

The Rabbit and the Opossum
By Buffalo Calf
Jan., 1894
recorded by James Owen Dorsey

1)

Rabbit and Opossum were living together, they say.

*ma-shtiⁿ-ke siⁿ-te shta xo-te e-naⁿ-pa
maštjke sjté šta xótte enápá*

rabbit/tail+smooth+gray = opossum/aforementioned, that, he, she, it+two = both, also, too, that one too

*ti-kde naⁿ i-ya-we
ttikde nq iyáwe*

to live together in same tent, set up housekeeping, dwell together, keep house/habitual, regularly; past sign, when/to say+pluralizer = they say

2)

Then, after they had been living together for a while, Opossum went hunting, they say.

*ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ ti-kde
kóišóttq ttikde*

that, there+and, still, yet+and, when, since, as = then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/to live together in same tent, set up housekeeping, dwell together, keep house

*koⁿ ni-k^ha naⁿ
kó-nik^há nq*

as, since, so, like+they, 3rd person plural continuative sitting+regularly, usually, often; past sign, when = after they had been so awhile

*siⁿ-te shta xo-te ta-bde de i-ya-we.
sjtté šta xótte tábde dé iyáwe.*

opossum/to hunt/to go/to say+pluralizer = they say

3)

Opossum returned, having killed turkeys, they say.

*si-ka taⁿ-ka t'e-wa-de kdi naⁿ i-ya-we.
sikka ttáka t'éwadé kdi nq iyáwe.*

chicken+big, large = turkey/to kill them/to have come back here/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/they say

4)

Well, then, when Opossum returned, Rabbit cooked the turkeys for him, they sat and ate the food, they say.

*ha-o ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ kdi naⁿ
hao kóišóttq kdi nq*

*/then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/to have come back here/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

* *hao* yes, well, ho, thank you, how are you, agreed, sign of approval as the English “Hear! Hear!”, interjection of approval, marks a change of idea as the beginning of a new paragraph in writing, used in calling to a distant person, oral period, masculine imperative

ma-shtiⁿ-ke o-ki-hoⁿ naⁿ

maštike ókihó nq

rabbit/to cook or boil food for oneself or someone/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

wa-naⁿ-bde koⁿ ni-k^ha naⁿ i-ya-we.

wanábde kó-nik^há nq iyáwe.

eat, eat a meal, dine; food/as, since, so, like+they, 3rd person plural continuative sitting+regularly, usually, often; past sign, when = after they had been so awhile/they say

5)

Well, Opossum went hunting again, they say.

ha-o shi-naⁿ de niⁿ i-ya-we ta-bde.

hao šíná dé nq iyáwe tábde.

well/again/to go/3rd person singular moving; the singular moving/they say/to hunt

6)

Then, Opossum returned having killed more turkeys, they say.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ si-ka taⁿ-ka t'e-wa-de

kóišóttq sikká ttáka tʔéwade

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/turkey/to kill them

kdi naⁿ i-ya-we siⁿ-te shta xo-te

kdi nq iyáwe sjté šta xótte

to have come back here/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/they say/opossum

7)

Opossum said, “That’s enough for now, I could hardly kill any, they’re very wild,” they say.

“iⁿ-ch^hoⁿ zhaⁿ aⁿ-ni-hi t'e-a-de

“jč^hó žq ánihí tʔeáde

now, right now, at this moment+*+almost, barely, hardly, nearly+I kill = I could hardly kill any

* *žq* was not translated by JOD, it could possibly be *šq* fit proper; as it should be; enough; that will do; still, yet; at any rate; and, so, thus

ma-xi-ka-zhi a-ta-pa-we,”

máyikáži attáppawe,”

modest, shy, diffident, bashful+not, negation = wild/too, great, exceeding, often, always+pluralizer = they are very

i-yi i-ya-we.

iyí iyáwe.

to have said+they say = they say that he said

8)

Rabbit said to Opossum, “I will cook this turkey,” they say.

“de si-ka taⁿ-ka o-ki-hoⁿ,” i-ke i-ya-we ma-shtiⁿ-ke.

“dé síkka ttáka óakihó tte,” iké iyáwe maštíke.

this/turkey/*¹/*²/to say to someone/they say/rabbit

*¹ *óakihó* I cook or boil food for oneself or someone

*² *tte* future, will, shall

* *óakihó tte* substituted for *okihó* JOD writes ‘(?) see note’ for *okihó*, his notes indicate *óakihó* or *oákikihó* should be used.

9)

Then, again, the next morning, Opossum went hunting, they say.

e-ti-t^haⁿ shi-naⁿ a-ka-sa-ni ta-bde de i-ya-we.

ettít^hq šiná ákasáni tábde dé iyáwe.

from that time, at that time, from then on/again/the next morning/to hunt/to go/they say

10)

Well, then, there at the hunting place, Opossum sang to the wild turkeys, they say.

ha-o ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ e-ti si-ka taⁿ-ka ma-xi-ka-zhi

hao kóišóttq étti síkka ttáka máyikáži

well/then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/there, then/turkey/wild

wa-xo-ka niⁿ-k^he i-ya-we siⁿ-te shta xo-te,

waxókka nĭk^he iyáwe šitté šta xótte,

to sing to them/3rd person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say/opossum

11)

 **red eyed turkey taⁿ taⁿ** 

 *si-ka taⁿ-ka i-shta zhi-te taⁿ taⁿ* 

 *síkka ttáka išta žitté ttq ttq* 

turkey/eye/red/vocable/vocable

12)

 **gray headed turkey taⁿ taⁿ** 

 *si-ka taⁿ-ka pa-hi xo-te taⁿ taⁿ* 

 *síkka ttáka ppáhi xotté ttq ttq* 

turkey/head/gray/vocable/vocable

13)

The turkeys came when Opossum sang to them, they say.

wa-xo-ka naⁿ t^hi-we i-ya-we

waxokká nq t^hiwe iyáwe

to sing to them/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/to arrive, to have come here+pluralizer = they came/they say

14)

When it came, when the turkey arrived, it would circle around Opossum, it would go all around, circling Opossum at a distance, then it would come and pass right by Opossum, they say.

tʰi naⁿ

tʰí ną

to arrive, to have come here/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

xo-ka-ki-xe hi

xokkákkixe hí

*/very, intensifier

* *xokkákkixe* to go around something at a distance, going all around in a circular or pear-shaped manner. Similar cognate words in Osage and Kaw reference islands or lakes formed by a creek or river forming an ox bow. Kaw references a sketch, 'JOD's notes include a sketch of the formation of such an island; it resembles a cutaway of a toy balloon, where the interior of the balloon may be imagined to be the island when the neck of the balloon is pinched'.

tʰi-[i]-he de i-ya-we

tʰí[i]he dé iyáwe

to arrive, to have come here+to pass by a certain way or place, to go or pass by that particular way, rather than another+to go = to pass by close to him/they say

15)

Then, in that way, Opossum would catch one, when he would catch a turkey, he took hold of it by the neck and broke it in two, then he would put the turkey into his bag, they say.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ miⁿ di-ze naⁿ

kóišóttą mį dízé ną

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/one, a, an/get, take, seize/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

ta-i-ta o-naⁿ a-taⁿ di-ba-xe naⁿ

ttáittá oną attą dibáye ną

neck/take hold of, seize, grasp/when, and/to break in two by pulling/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

o-zhi-ha o-knaⁿ koⁿ niⁿ-kʰe i-ya-we

óžiha okną kó-njkhé iyáwe

sack, bag, pocket, pouch/to put or place into/as, since, so, like/3rd person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

16)

After some time, Opossum had filled his bag with turkeys, they say.

e-shaⁿ hi o-zhi-ha ki-pi ka-xe i-ya-we

éšą hí óžiha kippi káye iyáwe

at length, after some time/sack, bag, pocket, pouch/full, filled/to make/they say

17)

Then, Opossum placed his bag on his back and headed home, they say.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ ki-kʰiⁿ

kóišóttą kikʰí

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/to carry on one's back, pack one's own property on the back

naⁿ kde i-ya-we

ną kdé iyáwe

regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/to go home, to start homeward/they say

18)

When Opossum arrived back home, he said, “When I sang to them and one would come, I killed them,” they say.

“a-wa-xo-ka taⁿ t^{hi} taⁿ

“awáxokká tq t^{hi} tq

I sing to them/and, when, since, as/to arrive, to have come here/and, when, since, as

t’e-a-wa-de miⁿ-k^{he},” i-ye k^{hi} i-ya-we

tʔéawadé mɪk^{he},” iyé k^{hi} iyáwe

I kill them/1st person singular sitting/to say/to arrive back at one’s own/they say

19)

The Rabbit was thankful, they say.

ma-shtiⁿ-ke we-shnaⁿ niⁿ i-ya-we

maštɪke wéšnq nɪ iyáwe

rabbit/to be thankful, grateful, appreciative/3rd person singular moving; the singular moving/they say

20)

Rabbit said, “Thanks!” and then he took them, the bag of turkeys, they say.

“ka-ni-ke,” i-y[e] a-taⁿ wa-di-ze niⁿ i-ya-we

“kaniké,” iy[e] áttq wadíze nɪ iyáwe

thanks!/to say/when, and/to get, take, seize them/3rd person singular moving; the singular moving/they say

21)

Then, the Rabbit cooked the turkeys, they say.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ o-ki-hoⁿ

kóišóttq okihq

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/to cook or boil food for oneself or someone

t^{ha}n naⁿ i-ya-we ma-shtiⁿ-ke

t^{ha}q nq iyáwe maštɪke

3rd person singular standing; the standing/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/they say/rabbit

22)

The Rabbit cooked all that day, because there were so many turkeys, they say.

haⁿ-pa naⁿ o-ki-hoⁿ t^{ha}n naⁿ i-ya-we,

hápa nq okihq t^{ha}q nq iyáwe,

day/*to cook or boil food for oneself or someone/3rd person singular standing; the standing/*/they say

* *nq, nq* habitual, regularly, usually, often; past sign, when; the singular sitting; only, just, alone

zho-hi hi e taⁿ-ha

žóhi hi e táha

much, many/very, intensifier/aforementioned, that, he, she, it/because

23)

Well, after some time, Rabbit had devoured his share of the food.

ha-o kda-sniⁿ i-ya-we ti-aⁿ taⁿ

hao kdasnj iyáwe ttiq tq

well/to swallow or devour one's portion or share/they say/long time/and, when, since, as

24)

Well, then, the Rabbit had enough, they say.

ha-o ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ ma-shtiⁿ-ke

hao kóišóttq maštjke

well/then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/rabbit

i-bnaⁿ niⁿ-k^{he} i-ya-we

ibnq nijk^{he} iyáwe

to have enough of, to have sufficient of, to be satisfied, to have one's fill, to be tired of/3rd person singular continuative sitting; the singular, sitting/they say

25)

Then, Rabbit said, "Today, I have truly had enough!" they say.

kóišóttq, "haⁿ-pa de

kóišóttq, "hápa dé

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/day+this = today

aⁿ-naⁿ-bnaⁿ miⁿ-k^{he} e-de,"

qnábnq mijk^{he} edé,"

I've had enough, I'm satisfied, I've had my fill, I'm tired of/1st person singular sitting/indeed, declarative, oral period

i-yi i-ya-we

iyí iyáwe

to have said+they say = they say that he said

26)

Then, Rabbit said, "Rabbit is what they will call me, that is how I will be known there among the humans," and then he hopped off, his whitish tail disappearing into the thicket, they say.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ, "ni-ka-shi-ka o-taⁿ-ti

kóišóttq, "nikkašika ottátti

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/person, people, a man+exist, abound+at, by, in = at the place where humans live, among them, among people

ma-shtiⁿ-ke i-ke-a-we

maštjke ikeáwe

rabbit/to say+pluralizer = they say, they call

e a-ni-he te e-ta,"

e anihe tté ettá,"

aforementioned, that, he, she, it/1st person singular moving/future, shall, will be/aforementioned, that, he, she, it+to, at, toward, in that direction = there

i-y[e] a-taⁿ

iy[e] áttq

to say/when, and

o-xda-ti siⁿ-te saⁿ-haⁿ i-naⁿ-naⁿ de i-ya-we

oxdatti sítte sáhq ináq dé iyáwe

thicket, bushes, brush+at, by, in = into the thicket or brush/tail/whitish, grayish/suddenly and often, unsteady, ungainly/to go/they say

27)

Then, Opossum said, “Opossum is what they will call me, that is how I will be known there among the humans,” and then he went into a hollow log, they say.

ko-i-she-taⁿ, “siⁿ-te shta xo-te i-ke-a-we

kóišóttq, “sítte šta xótte ikeáwe

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/opossum/they say

e a-ni-he te e-ta, ” i-y[e] a-taⁿ

é anihe tté ettá, ” iy[e]áttq

aforementioned, that, he, she, it/1st person singular moving/future, shall, will be/there/to say/when, and

zhaⁿ xdo-x’a o-p^he i-ya-we

žq xdóx?a op^hé iyáwe

wood, tree+hollow, empty = hollow tree or log/enter, to go in/they say

28)

The end.

ka e-she-t^haⁿ-ki

ká-ešét^hqkí

about that length would be long enough, no longer, the end, that is the end