MOSQUITO, WHO FASTED TOO LONG AND BECAME A SPIRIT

ALFRED KYANA

Edited and translated by Amy Dahlstrom

*e*sa*mekwana*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 And the time when the Indians gathered for winter camp,
A *oni nekotenwi e*ha*wa*se*towaci nenote*waki,*
AND.THEM ONCE GATHER.FOR.W.CAMP 3P—INAN/AOR INDIANS
And then one time when the Indians gathered for winter camp,

B *ate*hec*hi e*ha*owikihec*hi me*hekate*wit*aci o*skinaweha.*
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*ha*po*ni*mahkate*wi,"
OKAY, FUT=STOP—FAST 2/IND.IND
"Okay, you should stop fasting."

D e*ha*_iko*chi *mane*to*wa*hi ke*temina*ko*cihi.
SAY.[THUS].TO OBV—3/AOR SPIRITS.OBV BLESS OBV—3/PART/OBV.PL
the spirits who blessed him told him.

E pye*ya*ni*chi *o*si*ni,
COME OBV/CH.CONJ HIS.FATHER.OBV
When his father came,

F e*ha*a*ci*mi*ha*ci*chi,
TELL.STORY.TO 3—OBV/AOR
he told him.

¹ Kyana’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 =.
"Father, they said I should stop fasting," he said to him.

"Who was the one who said that to you?" he asked him.

"Oh, is that so?" he said to him.

"How many spirits blessed you then?"

"He explained it to him,"
Q oni eški=meko -mehpohiniki, 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=hanawiwači. HUNT 3P/AOR
they went hunting.

S osimehani e=wi=me=mači, | HIS.YOUNGER.BROTHER.OBV GO.WITH 3—OBL/AOR
He went with his little brother;

T anemya-ka e=hiši=hanawiwači. || DOWNSTREAM [THIS-HERE].GO.ON.HUNT 3P/AOR
and they went downstream to hunt.

2 A e=ahkawiha-wači e=sepa=hanin.
FIND.[OBL'S], TRACKS 3P—OBL/AOR RACCOON.OBV
They found the tracks of a raccoon,

B e=hanawači. FOLLOW 3P—OBL/AOR
and they trailed him.

C ani=pi=ki=pi e=akošihkaweniči. | ELM.LOC=QUOT [SUBJ'S], TRACKS.CLIMB.UP OBL/AOR
His tracks, it's said, climbed up an elm.

D či=kahkiwe e=haneme=niči | inimešani=pi,
NEAR.HILL STAND.[ THERE] INAN/PART/OBL THAT BIG-ELM
Near a hill is where that big elm stood,

E e=hečinowateni=ke=hi. BE.EASY INAN.OBV/AOR=AND
and it was easy [for them to climb it].

F "akošihtawi." e=ina-či osimehani. CLIMB.UP.AFTER 2—3/IMP SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBL/AOR HIS.Y.BRO.OBV
"Climb up after him," he told his little brother.

G "hao," e=iči ina atenawiri e=hpıhčikihita,
OKAY SAY.[THUS] 3/AOR THAT.ANIM LESS BE.[SO].OLD.DIM 3/PART/3
"Okay," that one who was younger said,
H e=ha-koi-si-či.
CLIMB 3/AOR
and he climbed up.

I iyahi pye-ta-si-či,
THERE COME.[THITHER],CLIMBING 3/CH.CONJ
When he came climbing up there,

J kashi mya-nahi-či-ki i-nahi e=haše-kisi-či!
WHY, CATFISH.OBV=EXCLAM THERE LIE.[THERE] OBV/AOR
why, there was a catfish lying there!

K "ni-sa-hke-no, ki=ha=wača:hopena!" e=ha=ina-či,
THROW.DOWN 2/IMP PUT=COOK 21/IND.IND SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR
"Throw it down, we’ll cook it!" he told him,

L e=ha-ni-sa-hke-či.
THROW.DOWN 3/AOR
and he threw it down.

M meše=ni-nahi=kali e=ha=po-ni-wa-či.
SOMEBODY.AROUND THERE CAMP.[THERE] 3P/AOR
They set up camp somewhere around there.

N nepise-či e=ha=kehe-te-niki-
LAKE.DIM BE.NEARBY INAN.OBV/AOR
There was a pond nearby,

O meše=meko čaki-nepise-či.
FAIRLY SMALL-LAKE.DIM
a fairly small pond.

P e=ha=wača:howa-či mya-nahi-wani.
COOK 3P/AOR CATFISH.OBV
They cooked the catfish.

Q e=ha=ki=ša-koči-ki=weneni-či
AS.MUCH.AS.POSSIBLE-TASTE.GOOD OBV/AOR
That catfish tasted as good as could be

R e=ha=amwa-či i-nini | mya-name-kwani.
EAT 3P—OBV/AOR THAT.OBV CATFISH.OBV
when they ate it.

Kiyana wrote <nya na i wa ni>.
MOSQUITO, WHO FASTED TOO LONG AND BECAME A SPIRIT

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
“šihiwi! 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 natawino!”
HEY Y.BROTHER.VOC WATER=MAN’S.EXCLAM FETCH.FOR 2—1/IMP
"Hey, little brother, go get me some water!"

C
e·h=inací
OSI·ME·HANI.
SAY.[THUS].TO 3—OBV/AOR HIS.YOUNGER.BROTHER.OBV
he told his little brother.

D
“hao.” e·h=iníči.
OKAY SAY.[THUS] OBV/AOR
"Okay," he said.

E
oš-ešketo·he·hwa·wani e·h=awanací we·si·me·hemeta.
THER. 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
osene·honi, 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 ontetene·honi e·h=ketenaki
FINALLY HIS.LEGGINGS TAKE.OFF 3—INAN/AOR
Finally he took off his leggings

I
e·h=takwi-anahoto·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.SUCCESSION=EMPH DRINK.ALL OBV=INAN/AOR
Again and again [the elder brother] drank all the water up.

K ke·kya·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 iya·hi pe·hki wi·h=te·patamani,"
THERE REALLY PUTF=DRINK.ENOUGH 2=INAN/PART/OBL

M "ke·hena=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·ći,
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  oseš·hanı,
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·ći.
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 kaššikoči, 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-kha-či ose-hani,
FRIGHTEN 3—OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
He was frightening his elder brother,

V e:h-ki-wa-ša-šo-škun-či. | AROUND-REDUP.[OBJ].SLIPS.FROM.[SUBJ].GRASP 3—OBV/AOR
as he went around trying to get a grip on him.

W e:h-neme-siwiči. ose-hani, II
BE.FISH OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
His big brother had turned into a fish.

4 A po:hlwi_e:h-neme-siwiči ose-hani. 
HALF BE.FISH OBV/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV 
half of his big brother was a fish.

B ke:kwa-h=meko e:h-mayo-či ose-hani, 
FINALLY-EMPH CRY 3/AOR HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV 
Finally he was crying over his big brother,

C e:h-ki-ki-winehka-či ose-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-mešen-či. 
NOT-ABLE-CATCH 3—OBV/AOR 
because he couldn’t catch him.

F aškači=meko e:h-po-ni-hka-či. 
LATER-EMPH STOP.BOTHERING 3—OBV/AOR 
Much later he left him alone.

G e:h-wa-pawa-pataki nin nepise:hi, 
REDUP.LOOK.AT 3—INAN/AOR THAT LAKE.DIM 
He kept looking at the pond,
H eškami=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 askači 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, pyano," 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 nahi=či-hi po-hkwī 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-čimohakoči,
TELL.STORY.TO OBV=3/AOR
He told him,

M "ko=(ni)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-hkwī, neme-siwiwa nesese:ha, ki:h=in-a-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!'

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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
ana-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=wina_ ahpe:ne-ci=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
say.[thus].to 3—obv/aor his.younger.brother.obv
he said to his little brother.

T "inoki=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.

A e=h=na:kwa-či ina_ oškinawe-he:ha.
leave 3/aor that.anim young.man.dim
That young teenage boy left.

B iya: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 "ehe:he, po:hkwil=kohi neme:siwiwa nesese:ha,"
yes half=certainty be.fish 3/ind.ind my.elder.brother
"Yes, my big brother has turned into a half-fish,"

E e=h=iiči.
say.[thus] 3/aor
he said.

F pašito:ha_ ke:htenahi e=h=kehrh-mayo:či,
old.man surely great-ly-cry 3/aor
The old man surely cried hard,

G "ohwa!: nekwisai! e:čini=meko |
oh.no! my.son say.[thus] obv/iter=emph
and whenever he said, "Oh, my son!"
H  e·h=čeče·keki.
   SOB 3/AOR
   he sobbed.

I e·h=mar·iweneči nešiwi taswi mehtose·neniwaki,
   LEAD X−3/AOR HUGE SO.MANY PEOPLE
   A huge number of people were led over

J e·h=nešiwi·mekihkwani·ki meši·nepisi.
   HUGE-3/SG.BIG INAN.OBV/PART/OBL BIG-LAKE
   to where the lake had become huge.

K šihihwi! e·h=nešiwina·kwateniki!
   SEE! Appear.TERRIFYING INAN.OBV/AOR
   Gee! It looked scary!

L e·h=kehç·čapo·kisaha·wa·či nenote·wi·nese·ma·wani.
   GREATLY−THROW-IN.WATER 3P−OVB/AOR INDIAN–TOBACCO.OBV
   They threw a lot of Indian tobacco into the water.

M sakime·wa·pi·=na iisowa našawaye.
   MOSQUITO=QUOTE−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 meneto·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 oni·=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 oseše·hani.
   SEE 3−OVB/AOR=EMPH HIS.ELDER.BROTHER.OBV
   he would in fact see his brother.

Q kapo·tewe e·h=pō·ni·ne·wa·či,
   AT.SOME.POINT STOP−SEE 3−OVB/AOR
   At some point he stopped seeing him,

R še·ski·p=wa·pehe mya name·kwahi e·h=kehč·mo·hki·nici.
   ONLY=QUOTE−ALWAYS CATFISH.OBV.PL GREATLY−EMERGE OVB/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.