, nâ'c¹ ê-pakwâtahk acicamoš, nâ'c êlikohk kî-mâtow. nâš'c êlikw' mâka nêst' ê-sinikocâpin'tisot, pîliš, pîliš miconi ê-kîy-ati-mamihkwâtakâpit, ê-'spîhc'-êlikohk-mâtot.³

Why the squirrel has red eyes

So then, the legend is told of why the squirrel has red eyes.

Once long ago when an animal was being sought to be leader in the woods, the squirrel thought that *he* should be foremost. Now then, when the other animals saw ..., saw him, they began to make fun of him. And they ridiculed him, saying to him: "Be off with you! You're too little. You'll never be able to be master here in the woods because you're little."

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

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

Text Forty-Six

And so, since the squirrel hated it very much, he cried very hard. And he also rubbed at his eyes very hard, until, until he began to have entirely red eyes from crying so hard.

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