

The Tasks of Rabbit (Cufe Hoporrenkvn Hesaketvmesēn em pohvtēs)¹⁷
Told by J. Marshall (VI:65-85)

Cufe tat nak kerretvn komet Hesaketvmesēn em pohvtēt omēs.
cofita:t nâ·k kilhitán kô·mit hisa·kitamisi·n ímpo·hatí·t ô·mi·s
Rabbit something to know wanted God asked for did
Rabbit wanted to know things and asked God for it.

“Cvhoporrenēt omvrēn cvyacēt os” maket enpohet omen,
cahopoŕŕiní·t omáli·n cayá·ci·t ô·s ma·kít ímpo·hít o·mín
I have sense to have I want said asked him did
“I want to be knowledgeable,” he said, asking him,

Cufet cetto·mēkkon res vtvrēn Hesaketvmesēt kicvtēs.
cofít, cittomí·kkon ’hisatáli·n hisa·kitamisi·t keycatí·s
rabbit rattlesnake to bring God told him
God told Rabbit to bring a rattlesnake.

Mohmen Cufe tat orēn vkerricet arvtēt omēs.
móhmin, cofita:t olí·n akíŕŕeycít a·latí·t ô·mi·s
Then rabbit hard studied was around was
Then Rabbit went around thinking about that very hard.

Ohhoporrenket estomēcēt res vtē tayat kerrekot omvtē tis,
ohhopóŕŕinŕkít ístomi·cí·t ’hisatí· tâ·ya·t kíŕŕikot o·matí·teys
thought it over just how to bring it back didn’t know (did)
He thought it over, but he couldn’t figure out how to bring him back,

vkerricat sētekkēkvn tacvtēs,
akíŕŕeycâ·t si·tikkikán ta·catí·s
studied about it walking-stick he cut it
he thought about it, and cut a walking stick,

estele vhopakv ēpakat mahen.
istilí ahopá·ka i·pâ·ka·t mâ·hin.
foot, feet measure six about
about six feet long.

Momet yoksv·hvmken enfvsēcvtēs.
mo·mít yoksahámkin ínfasi·catí·s
Then one end he sharpened
Then he sharpened one end.

¹⁷ Title: cofí hopoŕŕinŕkan hisa·kitamisi·n ímpo·hatí·s ‘Rabbit asked God for knowledge’

Momet ehset ayvtēs.
mo·mít íhsit a·yatí·s
Then he took it and went
Then he took it and went.

Cetto-mēkko tat eshēcvtēs.
cittomí·kkota·t íshi·catí·s
the rattlesnake he found it
He found the rattlesnake.

En punayet okat, “Heyv eto ēsvyan sencvpketskēt omēs’ makvyan,
ínpona·yít o·kâ·t hiya itó î·saya·n sincápkíckí·t ô·mí·s ma·kayâ·n
he talked to it and said this stick I have you are longer than are I said
He talked with it, saying, “I said you’re longer than this stick I’m holding,

‘Monhkos, eto mit cvpkēt omēs’ cvkihocen aret omis’ maket,
mónhko·s, itomēyt cápki·t ô·mí·s cakáyho·cín a·lít o·méys¹⁸ ma·kít
it’s not the stick long is they told me I’m about said
but I was told, ‘No, the stick is longer’,” so [that’s why] I’m here,

cetto-mēkkon ’monayvtēs.
cittomí·kkon móna·yatí·s¹⁹
the rattlesnake R. told it
he told the rattlesnake.

Cetto-mēkkot okat, “Mv eto omusat sencvpkvyēt omēs” makof,
cittomí·kkot o·kâ·t ma itó ô·mosa·t sincápkayi·t ô·mí·s ma·kô·f
the rattlesnake said that stick like that I’m longer than am when he said
Rattlesnake said, “I am longer than a stick like that,” whereupon

“Mon omat, lvpōtkuset wvkiketsken,
mô·n o·mâ·t lapō·tkosit wakêykíckin,
well, then very straight lie down!
[Rabbit] said, “Well, then, lie down very straight,

heyv eton cehopayvranis” kicen,
hiya itón²⁰ ’cihopá·yała·néys²¹ kaycín
this stick I’ll measure you (with) he said to it
and I’ll measure you [with] this stick,”

¹⁸ Marshall: o·méys.

¹⁹ Long way: ímóna·yatí·s.

²⁰ Short: ya itón.

²¹ Long way: ici.

wakkof, Cufe tat vhopayet
wâ·kko·f cofíta·t, ahópa·yít
while lying the rabbit measured
and as he lay, Rabbit measured him,

mv eto fvskat fvccvn cetto-mēkko ekvn sensekehyet, elēcvtēs.
ma itó fáska·t fáccan cittomí·kko ikán sinsikíhyit ili·catí·s
that stick sharp part, end the rattlesnake's head stuck it with and killed it
pierced the rattlesnake's head with the end of the sharp stick, and killed him.

Mont cufe tat sekaronet res vlakvtēs.
mónt cofíta·t sika·lô·nit 'hisála·katí·s
Then rabbit shouldered it brought back
Then Rabbit put him on his shoulder and brought him back.

Res vlahkof "Cehoporrēnet ont omis os" kihocvtēs.
'hisaláhko·f cihopólli·nít ónt o·mêys o·s káyo·catí·s
after he brought it back you're getting sense all right
After he brought him back, he was told, "You're getting smart, all right."

"Hvtvm tvkocv·cate sulkēn res vtes" kihocvtēs.
hatâm, 'takocacá·ti²² sólki·n 'hisatís kényho·catí·s
again red ants lots get, fetch
"This time bring lots of red ants," he was told.

Momen ahyet, 'stomēcē cvwetu kerrekatēs.
mo·mín áhyit stomí·ci· cawíta kílliká·ti·s
Then he went just how to get them he didn't know
Then he went, [but] he didn't know how to get them.

Momis nehē·cvmpv res em orvtēs.
mo·mêys nihi·cámpa 'hisímo·látí·s
But molasses he took to them
But he took some molasses to them.

Tvkoca hute ocan enpunayet
'takocá· hótí ô·ca·n ínpona·yít
ant home where it is he talked to them
He spoke with them where the ant home was,

"Yv nehē·cvmpv lokakēs' makvyan,
ya nihi·cámpa loka·kí·s ma·kayâ·n
this molasses they can eat it up I said
"I said they could finish off this molasses,

²² 'takocá· = ant(s); 'takoca·cá·ti = 'red ant(s)'

‘Monhkos’ mahoken, satit omis” makvtēs.
 mónhko·s má·ho·kín sa·téyt o·méys ma·katí·s
 No they said I brought it did he said
 but I was told ‘No’ and have brought it here,” he said.

Tvkocat okakat, “Lokvraneyat tylkus” makaken
 ’takocá·t oka·ká·t lokála·niyâ·t tálⁿkos má·ka·kín
 The ants said we’re to eat it up sure to they said
 The ants said, “We are sure to eat it up,”

“Mon omat, lokatsken hecvranis” Cufe tat kihcen,
 mô·n o·mâ·t lo·ká·ckin hicála·néys cofita·t káyhcín
 well, then (you-all) eat it up I want to see Rabbit said to them
 “Well, then, I want to see you eat it up,” Rabbit told them,

pvpetv vlicēcakvtēs.
 papíta aleycí·ca·katí·s
 to eat (it) they began
 and they began to eat it.

Tvkoca omvlkvt halo vtēhkvtēs.
 ’takocá· omáلكat, há·lo ati·hkati·s
 the ants all (tin) bucket got in
 The ants all got into a tin bucket.

’Makhotiyet ’shvlahtet res vlakvtēs.
 makhotēyyit shaláhtit²³ ’hisála·katí·s
 he shut them up holding it he took it back
 He shut them up, and holding it, he brought it back.

Momen “Cehoporrenē hakis os” kihocvtēs.
 mo·mín, cihopořliní· ha·kêys ó·s káyho·catí·s
 Then knowledge you’re getting he, they told him
 Then he was told, “You’re getting smart.”

Momen hvttvm vtothoyvtēs,
 mo·mín hatâm atótho·yatí·s
 Then again he sent him
 Then he was sent again,

²³ Haas nb has saláhtit.

vlpvtv mvn res vtvṛēn.
alpatá man 'lisatáli·n²⁴
alligator that to bring
to bring an alligator back.

Momen ayvtēs.
mo·mín, a·yatí·s
Then he went
And he went.

Hvccen akhvtaṅkvtēs.
háccin ákhata·ṅkatí·s
creek he got down to
He went down to the creek.

Uewv lvokēt ocēt omen,
óywa láwki·t ó·ci·t ô·mín,
the water deep [there] was (was)
There was deep water,

vlpvtv mvn akwakkvtēs.
alpatá(t) man akwâ·kkatí·s
the alligator there it was lying
and the alligator was lying there.

Cufe tat rem orvtēs.
cofita·t límo·latí·s
Rabbit got there where he was
Rabbit got to his [place there].

Enhuehket “Vnhessē!” maket enhuehken,
ínhoyhkít anhissi²⁵ ma·kítínhoyhkín
he called to it my friend he said he called to it
He called to it, saying “My friend!”

yak·vfvnkvētēs.
yákkafaṅkatí·s
it peeped out from (the water)
and it peeped out from the water.

“Naken ceyaca?” kicet enpohen,
nâ·kin ciyâ·ca·^ kaycít ínpo·hín
what do you want it said to him it asked him
“What do you want?” he asked,

²⁴ Correct way (according to Raiford): alpatán 'lisatáli·n.

²⁵ Sic: anhissi^.

“Vtotketvñ vm vnicvñ” kicvtēs.
 atotkitán, amanéycas keycatí:s
 (to) work help me! he said to it
 “Help me work,” he said.

“Eto seletvñ vm vnicetskvñ mahoket omen arit omis”
 (i)tó silítan amanéycíckáñi·n má·ho·kít o·mín a·léyt o·méys
 wood to split you to help me they say [do] I am around I am
 “I’m here because I was told you’d help me split wood,”

kicof, ’mvkvsamvtēs.
 kaycô·f mákasa·matí:s²⁶
 when he told it it consented
 he said, whereupon he agreed.

Uewv a ak-osiyen vhojvtēs.
 óywa a·akkosēyyin aho·yatí:s
 water it came out of and they 2 went
 He came up out of the water and they went.

Eto vlkan eto herākēt ocaken hecaket vwelakvtēs.
 itó âlka·n itó hiñ·ki·t o·câ·kin, hica·kít awíla·katí:s
 where there are trees wood good there were they saw they were about
 In a forest they saw good wood and looked it over well.

Vlpvtv ’to-selkv hayetv hērē tayan hēcet
 alpatá ’to-sílka ha·yitá hiñ·li· tâ·ya·n hi·cít
 alligator boards to make it would be good he was looking for
 Alligator looked for [wood] that was good for making boards,

vharof, Cufet pucuswvñ ekvñ sennafkvtēs.
 aha·lô·f cofít pocóswan ikán sínna·fkatí:s
 while he was about Rabbit the ax its head he hit it on
 and while he was looking it over, Rabbit hit him in the head with an ax.

Sennafkof, enlētktvtēs.
 sínna·fkô·f ínli·tkatí:s
 when he hit it it ran from
 When he hit it, it ran from him.

²⁶ Long way: imá-.

Cakkeko tayen uewvn rakcēyēpvtēs.
cákkiko· tâ·yin óywan łakcí·yi·patí·s
he couldn't catch it water it went into
He couldn't catch him and it went into the water.

Mohmof Cufe tat enholwvkē tatēs.
móhmo·f cofita·t inholwakí· tá·ti·s
afterwards Rabbit was grieved
Afterwards Rabbit was grieved.

Netta sulkēt hoyanen rem orvtēs.
nittä· sólki·t hoyâ·nin límó·łatí·s
several days had passed he went back where it was
Many days passed and he went back.

Hvtvm enhuehkvētēs:
hatâm inhoyhkatí·s
again he called it
Again he called him:

“Vnhessē!” kicet, “Estoma?” Vlpvtvt kicvtēs.
anhissi^ keycít istô·ma·^ alpatát keycatí·s
my friend he said to it what is it? alligator said to him
“My friend!” he said, “What is it?” Alligator said.

“Hvtvm vtotketvn cem vnicekvs' mahoken arit omis” makvtēs.
hatâm atotkitán cimanéycikas má·ho·kín a·léyt o·méys ma·katí·s
again to work he must help you they said I am around am he said
“I'm here because I was told again to have you help me work,” he said.

“Momof Vlpvtv penkvlētātēs mahoken:
mo·mô·f alpatá piŋkalí·ta·ti·s má·ho·kín
Then alligator was afraid when they said
Then Alligator became frightened when he heard that:

“Arvkat, tayen estenafket omhoyvnks” makvtēs.
a·łakâ·t tă·nyin ístina·fkít ómho·yáns ma·katí·s
you go about a lot they hit anyone did it said
“Going about, a person can be hit pretty bad,” he said.

Momof Cufe tat turnēkrv a ak-ehset
mo·mô·f cofita·t tołní·łka a·akkíhsit
Then Rabbit eyeball he took out
This time Rabbit had taken out an eyeball

turwv hvmkusen hayēt aret omvtēs.
 tóŵwa hâmkosin há·yi·t a·lít o·matí·s
 eyed one made going around was
 and went about with just one eye.

Momen Vlpvtv tat penkvlētot omis, em vkvsamvtēs,
 mo·mín alpatáta·t piŋkalí·tot o·mēys imákasa·matí·s
 Then alligator afraid was, but he consented
 And Alligator was afraid, but he consented

vtoťketv em vnicvranat.
 atotkitá (i)manéycała·nâ·t
 to work to help him
 to help him work.

Cufet okat, “Tecakkvyat cenafket omvtēs.
 cofit o·kâ·t ’ticâ·kkaya·t cina·fkít ô·matí·s
 Rabbit said my brother hit you he did
 Rabbit said, “It was my brother who hit you.

Cenafkvētē vm onayen, ehanvyvnks” makvtēs.
 cina·fkati· amóna·yín ihâ·nayaŋks ma·katí·s
 the one that hit you told me I scolded him he said
 The one that hit you told me, and I scolded him,” he said.

Momen hvttvm, eto tat hopoyakvtēs, ’to·selkv eshayetv tat.
 mo·mín hatâm, itóta·t hopóya·katí·s, ’tosílka isha·yitáta·t.
 Then again wood they hunted for boards to make with
 Then again they hunted for wood to make boards with.

Momen tentakhaket vhoyen, Cufet enpohet,
 mo·mín, tintakhâ·kit aho·yín, cofit ínpo·hít,
 Then side by side they 2 were going along Rabbit asked him
 As they were going along side by side, Rabbit asked him,

“Tecakkeyat, estvmvn cennafkat celēcvranvtētē?” kicen,
 ’ticâ·kkiya·t, ístaman, cinnâ·fka·t cilí·cała·nati·ti·^, kaycín,
 my brother where should he have hit you to kill you he said to him
 “Where should my brother have hit you in order to kill you?”

“Cvsokson vnnafkvētē cvlvhanvtēs” Vlpvtv kihcof,
 casókson annâ·fkati· caláha·natí·s, alpatá káyhco·f,
 my hip had he hit me on I would have died alligator when he said
 “If he had hit me on my hip, I would have died,” Alligator said,

eton vketēcet vharof,
itón²⁷ akítí·cít aha·lô·f,
trees looking at while he was going round about
and while he was checking out a tree and going around it,

Cufet pucuswvn esokson sennvfiket, elēcvtēs.
cofit pocóswan, isókson, sinnafêykit ili·catí·s
Rabbit ax his hip he hit him on killed him
Rabbit hit him on his hip with the ax and killed him.

Res vlakvtēs.
ʼhisála·katí·s
took him back with him
He brought him back.

Momen Hesaketvmesē okat,
mo·mín hisa·kitamisí·t o·kâ·t,
Then God said
And God said,

“Hoporrenkv tat rohhtvlakat naken ceyacekot os” kicvtēt omen,
hopoľhŋkata·t lohatalâ·ka·t nâ·kin ciyá·cikoto·s keycatí·t ô·min,
knowledge any further anything you don’t want he said to him did
“You don’t need any additional cleverness,”

“Cufe tat orēn ʼmvkerrvkēt ont omēs” maket este·cate onvyakvtēt omēs cē.
cofita·t olí·n ʼmakillakí·t ônt o·mí·s ma·kít isticá·ti, onáya·katí·t ô·mi·s cí²⁸
the Rabbit very cunning is (is) said Indians told about it did
and Indians used to say “Rabbits are very cunning.”

²⁷ Or: ‘among the trees’.

²⁸ Or (Raiford): onáya·kít o·matí·s cí^.