

MOSQUITO, WHO FASTED TOO LONG AND BECAME A SPIRIT

ALFRED KIYANA

Edited and translated by Amy Dahlstrom

e·sa·mekwama·ta me·neto·wita sakime·wa.¹
FAST.TOO.LONG 3/PART/3 BE.SPIRIT 3/PART/3 MOSQUITO
Mosquito, who fasted too long and became a spirit

- 1 A o·ni nektenwi e·h=ma·wa·seto·wa·či neno·te·waki,
AND.THEN ONCE GATHER.FOR.W.CAMP 3P—INAN/AOR INDIANS
And then one time when the Indians gathered for winter camp,
- B atehči e·h=owi·kiheči me·hkate·wi·ta oškinawe·ha.
A.DISTANCE.OFF MAKE.DWELL.[THERE] X—3/AOR FAST 3/PART/3 YOUNG.MAN
a certain young man who was fasting was made to live off by himself.
- C "nahi, ki·h=po·ni·mahkate·wi,"
OKAY, FUT=STOP-FAST 2/IND.IND
"Okay, you should stop fasting,"
- D e·h=ikoči | maneto·wahi ke·temina·kočihi.
SAY.[THUS].TO OBV—3/AOR SPIRITS.OBV BLESS OBV—3/PART/OBV.PL
the spirits who blessed him told him.
- E pye·ya·niči o·sani,
COME OBV/CH.CONJ HIS.FATHER.OBV
When his father came,
- F e·h=a·čimoha·či, |
TELL.STORY.TO 3—OBV/AOR
he told him,

¹ Kiyana's text is manuscript no. 2984 in the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. It was written around 1912 in the Fox syllabary. In editing his text, I have supplied punctuation and indications of vowel length and *h*, not written in the syllabary. In addition, the following editorial conventions are used: _ means no word boundary was written; - means no word boundary was written between a preverb and a verb; | marks the end of a line and || marks the end of a page. As elsewhere in this volume, the boundary between a clitic and its host is indicated by =.

- G "ano·se, ni·h=po·ni=‘pi -mahkate·wi," |
FATHER.VOC FUT=STOP-=QUOT. FAST 1/IND.IND
e·h=ina·či.
SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR
"Father, they said I should stop fasting," he said to him.
- H "we·ne·h‘=ča·hi i·ni e·nehka?" |
WHO=SO THAT SAY.[THUS].TO 3—2/PART/3
e·h=ikoči.
SAY.[THUS].TO OBV—3/AOR
"Who was the one who said that to you?" he asked him.
- I "i·ni=ča·hi e·na·hpawa·ya·ni," | e·h=ina·či.
THAT=SO DREAM.[THUS] 1/PART/OBL SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR
"That's what I dreamed," he said to him.
- J "o·=we·nahi·=‘ni?" e·h=ikoči. |
OH.THAT'S.IT SAY.[THUS].TO OBV—3/AOR
"Oh, is that so?" he said to him.
- K "ke·swi=ya·pi=‘ni e·h=ketemino·hki | maneto·waki?"
HOW.MANY=MAY.I.ASK=THEN BLESS 3(P)—2/AOR SPIRITS
"How many spirits blessed you then?"
- L e·h=ikoči o·sani.
SAY.[THUS].TO OBV—3/AOR HIS.FATHER.OBV
his father asked him.
- M e·h=a·ya·čimoha·či,
REDUP.TELL.STORY.TO 3—OBV/AOR
He explained it to him,
- N nano·pehka e·h=a·totamawa·či maneto·wahi.
LARGE.NUMBER TELL.ABOUT.(OBJ2).TO 3—OBV/AOR SPIRITS.OBV
telling him about the large number of spirits.
- O "meše nekoti me·mečine·hi ketemino·hke,
JUST ONE LAST.TIME BLESS 3(P)—2/SUBJUNCTIVE
"When they bless you just one last time,
- P i·ni wi·h=po·ni·mahkate·wi·yani," e·h=ina·či okwisani.
THEN FUT=STOP-FAST 1/AOR SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR HIS.SON.OBV
that will be the time for you to stop fasting," he told his son.

- Q o-ni₂ e-ški=-meko₂ -mehpo-hiniki,
 AND.THEN FIRST-=EMPH SNOW.DIM INAN.OBV/CH.CONJ
And then, when it had snowed a little for the very first time,
- R e-h=anawiwa-či.
 HUNT 3P/AOR
they went hunting.
- S osi-me-hani e-h=wi-te-ma-či, |
 HIS.YOUNGER.BROTHER.OBV GO.WITH 3-OBV/AOR
He went with his little brother,
- T anemya-ka e-h=iši-anawiwa-či. ||
 DOWNSTREAM [THITHER]-GO.ON.HUNT 3P/AOR
and they went downstream to hunt.
- 2 A e-h=ahkawiha-wa-či e-sepa-hani,
 FIND.[OBJ'S].TRACKS 3P-OBV/AOR RACCOON.OBV
They found the tracks of a raccoon,
- B e-h=na-kana-wa-či.
 FOLLOW 3P-OBV/AOR
and they trailed him.
- C ani-pi-ki='pi e-h=ako-si-hkawe-niči. |
 ELM.LOC=QUOT [SUBJ'S].TRACKS.CLIMB.UP OBV/AOR
His tracks, it's said, climbed up an elm.
- D či-kahkiwe e-h=nemate-ki | i-ni meš-ani-pi,
 NEAR.HILL STAND.[THERE] INAN/PART/OBL THAT BIG-ELM
Near a hill is where that big elm stood,
- E e-h=we-činowateniki=ke-hi.
 BE.EASY INAN.OBV/AOR=AND
and it was easy [for them to climb it].
- F "ako-si-htawi," e-h=ina-či₂ osi-me-hani.
 CLIMB.UP.AFTER 2-3/IMP SAY.[THUS].TO 3-OBV/AOR HIS.Y.BRO.OBV
"Climb up after him," he told his little brother.
- G "hao," e-h=iči ina atena-wi e-hpi-hčiki-hita,
 OKAY SAY.[THUS] 3/AOR THAT.ANIM LESS BE.[SO].OLD.DIM 3/PART/3
"Okay," that one who was younger said,

- H e-h=ako·si·či.
CLIMB 3/AOR
and he climbed up.
- I i·ya·hi pye·ta·si·či,
THERE COME.[THITHER].CLIMBING 3/CH.CONJ
When he came climbing up there,
- J kaši, mya·nahi·wani=či·hi i·nahi e-h=šekišiniči!
WHY, CATFISH.OBV=EXCLAM THERE LIE.[THERE] OBV/AOR
why, there was a catfish lying there!
- K "ni·sa·hke·no, ki·h=wača·hopena!" e-h=ina·či,
THROW.DOWN 2/IMP FUT=COOK 21/IND.IND SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR
"Throw it down, we'll cook it!" he told him,
- L e-h=ni·sa·hke·či.
THROW.DOWN 3/AOR
and he threw it down.
- M meše='nahi='nahi e-h=po·ni·wa·či.
SOMEWHERE.AROUND.THERE CAMP.[THERE] 3P/AOR
They set up camp somewhere around there.
- N nepise·hi e-h=kehčine·teniki,
LAKE.DIM BE.NEARBY INAN.OBV/AOR
There was a pond nearby,
- O meše=meko čaki·nepise·hi.
FAIRLY SMALL-LAKE.DIM
a fairly small pond.
- P e-h=wača·howa·či mya·nahi·wani.²
COOK 3P/AOR CATFISH.OBV
They cooked the catfish.
- Q e-h=ki·ša·koči·wi·keneniči
AS.MUCH.AS.POSSIBLE-TASTE.GOOD OBV/AOR
That catfish tasted as good as could be
- R e-h=amwa·wa·či i·nini | mya·name·kwani.
EAT 3P—OBV/AOR THAT.OBV CATFISH.OBV
when they ate it.

² Kiyana wrote <nya na i wa ni>.

- S meše='nah'=meko | e-h=ča·kama·wa·či.
 JUST.GO.AHEAD.AND EAT.ALL 3P—OBV/AOR
They went ahead and ate it all up.
- T "šihwi! meše='nah'=meko keča·kama·pena!" || e-h=iyowa·či.
 GEE! JUST.GO.AHEAD.AND EAT.ALL 21—3/IND.IND SAY.[THUS] 3P/AOR
"Gee! We just ate it all up!" they said.
- 3 A aškači·me·hi,
 A.LITTLE.LATER
A little later,
- B "nahi nesi·hi, nepi=ni·hka na·tawino!"
 HEY Y.BROTHER.VOC WATER=MAN'S.EXCLAM FETCH.FOR 2—1/IMP
"Hey, little brother, go get me some water!"
- C e-h=ina·či osi·me·hani.
 SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR HIS.YOUNGER.BROTHER.OBV
he told his little brother.
- D "hao," e-h=iniči.
 OKAY SAY.[THUS] OBV/AOR
"Okay," he said.
- E oše·šketo·he·hwa·wani e-h=awana·či we·si·me·hemeta.
 THEIR.KETTLE.OBV TAKE 3—OBV/AOR HAVE.AS.Y.BROTHER X—3/PART/3
The little brother took their kettle.
- F ke·keya·hi e-h=ayi·hkwi·či | ³
 FINALLY BE.TIRED 3/AOR
Finally he got tired
- G osese·hani e-h=awatawa·či nepi |
 HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV CARRY.FOR 3—OBV/AOR WATER
from carrying water for his big brother.
- H ke·keya·hi omatete·hani e-h=ketenaki
 FINALLY HIS.LEGGINGS TAKE.OFF 3—INAN/AOR
Finally he took off his leggings
- I e-h=takwi·anaho·to·či.
 TOGETHER.WITH-FILL.UP 3—INAN/AOR
and filled them up in addition.

³ Kiyana wrote <e a ye gi tti>.

- J e·h=a·hkowi=-meko | -ča·kataminiči
IN.SUCCESION=-EMPH DRINK.ALL OBV-INAN/AOR
Again and again [the elder brother] drank all the water up.
- K ke·keya·hi='pi, "keteši·pwa·wi=-ni·hka -mawi·meno,
FINALLY=QUOT THUS-NOT=-MAN'S.EXCLAM GO.TO-DRINK 2-INAN/IND.IND
Finally, it's said, "Why don't you go and drink?"
- L i·ya·hi pe·hki wi·h=te·patamani,"
THERE REALLY FUT=DRINK.ENOUGH 2-INAN/PART/OBL

e·h=ina·či.
SAY.[THUS].TO 3-OBV/AOR
Over there is where you could really drink all you want!" he said to him.
- M "ke·htena=ma·hi, nesi·hi," e·h=ikoči.
SURE=AFTER.ALL Y.BROTHER.VOC SAY.[THUS].TO OBV-3/AOR
"Sure, little brother," he said to him.
- N i·tepi | e·h=a·či
THERE GO.[THITHER] 3/AOR
He went over there
- O pe·hki e·h=menoči.
REALLY DRINK 3-INAN/AOR
and really drank.
- P aškači=meko e·h=aškačipwi·ha·či osese·hani,
LATER=EMPH GET.ANXIOUS.WAITING.FOR 3-OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BRO.OBV
Much later he became anxious while waiting for his big brother,
- Q i·tepi e·h=mawa·pama·či.
THERE GO.[THITHER].TO.SEE 3-OBV/AOR
and he went over there to check on him.
- R ayo·h'='či·hi po·hkwi e·h=sa·kišiniči!
HERE=EXCLAM HALF LIE.[THERE].PARTLY.VISIBLE OBV/AOR
Here he was lying sticking halfway out!
- S ka·škihekoči,
PERCEIVE OBV-3/CH.CONJ
When [the elder brother] realized he was there,
- T e·h=aniwinawi·niči.
EXCESSIVELY.MOVE.LIKE.FISH OBV/AOR
he flopped around wildly.

- U e·h=se·kiha·či osese·hani,
 FRIGHTEN 3—OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
He was frightening his elder brother,
- V e·h=ki·wi·ša·šo·škona·či. |
 AROUND-REDUP.[OBJ].SLIPS.FROM.[SUBJ'S].GRASP 3—OBV/AOR
as he went around trying to get a grip on him.
- W e·h=neme·siwiniči osese·hani, ||
 BE.FISH OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
His big brother had turned into a fish,
- 4 A po·hkwi e·h=neme·siwiniči osese·hani.
 HALF BE.FISH OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
half of his big brother was a fish.
- B ke·keya·h'=meko e·h=mayo·či | osese·hani,
 FINALLY=EMPH CRY 3/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
Finally he was crying over his big brother,
- C e·h=ki·ki·winehkawa·či osese·hani.
 REDUP.CHASE.AROUND 3—OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
as he chased his big brother around and around.
- D aškači e·h=pe·we·nemoči, |
 LATER GIVE.UP 3/AOR
Later he gave up,
- E e·h=pwa·wi·kaški·mešena·či.
 NOT-ABLE-CATCH 3—OBV/AOR
because he couldn't catch him.
- F aškači=meko e·h=po·ni·hkawa·či.
 LATER=EMPH STOP.BOTHERING 3—OBV/AOR
Much later he left him alone.
- G e·h=wa·pawa·pataki i·ni nepise·hi,
 REDUP.LOOK.AT 3—INAN/AOR THAT LAKE.DIM
He kept looking at the pond,

- H e·škami=meko e·h=pa·pi·sa·na·kami·niki.⁴
 INCREASINGLY=EMPH [WATER].RIPPLES INAN.OBV/AOR
as the water rippled more and more.
- I aškači e·h=pye·či·sa·keška·niči osese·hani.
 LATER COME-HAVE.BODY.PARTLY.VISIBLE OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BRO.OBV
Later his big brother came up, sticking out of the water.
- J "nahi, nesi·hi, pya·no," e·h=ikoči.
 HEY Y.BROTHER.VOC COME 2/IMP SAY.[THUS].TO OBV-3/AOR
"Hey, little brother, come here," he told him.
- K i·nah'=či·hi po·hkwi e·h=mya·name·kowiniči osese·hani! |
 THERE=EXCLAM HALF BE.CATFISH OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BRO.OBV
There was his big brother, a half-catfish!
- L e·h=a·čimohekoči,
 TELL.STORY.TO OBV-3/AOR
He told him,
- M "ko·sena·na ki·h=a·čimoha·wa,"
 OUR.[INCL].FATHER FUT=TELL.STORY.TO 2-3/IND.IND
 e·h=ikoči.
 SAY.[THUS].TO OBV-3/AOR
"You should tell the story to our father," he said to him.
- N "po·hkwi neme·siwiwa nesese·ha,' ki·h=ina·wa,
 HALF BE.FISH 3/IND.IND MY.E.BRO FUT=SAY.[THUS].TO 2-3/IND.IND
"You should say to him, 'My big brother turned into a half-fish.'
- O mani=ča·hi me·kwahkiwiki
 THIS=SO BE.HILL INAN/PART/INAN
And as for this hill,
- P 'sakime·watenwi' ki·h=ita·pwa,"
 MOSQUITO.HILL FUT=SAY.[THUS].ABOUT 2-INAN/IND.IND
you should call it 'Mosquito Hill!,"

⁴ The analysis of this word was suggested to me by Ives Goddard (personal communication), with the following morphological breakdown: *pa-* reduplication; initial *pi-s-* 'small'; final *a·na·kami-* 'be a hollow in the water' II. Goddard points out, however, that it is peculiar for a stem containing the initial *pi-s-* to not bear a diminutive secondary final. (No current speaker of Fox has been found who recognizes this verb.)

- Q e·h=ineči.
SAY.[THUS].TO X-3/AOR
he was told.
- R "ki·na=wi·na_ ahpene·či=meko ki·h=ne·ne·wi,"
YOU=CONTRASTIVE ALWAYS=EMPH FUT=REDUP.SEE 2-1/IND.IND
"But as for you, you will always be seeing me,"
- S e·h=ina·či osi·me·hani.
SAY.[THUS].TO 3-OBV/AOR HIS.YOUNGER.BROTHER.OBV
he said to his little brother.
- T "i·noki=ča·h'=meko ki·h=na·kwa," e·h=ina·či. ||
NOW=SO=EMPH FUT=LEAVE 2/IND.IND SAY.[THUS].TO 3-OBV/AOR
"So right now you should leave," he told him.
- 5 A e·h=na·kwa·či i·na_ oškinawe·he·ha.
LEAVE 3/AOR THAT.ANIM YOUNG.MAN.DIM
That young teenage boy left.
- B i·ya·hi pye·ya·či,
THERE COME.[THITHER] 3/CH.CONJ
When he came there,
- C "nešihka kepya?" e·h=ineči.
ALONE COME 2/IND.IND SAY.[THUS].TO X-3/AOR
he was asked, "Did you come alone?"
- D "e·he·he, po·hkwi=kohi neme·siwiwa nesese·ha,"
YES HALF=CERTAINLY BE.FISH 3/IND.IND MY.ELDER.BROTHER
"Yes, my big brother has turned into a half-fish,"
- E e·h=iči.
SAY.[THUS] 3/AOR
he said.
- F pašito·ha_ ke·htena·hi e·h=kehči·mayo·či,
OLD.MAN SURELY GREATLY-CRY 3/AOR
The old man surely cried hard,
- G "o·hwa!_ nekwisa!" e·čini=meko |
OH.NO! MY.SON SAY.[THUS] OBV/ITER=EMPH
and whenever he said, "Oh, my son!"

- H e·h=če·če·keki.
SOB 3/AOR
he sobbed.
- I e·h=ma·čiweneči nešiwī taswī mehtose·neniwaki,
LEAD X-3/AOR HUGE SO.MANY PEOPLE
A huge number of people were led over
- J e·h=nešiwī·inekīhkwa·niki mešī·nepisi.
HUGE-BE.SO.BIG INAN.OBV/PART/OBL BIG-LAKE
to where the lake had become huge.
- K šihihwī! e·h=nešiwīna·kwateniki!
GEE! APPEAR.TERRIFYING INAN.OBV/AOR
Gee! It looked scary!
- L e·h=kehci·čapo·kisaha·wa·či neno·te·wi·nese·ma·wani.
GREATLY-THROW.IN.WATER 3P-OBV/AOR INDIAN-TOBACCO.OBV
They threw a lot of Indian tobacco into the water.
- M sakime·wa='pi='na išisowa našawaye,
MOSQUITO=QUOT=THAT.ANIM BE.[THUS].NAMED 3/IND.IND LONG.AGO
That [man] of long ago was named Mosquito, it's said,
- N e·sa·mekwama·ta me·neto·wita našawaye.
FAST.TOO.LONG 3/PART/3 BE.SPIRIT 3/PART/3 LONG.AGO
the one who fasted too long and became a spirit long ago.
- O o·ni='na oškinawe·ha nešihka i·tepi e·ya·cini,
AND.THEN=THAT.ANIM YOUNG.MAN ALONE THERE GO.[THITHER] 3/ITER
And then as for that young man, whenever he went there alone,
- P e·h=ne·wa·či=meko⁵ osese·hani.
SEE 3-OBV/AOR=EMPH HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
he would in fact see his brother.
- Q kapo·twe e·h=po·ni·ne·wa·či,
AT.SOME.POINT STOP-SEE 3-OBV/AOR
At some point he stopped seeing him,
- R še·ški='p'=a·pehe mya·name·kwahi e·h=kehči·mo·hki·niči.
ONLY=QUOT=ALWAYS CATFISH.OBV.PL GREATLY-EMERGE OBV/AOR
there would only be a lot of catfish coming out of the water, it's said.

⁵ Kiyana wrote a word boundary between *e·h=ne·wa·či* and *=meko*.