Nihoo3oo and the Ducks

Told by Dickie Moss, October 14, 2003

never nihoo3oo he’ihbetoohaheh nahu’ siisiikou’uu.
this nihoo3oo he made them dance these ducks

“wohei,” hee3oohok nahu’ siisiikou’uu, “heetbetooha3enee.
wohei he said to them these ducks I am going to make you dance

hiikoot heetno’uusi’oonee.
also you will close your eyes

heetbetooha3enee.
I am going to make you dance

tooniikoonookut, heetniinece’,” hee3oohok.
whoever opens his eyes he will die he said to them

ne’cesisiniiibe’iit.
then he started to sing

neniiboonoot.
he is singing for them

“hoei’ei nei’ei heyeiyei’i koo’eiyeh;
[song – no meaning]

tooniikoonookut heetniinece’.”
whoever opens his eyes he will die

ceeyowcowohnooni3i, he’ih’i3kuu3ee, he’ihtebe’eiku3ee.
each time one of them danced past him he grabbed him he cut off his head

cceexo’on he’ihcowohwoohnin, he’ih’i3kuu3ee, tebe’eiku3ee.
another one he danced past he grabbed him he cut off his head

ne’nii’ehceibi’tou’ut.
then he would just toss the head off to the side

‘oh niiseiht, he’ih’uu3e’, nookoo3 he’ihbetee.
but one of them over there I guess to the side he was dancing

he’ihkooxoo’koonook.
he slowly opened his eyes

he’ne’noohowoot nehstoiini nehe’ nihoo3oo.
then he saw him what he was doing this nihoo3oo

“oeiii tokohu’! heetnoo’ooheino’!”
gee flee! he will slaughter us

he’ne’nehbiscesisih’ohu3i’.
then they all started to fly away

noh ne’nih’iisiini.
and that’s how it was

he’ne’nih’iisee’inoneit nih’iisciimi’itoot nehe’ nihoo3oo.
that is how this one knew him how he was up to no good this nihoo3oo

nih’iibi’tebe’eikuu3oot.
he was just cutting their heads off

noh nee’eesoo’ nuhu’ hoo3ito. 
and it is thus this story
Translation

[This is a story about when] Nihoo3oo made the ducks dance.

“Wohei” he said to the ducks, “I’m going to make you all dance. Moreover, you’re all going to close your eyes. I’m going to make you dance, and whoever opens his eyes is a goner,” he said to them.

Then he started singing. He’s singing songs for them: “hoei’ei, nei’ei, heyeiyei’i koo’eiyeh. Whoever opens his eyes is a goner.”

Every time they danced past him, he would grab one of them and cut his head off. Another one would dance past, and he would grab him and cut his head off. Then he would just toss the heads off to the side.

But I guess one of [the ducks] was over there somewhere, off to the side, dancing. He slowly opened his eyes. And then he saw what Nihoo3oo was doing.

“Hey! Take off! He’ll slaughter us all!”

So then they all flew off. And that’s how it happened. That was how they learned that Nihoo3oo was up to no good. He was just cutting all their heads off. And that’s how this story goes.