

Circa 1890
The Rabbit and the Devouring Hill:
a Dhegiha myth, told in Kwapa by Alphonsus Valliere
recorded by James Owen Dorsey

Story Told in English

(further explanation)

Story in Quapaw using phonetic spelling

Story in Quapaw using Siouan IPA spelling

Quapaw literal translation from Quapaw dictionary

There was a Hill that drew things (people) into its mouth, it is said.

di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we miⁿ e-ti-k^he naⁿ, i-ya.

dixáži wadáxowe mį etti-k^he ną, iyá.

hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/one, a/there/the singular, lying, animate or inanimate/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

At that time Rabbit was with his grandmother, it is said.

e-shoⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke e-kaⁿ niⁿ-k^he zho-ki-kde naⁿ, i-ya.

ešó maštíke eká nįk^hé žókikde ną, iyá.

then, at length, and/rabbit/his or her grandmother/the singular, moving, animate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/be with one's own/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

The old woman said as follows, it is said:

e-shoⁿ wa-x'o-zhi-ka niⁿ-k^he ke naⁿ, i-ya:

ešó waxʔóžiká nįk^hé ké ną, iyá:

then, at length, and/old woman, little old lady/the singular, moving, animate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/to say as follows/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

“A Hill is truly there,

“di-xa-zhi miⁿ e-ti-k^he dé,

“dixáži mį etti-k^he dé,

hill; highland covered with trees/one, a/there/the singular, lying, animate or inanimate/really, indeed

but it is extremely bad!

e-toⁿ shi-ke de!

ettó šike dé!

and, but/bad/really, indeed

Beware lest you go there!” she said to him, it is said.

e-ti te na-ha! i-ke naⁿ, i-ya.

étti tté nahá! iké ną, iyá.

there/you go/prohibitive, beware lest/say (the preceding) to someone/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

And then he said, “Grandmother, why do you say that?” it is said.

e-shoⁿ, "i-kaⁿ-e! haⁿ-niⁿ-taⁿ ko-i-she e," i-yi i-ya.

ešq, "ikká-e! hañittá kói išé e," iyí iyá.

then, at length, and/my grandmother/why, how/that, there/you say/question sign/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded

“When people go there, it always draws them into its mouth,” it is said the old woman said.

“ni-ka-shi-ka e-ti hi-naⁿ wa-da-xo-we-naⁿ in,” i-yi i-ya wa-x’o-zhi-ka niⁿ-k^he.

“nikkašika étti hí-nq wadáxowé-nq í,” iyí iyá waxʔóžiká njk^hé.

person, people, a man, clan/there/arrive, reach there, have been/habitual, usually/draw them into mouth/habitual, usually/period, oral stop/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded/old woman, little old lady/the singular, moving, animate; 3sg continuative aux sitting

“Why is this? I will go there,” thought Rabbit, it is said.

“haⁿ-e-taⁿ? e-ti bde te,” i-niⁿ-aⁿ i-ya ma-shtiⁿ-ke.

“háettá? étti bdé tté,” injá iyá maštjke.

why or how is this/there/I go/future, potential or optative marker, shall/think (what precedes)/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential/rabbit

And then he went there, it is said.

ko-i-shoⁿ e-ti de naⁿ, i-ya.

kóišq étti dé nq, iyá.

then, despite, notwithstanding (and then)/there/go/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

When Rabbit arrived there, Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth knew him, it is said.

ma-shtiⁿ-ke e-ti hi-naⁿ, di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we i-ba-hoⁿ naⁿ, i-ya.

maštjke étti hí-nq, dixáži wadáxowé íbahq nq, iyá.

rabbit/there/arrive, reach there, have been/past sign, when/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/know/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

“You who are the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth, draw me in!

“di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we ni-k^he, aⁿ-da-xo-wa!

“dixáži wadáxowé nik^hé, qdaxowá!

hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/2sg continuative aux sitting/draw me into mouth (command)

You who are the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth, they say that you always draw people into your mouth.

di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we ni-k^he, ni-ka-shi-ka wa-ta-xo-we-naⁿ i-ya-we.

dixáži wadáxowé nik^hé, nikkašika wáttaxowe-nq iyáwe.

hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/2sg continuative aux sitting/person, people, a man, clan/you draw them into mouth/habitual, usually/they say

Swallow me!” it is said Rabbit said.

aⁿ-da-xo-wa!” i-yi i-ya ma-shtiⁿ-ke.

qdaxowá!” iyí iyá maštjke.

draw me into mouth (command)/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded/rabbit

As the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth knew the Rabbit, he refused to swallow him, it is said.

e-shoⁿ di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-k^he ma-shtiⁿ-ke i-ba-hoⁿ-taⁿ naⁿ, i-ya.

ešq dixáži wadáxowé nǐk^hé maštǐke íbahq-tq dáxówaží nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/rabbit/know/when, as, because/did not draw into mouth/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then a great many people, members of a hunting party, came in sight.

hoⁿ-t^haⁿ-hi ni-ka-shi-ka a-na-hi-te-xti taⁿ-iⁿ-hi-pa i-ya, kaxnq.

hó^tqhi níkkašǐka anáhittéxti ttáǐ-hi-ppá iyá, kaxnq.

then, at length/person, people, a man, clan/many, a great many/visible, in sight/come, be coming here/the, definite article for plural, moving, animate objects; plural continuative aspect marker/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential/migrate, go on hunting expedition

Then when they (the hunting party) arrived there, it is said.

hoⁿ-t^haⁿ-hi e-ti hí-naⁿ-we, i-ya.

hó^tqhi étti hí-nq-wé, iyá.

then, at length/there/arrive, reach there/past sign, when/pluralizer (they)/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth, opened its mouth, it is said.

e-shoⁿ di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-k^he i-ka, i-ya.

ešq dixáži wadáxowé nǐk^hé íka, iyá.

then, at length, and/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/open the mouth/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then the people entered the Hill's mouth,

e-shoⁿ ni-ka-shi-ka ke o-p^ha-we di-xa-zhi íha t^he,

ešq níkkašǐka ke op^háwe dixáži íha t^he,

then, at length, and/person, people, a man, clan/the plural, standing, animate or inanimate/they enter/hill; highland covered with trees/mouth/the singular, standing, inanimate or collective, inanimate

and Rabbit entered too, it is said.

e-shoⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke e-hoⁿ o-p^he naⁿ, i-ya.

ešq maštǐke ehq op^hé nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/rabbit/he, she, it too/enter/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then Rabbit went far inside, it is said.

e-shoⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke maⁿ-t^he hi de naⁿ, i-ya.

ešq maštǐke má^the hi dé nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/rabbit/inside, in, within, under/very/go/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth felt very uncomfortable throughout its interior, on account of him (Rabbit) arriving inside, it is said.

di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we o-kdo-x'a maⁿ-t^he hi-naⁿ i-ki-aⁿ-shki-ka-naⁿ, i-ya.

dixáži wadáxowé okdóxʔa mát^he hí-nq íkiqškiká-nq, iyá.

hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/insides, interior of animal/inside, in, within, under/arrive, reach there/past sign, when/feel uncomfortable inside on account of/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth vomited Rabbit up, it is said.

e-shoⁿ di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-k^he ma-shtiⁿ-ke i-kde-we naⁿ, i-ya.

ešq dixáži wadáxowé nĭk^hé maštĭke ikdewe nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/rabbit/vomit up, vomit because of/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Again a great many people, members of a hunting party, come in sight, it is said.

shi-naⁿ ka-xnaⁿ a-na-hi-te taⁿ-iⁿ-hi-pa-naⁿ, i-ya.

šinq kaxnq anáhitte ttáĭ-hi-ppá-nq, iyá.

again/migrate, go on hunting expedition/much/visible, in sight/come, be coming here/the, definite article for plural, moving, animate objects; plural continuative aspect marker/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

When they reached the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth, again it opened its mouth, it is said.

e-ti hí-naⁿ-we shi-naⁿ di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-k^he i-ka-naⁿ, i-ya.

étti hí-nq-wé šínq dixáži wadáxowé nĭk^hé íka-nq, iyá.

there/arrive, reach there/past sign, when/pluralizer (they)/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/open the mouth/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

The people entered the mouth.

ni-ka-shi-ka ke o-p^ha-we, íha t^he.

nĭkkašĭka ke op^háwe, íha t^he.

person, people, a man, clan/the plural, standing, animate or inanimate/they enter/mouth/the singular, standing, inanimate or collective, inanimate

Rabbit entered again (as a man, this time), it is said.

shi naⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke o-p^he naⁿ, i-ya.

šinq maštĭke op^he nq, iyá.

again, and, also/past sign, when/rabbit/enter/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

At that time the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth did not vomit him up, it is said.

e-ti-hi di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-k^he we-kde-wa-zhi naⁿ, i-ya.

ettíhi dixáži wadáxowé nĭk^hé wékdewaží nq, iyá.

at that time/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/not vomit him up/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

And then (when the Rabbit had gone very far into the Hill) there lay a long line of whitened bones of some of the people who had been first to arrive there and had died, it is said.

hoⁿ-t^haⁿ-hi ni-ka-shi-ka e-taⁿ-ni-hi-pa t'a-i ni-ha wa-hi ke wa-ska-ha hí ke naⁿ, i-ya.

hót^hqhi nikkašika ettáni-hi-ppá tʔaí nihá wahi ke waskáha hí ke nq, iyá.

then, at length (behold)/person, people, a man, clan/first, ahead/arrive, reach there, have been/the, definite article for plural, moving, animate objects; plural continuative aspect marker/they die/some/bone/the plural, standing, animate or inanimate (the line of)/whitened/very/the plural, standing, animate or inanimate (the lg. ob.)/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

On and on, some (corpses) were sitting there with their flesh adhering here and there.

shi-naⁿ zho i-kdi-za-za hi ni-ha e-ti-ni-k^ha naⁿ, i-ya.

ši-ná žo íkdizáza hí nihá etti-nik^há nq, iyá.

again, over and over, repeatedly/flesh/stick to one here and there/very/some/there/3pl continuative sitting/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

On and on, some (corpses) were sitting there who had just now died, it is said.

shi-naⁿ iⁿ-ch^hoⁿ hi t'e ni-ha e-ti-ni-k^ha naⁿ, i-ya.

ši-ná [č^ho hí tʔé nihá etti-nik^há nq, iyá.

again, over and over, repeatedly/now/very/die/some/there/3pl continuative sitting/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then Rabbit said, it is said:

e-shoⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke ke naⁿ, i-ya:

ešó maštjke ké nq, iyá:

then, at length, and/rabbit/to say as follows/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

“Why do you’ all not eat?

“hoⁿ-t^he ta-ta-wa-zhi e.

“hót^he ttatáwaži e.

why/you plural not eat/question sign

It would have been good for you’ all to eat this very fat heart.

te-naⁿ-te de niⁿ-k^he shiⁿ-xti ta-ta-we ho-taⁿ ni-t^he.

ttenátte dé-nj^hé šjxtí ttatáwe hóttq nit^hé.

heart, esp. buffalo heart, meaning evidently general/this sitting, animate or inanimate/really fat/you plural eat/good/conditional, perfect, although (it would be)

If it were I, I would have eaten it,” he said to them, it is said.

wiétta bda-t^he te,” i-we-ke, i-ya.

wi-e-taⁿ bdat^hé t^he,” iwéke, iyá.

if it were I/I eat/the singular, standing, inanimate; the act, past/he said the preceding to them/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then he (Rabbit) took his knife, it is said.

e-shoⁿ ma-hiⁿ kdi-ze naⁿ, i-ya.

ešǒ máhĭ kdizé nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/knife/take one's own/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

He (Rabbit) took his knife and cut off the heart, it is said.

ma-hiⁿ kdi-ze taⁿ te-naⁿ-te pa-se naⁿ, i-ya.

máhĭ kdize-tq ttenátte páse-nq, iyá.

knife/take one's own/when/heart, esp. buffalo heart, meaning evidently general/cut off with a knife/past, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth said, “Ha! Ha! Ha!” it is said.

e-shoⁿ di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-k^he, “ha! ha! ha!” i-ye naⁿ, i-ya.

ešǒ dixázi wadáxowé njk^hé, “há! há! há!” iyé nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/oh! oh! oh!, cry of pain/he or she say/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then Rabbit said, “Beware lest you say, “Ha! Ha! Ha!” it is said.

e-shoⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke, “ha! ha! ha! i-she na-ha!” i-yi i-ya.

ešǒ maštĭke, “há! há! há! išé nahá!” iyí iyá.

then, at length, and/rabbit/oh! oh! oh!, cry of pain/you say/prohibitive, beware lest/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded

And he (Rabbit) gathered the fat meat of the heart in a pile, it is said.

e-shoⁿ te-naⁿ-te wa-shiⁿ e-ta sto-de naⁿ, i-ya.

ešǒ ttenátte wašĭ ettá stóde-nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/heart, esp. buffalo heart, meaning evidently general/fat, fat meat/his, hers, its/collect, heap, pile, gather/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then the Hill split in two, it is said.

e-shoⁿ di-xa-zhi niⁿ-k^he shte-ke naⁿ, i-ya.

ešǒ dixázi njk^hé štéke nq, iyá.

then, at length, and/hill; highland covered with trees/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/split in two/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

All of the people went out (from the Hill) and started for home, it is said.

ni-ka-shi-ka za-ni hi a-shi-ti kda-naⁿ-we, i-ya.

nikkašika zani hi ášitti kdá-nq-we, iyá.

person, people, a man, clan/all, all of the/very/outside, outdoors/go, start homeward/past sign, when/pluralizer/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

As they started homeward, all of the people assembled, it is said.

kda-we-naⁿ ni-ka-shi-ka za-ni hi ki-sto-naⁿ, i-ya.

kdáwe-nq níkkašika zani hi kistó-nq, iyá.

they go, start homeward/past sign, when/person, people, a man, clan/all, all of the/very/assemble, gather/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

“We shall make Rabbit chief,” they said to one another, it is said.

“ma-shtiⁿ-ke ka-hi-ke aⁿ-ka-xe ta-i,” i-ke-ya-we ke, i-ya.

“maštjke kahike qkáyε ttaí,” ikeyáwe ké, iyá.

rabbit/chief/we make/we shall, let’s/to have said something to someone/pluralizer/the plural, standing, animate or inanimate/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then Rabbit said, it is said:

e-shoⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke ke naⁿ, i-ya:

ešq maštjke ké nq, iyá:

then, at length, and/rabbit/to say as follows/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

“They say, you’ all will surely make Rabbit chief!

“ma-shtiⁿ-ke ka-hi-ke shka-xe ta-we iyáwe e-de!

“maštjke kahike škáyε ttawé iyáwe edé!

rabbit/chief/you make/future/pluralizer/they say/really, indeed

Have I been behaving as if I wanted to be chief (expecting a negative reply)?

wi-e ka-hi-ke koⁿ-bda a-ni-he e-na?

wie kahike kkqbda ánihé ená?

I, me/chief/I want/1sg continuative moving/question particle, negative reply expected, sentence final

From wherever you’ all may have come from, go there to your respective homes!

ha-ki-de-de-t^haⁿ da-t^hi-ke-we i-te e-ti kda-we-ka!

hákidédét^hq dat^hi-ké-we itté etti kdawé-ka!

where from, from whatever place/you (plural) have come here from different places/potential modality in past, indef. (may)/there/go, start homeward/pluralizer/imperative

As for me, my grandmother does not have any fat meat at all, because of that I came here to get it for her,” he said to them, it is said.

wi-e-hoⁿ iⁿ-kaⁿ wa-shiⁿ ni-ke hi taⁿ-ha e-koⁿ a-ki a-t^hi a-ni-he,” i-we-ke, i-ya.

wieho jkkq wašj níké hi táha ekq áki át^hi ánihé,” iwéke, iyá.

as for me, I too, me too/my grandmother/fat, fat meat/to have none, be lacking/very/because/like, thus, like that, so/I have arrived here to get someone’s (I have been coming hither for it)/1sg continuative moving/he said the preceding to them/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

Then Rabbit started for home carrying the fat meat on his back, it is said.

e-shoⁿ wa-shiⁿ k’iⁿ kde-naⁿ, i-ya ma-shtiⁿ-ke.

ešq wašj kʔj kdé-nq, iyá maštjke.

then, at length, and/fat, fat meat/carry, pack on the back/go home, to start homeward/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

When he arrived home carrying it (the fat meat), he piled it (the fat meat) outside the lodge, it is said.

k'ɪn kʰi taⁿ a-shi-ti i-tʰe-de naⁿ, i-ya.

kʔj kʰi-tq ášitti itʰéde-nq, iyá.

carry, pack on the back/arrive back at one's own/when/outside, outdoors/stand something up, singular, standing, inanimate (he piled it)/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

“O my grandmother! I have truly killed the Hill that draws things (people) into its mouth!” it is said he said.

“iⁿ-kaⁿ-e! di-xa-zhi wa-da-xo-we niⁿ-kʰe t'e-a-de e-de,” i-yi i-ya.

“iḱkqá-e! dixáži wadáxowé niḱʰé tʔeádé edé,” iyí iyá.

my grandmother/hill; highland covered with trees/draw them into mouth/the singular, sitting, animate or inanimate; 3sg continuative aux sitting/I kill/really, indeed/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded

“Oh! you bad big foot!

“hoⁿ! si taⁿ-ka shi-ke!

“hø! sí ttáka šike!

oh!/foot/big, large/bad

You bad split-lip!

i-ha-shka shi-ke!

ihašká šike!

be hare lipped/bad

“It would be good if it had been you that had recently killed it,” it is said she said.

(The words of the old woman are not to be taken literally. Even though she doubted him, she was proud of what the rabbit said he had done and was praising him. Though he was deformed, he had done what should have been done long ago by others.)

di-e-taⁿ di-o-za t'e-da-de tʰe ho-taⁿ ni-tʰe,” i-yi i-ya.

dietḱ dióza tʔeádé tʰe hóttq nitʰé,” iyí iyá.

if it were you/just now, a short time ago, in a little while/you kill/the singular, standing, inanimate or collective inanimate; past, completive aspect/good/conditional, perfect, although (it would be)/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded

“O my grandmother! I said that because I killed him.

“iⁿ-kaⁿ-e! t'e-a-de kaⁿ she-he.

“iḱkqá-e! tʔeádé ká še ihé

my grandmother/I kill/as, since, so/that/I say

Look at that pile (of fat meat) over there!” it is said Rabbit said.

ko-wa-tʰe toⁿ-wa!” i-yi i-ya ma-shṭiⁿ-ke.

kówatʰe tḱwá!” iyí iyá maštṭike.

that singular, standing, inanimate or collection/look at something (command)/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded/rabbit

The old woman went out of the lodge,

wa-x'o zhi-ka niⁿ a-shi-ti hi naⁿ,

waxʔóžiká nĭ ášitti hí-nq,

old woman, little old lady/the singular, moving, animate; 3sg continuative moving/outside, outdoors/arrive, reach there/past sign when

“Oh! my grandson did tell the truth, but” it is said she said.

(An elliptical expression. It would be in full, *miⁿ-k^he t^he-de, miⁿ-k^he a-zhaⁿ-zhi*, “he did tell the truth, but I did not think that he told the truth.”)

“hoⁿ! wi-to-shpa miⁿ-k^he t^he-de,” i-yi i-ya.

“hø! wittóšpa mĭk^he t^he edé,” iyí iyá.

oh!/my grandchild/to tell the truth/past, completive aspect/but, sign of past time/it is said he or she said in myths, quotative embedded

She took the fat meat (into the lodge), it is said.

wa-shiⁿ t^he di-ze naⁿ, i-ya.

wašĭ t^he dizé-nq, iyá.

fat, fat meat/the singular, standing, inanimate or collective inanimate/get, take, receive/past sign, when/it is said, they say, quotative, hearsay evidential

The end.

shoⁿ

šǫ

the end, enough