Jumping the Canyon

Told by Dickie Moss, September, 1998

hinen he’ih’iinoo’ei beebei’on no’o’.
man he was hunting way far away out from camp

he’ihno’usee heetbii3oonoo’.
he arrived where it was steep/at a canyon

he’ihco’ouu3oo tokooxuunihi’.
it was high across there

he’ihco’ouu3oo hini’iit heetoh’oxtoono’ouni’.
it was high that where there was a cliff

tokooxuunihi’ he’ihch’iinootii hiwoxuu, noh beneet-, beneetneh’ehet nehe’ hinen.
across there it was grazing elk and want he wants to kill it
this man

noh hiihoowuhiixokuni3 beete’.
and it was sitting too far away [to shoot by] bow

wohei nhu’ wooxe, heetneihoowno’- no’unoo’oo.
wohei this knife it will not be able to reach it

wohei ne’noxuute’einit beebei’on huu3e’, hi’in heetehbeexceeniini,
wohei then he looked up river way far away there that where a little bit downwards

heetniitni’oowuseet.
where he will be able to go down

wohei hiiit hoowuniihihi’ heetc’i’- ‘ee-.. beebei’on he’ne’teh- beexehceeniini.
wohei here downstream way far away then a little bit downwards

3ebwootooyeino’useeehk,
even if he got there sooner than he expected

‘oh 3ebce’no’useeehk, ‘oh hetneihooweentoo nehe’ hiwoxuu.
but when he arrived back there but it will not be there that elk

notnoohoot toonheetniisiiini,
he is trying to see how he will do it

‘oh wootii hoowuciis- hoowuciisiini nuhu’ wohe’ niicii.
but as if not far not far this maybe river

“wohe’ neiciitoxuu’ootowoo,” heehehk.
maybe I could not reach the other side he said

“ ‘oh noonoko’ heetneyei3itoonoo.”
but might as well I will try doing it

ne’ooseitiseet.
then he walked backwards

teeceeneeto’ heetnii3ei’neenihi’kookut.
he is estimating it how fast he will have to run

heetneh’e3ebcenoo’oot tokooxuuniihi’.
he will jump from here to there across

‘oh coo’ouute’.
but it is high

hoeii, ne’ooseitiseet.
well... then he walked backwards

teeceeneeto’ heetnii3ei’neenihi’koohut,
he is estimating it how fast he will need to run

heitnii3ei’nesiikoohut.
how quickly he will need to run

heetnee’ehceno’oot.
he will jump from there

wohei ne’too’useet.
wohei then he stopped walking

ne’cesisihchehit.
then he began to run

hee3ebyiiscesisihchehit, hee3ebhehno’koohut heetses3ooni’.
he ran over there in that direction he ran over to there where the edge was

ne’ceno’oot.
then he jumped

wohei ne’3ebiihi’, hee3ebiihco’oot.
wohei then there he jumped up over towards there

wohei nuhu’ neehii3ei’ hei’no’oo’oot, wohei this in the middle when he arrived there

ne’nei’oohooto’ he’ne’nhooowuhiixoottee’.
then he looked and saw then it was too far

he’ne’- ne’ee’ino’ tih’etciistiit.
then he knew it that he wouldn’t be able to do it

ne’bi’ce’iineihcehit, ne’ehce’ii3o’xuuhetit
then he just turned back around real quick then he got himself back from there [where]

cesisceno’oot.
he started his jump

noh ne’nih’iistoohok nehe’ hin’en.
and that is what he did this man

he’in’o tih’etmehciistiit, bi’ne’iineihcehit,
he knew it that he could not make it over there so then he just turned around real quick

ne’ce’ceno’oot.
then he jumped back

noh nee’esoo’ nuhu’ hoo3itoo.
and it is thus this story

hi3oowotoo wo’ei3 ciibe’i3oowotoo.
believe it or don’t believe it

ne’ni’iitou’u.
that is how they call it

nohuusoho’.
that is how it is
A man was out hunting way out away from camp. He got to a canyon. It was very deep between the walls. It was very deep and there were steep cliffs. Across on the other side, an elk was grazing, and the man wants to kill it. But it was too far away to reach with his bow.

“Wohei this knife, I’ll never reach it with this.” Wohei then he looked upriver, way away over there, where it was a little less high, where he could get down [and across]. Wohei downstream here, well, way on down there it was a little less high. If he could get there quick enough [to where the elk was]... but by the time he got back upstream, the elk would be gone. He looked around for what he could do, but it looked like it was too far [to go to cross] the river.

[Then he looked straight across the canyon]. “Maybe I wouldn’t be able to get across it,” he said. “But I might as well give it a try.”

Then he walked back. He’s estimating how fast he needs to run. He’s going to jump across to the other side. But it was high! “Hmm...” Then he walked back [some more]. He’s estimating how fast he needs to run., how quickly he needs to run. He going to jump across to the other side.

Wohei then he came to a stop. And then he started running. He started running over there towards it, and he went running up to the edge, and then he jumped.

Wohei then there... he leaped up into the air.

Wohei when he got to the middle, then he saw that it was too far. He knew that he wasn’t going to be able to do it. So then he just turned around real quick and jumped back again to the place he had started from.

And that’s what the man did. He knew that he wasn’t going to make it, so he just turned around real quick and jumped back.

That’s what the story says. Believe it or don’t believe it. That’s what they call [these stories]. That’s it.