

Rabbit and the Tar-Baby

Told by Mr. Arthur E. Raiford, Dec. 1, 193[6] (I:25-41)

Reelicted with A. E. Raiford (VII:37-53)

ʔSte hvmket uekiwvn
sti hámkít oykéywan
person one a spring
A man saw that something

naket uewvn em aklewvhēcen hēcvtēs.
nâ·kit óywan imakliwahî·cin hi·catí·s
something water had muddied his water he saw it
had muddied the water in his spring.

Naket amat, kerrekatēs.
nâ·kit o·mâ·t kíłłiká·ti·s
what it was he didn't know
He didn't know what it was.

Naket amat, kerretv komvtēs.
nâ·kit o·mâ·t kíłłitá ko·matí·s
what it was to know he wanted
He wanted to know what it was.

Momen nak vhaken helokwvn eshahyet,
mo·mín nâ·k ahá·kin hilókwan isháhyit
then something [image] wax making it [of]
And he made a figure of pitch

ueki-tempen yv nak vhaken sakhuericvtēs.
oykeytímpin ya nâ·k ahá·kin sakhóyleycatí·s
by the spring [this] something [image] he stood it
and stood this figure by the spring.

Momen sakhueren ohhvyatkvtēs.
mo·mín sakhôylin óhhaya·tkatí·s
then it stood there all night
And it stood there all night.

Momof cufet vrētt omvtet vlahket,
mo·mô·f cofít alí·tto·matít aláhkit
and rabbit it had been came
Now it had been Rabbit going about, and he came,

nak vhake hehcet oh-ahyet
nâ·k ahá·ki híhcit ohháhyit
[something image] saw it went up to it
saw the figure, went up to it,

“Cenvfkarēs!” kicvtēs.
cináfká·hí·s kaycatí·s
I’ll hit you he told it
and said, “I’ll hit you!”

Kicof, a nak makekon nafkvtēs.
kaycô·f a·nâ·k má·kikon na·fkatí·s
when she told it this back it didn’t answer he struck it
When he said that, it didn’t say anything, so he hit it.

Enke hvmkan esnafkvtēs.
íŋki hámka·n ísna·fkati·s
[hand one] he hit it [with]
He hit it with one paw.

Nafkaten enke ‘mvlokpvtēs.
nâ·fka·tin íŋki málo·kpatí·s
when he struck it his hand stuck
When he hit it, his paw stuck to it.

Momen hvta “Cenvfkarēs!” kicvtēs.
mo·mín hatâ· cináfká·hí·s kaycatí·s
[then] again I will hit you he told it this
And he said again, “I’ll hit you!”

Momen enke vpylhvmkan esnvfíken, mvo ’mvlokpvtēs.
mo·mín íŋki apalhámka·n isnafêykin maw ’málo·kpatí·s
[then] hand other one he struck it with [that, too] it stuck
And he hit it with his other paw, and that one stuck, too.

Momof, enke hokkolvt ’mvloklopēpekv,
mo·mô·f íŋki hokkó·lat ’maloklopî·pika
and hands both had stuck
Now both of his paws were stuck,

“Cetakkarēs!” kicvtēs.
citá·kká·hí·s kaycatí·s
I’ll kick you he told it
so he said, “I’ll kick you!”

Momen takkvētēs.
mo·mín ta·kkatí·s
[then] he kicked it
And he kicked it.

Takkat, ele 'mvlokpēpvtēs.
tâ·kka·t ilí 'malókpi·patí·s
kicking it foot it stuck
When he kicked it, his foot stuck to it.

Momen hvttm, “Cvle vpvlhvmkan escetakkarēs!” kicvtēs.
mo·mín hatâm calí apalhámka·n iscitá·kká·hí·s kaycatí·s
[then] again my foot other one I'll kick you with he told it
And again he said, “I'll kick you with my other foot!”

Takkof, mvo 'mvlokpēpvtēs.
ta·kkô·f maw 'malókpi·patí·s
when he kicked it [that,too] it stuck
When he kicked it, that one stuck, too.

Momen ele omvkvvt 'mvloklopēpekv,
mo·mín ilí omáikat 'maloklopî·pika
then feet all had stuck
And all his feet were stuck to it,

estonko tetat omis,
istónko· 'titâ·t o·mēys
couldn't do anything but
so he couldn't do anything,

ekv tvl 'mvhosken hēcof,
iká tâl¹ 'mahô·skin² hi·cô·f
head only was left when he saw
but when he saw he still had his head,

“Ececakharēs!” kicvtēs.
icicákhá·hí·s kaycatí·s
I'll butt you he told it
he said, “I'll butt you!”

Momen vcakhvtēs.
mo·mín aca·khatí·s
then he butted it
And he butted it.

¹ Long way: iká táiki·t.

² Also said once: 'mahô·skika.

Vcakhaten,
acâ·kha·tin³
when he butted it
When he butted it,

ekvo ’mvlokpēpvētēs.
ikáw ’malókpī·patí·s
his head, too stuck
his head stuck to it, too.

Momof, estonko tetayvtēs.
mo·mô·f istónko· (’ti)tâ·yati·s
and he couldn’t do anything
And he couldn’t do anything.

Estonko tetayekv, vlikvtēs.
istónko· (’ti)tâ·yika alēykati·s
not doing he stayed there
Unable to do anything, he stayed there.

Momof, ueki-pucaset vlahket eshēcvtēs.
mo·mô·f oykeypocá·sit aláhkit íshi·catí·s
and then spring-owner came found him
Then the owner of the spring came and found him.

Momen eshēcat “Cent ontskvt tisē!” kicvtēs.
mo·mín íshi·câ·t cínť ónckatteysi·´ kaycatí·s
[then finding him] it has been you he told it
And when he found him, he said, “So, it was you!

Momen “Celēcvranvyat tvlkēs!” kihcet ohmof,
mo·mín cilí·cała·nayâ·t tâlki·s kýchcit óhmo·f⁴
and then I will have to kill you saying to him after
I’ll have to kill you!” he said, and then,

“Estomēn celēcvyē tetayat kerrvkot os” kicof,
(i)stó·mi·n cilí·cayi· (’ti)tâ·ya·t kíłłakot ó·s kaycô·f
how [I can] kill you I don’t know saying
“I don’t know how to kill you,” he said,

³ For short: acâ·kha·n.

⁴ For kýchcit óhmo·f, informant said also kýchco·f.

Cufet okat, "Cvlēcivrntsket on omat,
cofit o·kâ·t calí·calánckit ô·n o·mâ·t
Rabbit said if you're going to kill me
and Rabbit said, "If you're going to kill me,

estomēn res enholwvkus mahat cvlēcetskē tayat
(i)stó·mi·n 'lisiinholwakosmâ·ha·t calí·cícki· tâ·ya·t
how the worst way you can kill me
I'll tell you the very worst way

cem onvyvranis" kicvtēs.
cimonayá·la·néys kaycatí·s
I'm going to tell you he told him
you can kill me."

Estomēn oketska?" ueki-pucaset kihcet em pohvtēs.
(i)stó·mi·n o·kícka·^ oykeypocá·sit káyhcit ímpo·hatí·s
how do you mean? the spring-owner saying he asked him
"How do you mean?" the spring-owner asked.

Momen Cufet 'mvyoposket okat
mo·mín cofit 'máyo·po·skít o·kâ·t
and Rabbit answered and said
And Rabbit answered,

"Estvmin kvco-rakko-lane vikat rakkus mahat esliket on omat
istamēyn kaco·lakkolá·ni âlka·t lakkosmâ·ha·t islēykit ô·n o·mâ·t
where greenbrier-patch the biggest the patch wherever it is
"If you go and throw me where the biggest greenbrier patch is,

mvn rvcak-vwiketsken on omat cvlēcetskvhēs:
man 'laccakawēykíckin ô·n o·mâ·t calí·cíckahi·s
there if you go and throw me in you will kill me
you'll kill me:

kvco-lane orēn cvsekēyvrētok,
kaco·lá·ni olí·n casikí·yáli·to·k
the briers awfully will stick me
for the greenbriers will stick me terribly,

momen cvhvrpeu vnretvfvrētok.
mo·mín cahá·lpiw anlitáfáli·to·k
and my skin, too it will tear it for me
and tear my skin, too.

Momof cvna hvmkvn kvco-lane em fvskē cvsekēyekv,
mo·mô·f caná· hámkan kaco·lá·ni imfaskí· casikî·yika
and my body whole the green brier stickers will stick me
And the greenbrier's thorns will puncture my whole body,

momen cvhvrpeu omvl vnletvfepoyekv,
mo·mín caháłpiw omál anlitáfípô·yika
and my skin, too whole will be torn to pieces
my skin, too, will be torn to pieces,

momof eccvstemērkekiv,
mo·mô·f iccastimî·łkika
and I will suffer
so then I will suffer,

feknokketv tetan vnhayekv,
fiknokkitá 'titâ·n anhâ·yika
heart-ache enough it will cause me
it will cause me much heart-ache,

cvstemerkēt cvlepvres" kicvtēs.
castimîłki·t calípáli·s kaycatí·s
I will suffer I will die he told him
and I will die pitifully," he told him.

"Tetayeyonoks" ueki-pucaset enkomof,
'titâ·yiyô·nó·ks⁵ oykeypocá·sit ínko·mô·f
he was about right spring-owner he thought
"That might be," the spring-owner thought, and took him

esayvtēs, kvco-lane vlkat ervkwikvranat.
isa·yatí·s kaco·lá·ni âłka·t iłakwéykała·ná·t
he took him green-brier patch to throw him in
to throw him in the greenbrier patch.

Momen kvco vlkat er es ohret
mo·mín kacó· âłka·t iłisóhłit⁶
then brier-patch he got there with it
And having got to the brier patch,

⁵ Shorter form: 'titâ·yô·nó·ks.

⁶ MM: Haas nb has iłisóhłit.

“Yv oman oketskisa?” kicet, Cufen em pohvtēs.
ya ô·ma·n o·kickéysa·⁷ kaycít cofin ímpo·hatí·s
like this did you mean he told him Rabbit asked it
he asked Rabbit, “Did you mean like this place?”

“Ihi, mvn okvyis” kihcet, em vyoposkvētēs.
eyⁿhényⁿ man o·kayêys káyhcit imáyopo·skatí·s
yes that is what I meant he told him he answered
“Yes, that’s what I meant,” he replied.

Momof ele-yopvn enhlvthihcet
mo·mô·f iliyopán inhalathéyhcit
then hind-legs got him
Then he held him by the hind legs and told him,

“Mon omat, ecekwikvranis” kicof,
mô·n o·mâ·t icikwéykała·néys keycô·f
well I’m going to throw you in saying
“Well, then, I’m going to throw you in,”

esvfllvtēs, kvco-lanofvn.
isáfallatí·s kaco·la·nó·fan
he threw him in in the green-brier patch
and threw him in the brier patch.

Mohmen erlatkat,
móhmin ílla·tkâ·t
[then] when (R.) fell in
Then when he landed,

“Mvn okēpvyis.
man oki·payêys
that’s what I meant
[Rabbit] said, “That’s what I meant.

Yv omat cvhute mahhet os” kihcet,
ya ô·ma·t cahóti máhhit ô·s káyhcit
like this my home real [is] he saying
My real home is like this,”

⁷ Or: o·kickéysa·[^].

⁸ Phonetically: ghɛ (do re).