

Nihoo3oo and the Fox

Told by Dickie Moss, October 13, 2003

nehe' nihoo3oo he'ihnouxonee nuhu' nou'u.
this nihoo3oo he happend to meet him this fox

“nou'u” ni'ii3oo3i' nuhu' nono'eino',
swift fox they call it these Arapahos

“fox, nou'u” ni'ii3oo3i'.
fox swift fox they call it

wohei hoo3oo'o “nou'u be'eih” ni'ii3oo3i' nii'niisih'eenoo3i, wo'ei3 be'nou'u .
wohei others fox red they call it whenever they name it or red
fox

he'ihnouxonee.
he happened to meet him

“ceebe'eino'oteihinoo,” he'ih'ii3ee nuhu' nou'u.
I am the most powerful [nihoo3oo] said to him this fox

“heetniixoo3oo3ihe3en nono'oteihiit.”
I will show it to you my power

“hee, wohei cih'iixoo3oo3ihi!”
yes wohei then show it to me

“wohei hiit hetneectoyoohow.
wohei here you must wait for me a little while

heetneh'oowunihkoohunoo.
I will run on down the stream

hi3hetchihwoono'usee he'icxooyeinihi'.”
later, you must come on down to where I'll be after a while

ne'ne'eh'oowunihiseet nehe' nou'u.
then he set off from there downstream this fox

ne'noohowoot nisice, he'ih'einok.
then he saw it an antelope it was lying there

“‘eee,” [he’ih]noonoo’oexootenee.
hmm he walked all around it

he’ihbebenoobee.
he sniffed all around it

“‘eee, hoowuuni. neneenin nihoo3oo.”
hmm no it is you nihoo3oo

he’ihneneenin.
it was him

ne’ce’kohei’it nehe’ nihoo3oo.
then he got back up this nihoo3oo

wohei ceeseey heetniini...
wohei another one I will [do it]

kooxci’he’ihcih’oowunihisee nehe’ nou’u.
once again he came on down the stream this fox

ne’nihnoohobee bih’ih[o] he’ihse’sinen.
that’s when he saw it a deer it was lying there

“‘eee,” [he’ih]noonoo’oexootenee.
hmm he walked all around it

“‘eee, hoowuuni. neneenin nihoo3oo.”
hmm no it is you nihoo3oo

wohei kooxne’ce’kohei’it nehe’ nihoo3oo.
wohei then once again he got back up this nihoo3oo

wohei kooxne’ce’kohei’t nehe’ nihoo3oo.
wohei then once again he got back up this nihoo3oo

[he’ih]cih’oowunihkoo.
[nihoo3oo] ran on down along the stream some more

hinit he’ihce’iisibihce.
right there he plopped himself down again

hiiwoonhehe’ hiwoxuu, he’ihneen se’sinen;
now elk that was what it was it was lying there

[he'ih]hee3neekoxcei'in.
it was really plump

kooxne'ehcihno'useet nehe' nou'u.
once again he arrived there this fox

“‘ooeii,” noxoxohowut: nih'ee3neekoxcei'ini3 hini'.
ooooh he looked at it eagerly it was really plump that one

“‘eee,” he'ihnoo'oebeebenoobee.
hmm he sniffed all around it

“hee, hoowuuni. neneenin nihoo3oo. hoowuuni.”
yes no it is you nihoo3oo no

ne'ce'kohei'it nehe' nihoo3oo.
then he got up again this nihoo3oo

“hoowuuni, hoowuni.”
no no

wohei ceeseey yeneini'owoo'.
wohei once again it is the fourth time

woow ne'eh'oowuniihiseet nehe' nou'u.
now he set off again from there down the stream this fox

hiiwoonhehe' heneecen he'ihse'sinen hee3ebiihi'
now buffalo bull he was lying there over there

hiikoot he'ihkoxcei'i.
in addition he was plump

he'ihwoo3ee hoseino'.
there was a lot of it the meat

he'ihno'useen.
[fox] arrived there

he'ihnoonoo'oexootenee nehe' nou'u.
he walked all around it this fox

“hee, hoowuuni. neneenin nihoo3oo.”

yes no it is you nihoo3oo

“wohei biiti’: heetniixoo3i3he3en nono’oteihiit.
wohei my turn now I will show it to you my power

hiit hetcihtoyoohow.
here you must wait for me a while

hi3hetcihwoon-
later you must come on [down the stream]

heeneh’oowunihkoohunoo.”
I’m going to run off down along the stream

he’iicxooyeinihi’ ne’ehce3ei’oot nehe’ nihoo3oo.
after a while then he set off from there this nihoo3oo

hinit ceibiihi’ boone’ ho’onookei’i’, [he’ih]niitonee hisei[n].
right there off to the side at the road in rocks he heard her woman

he’ih’iibiiwooh[un].
she was crying

beexoo3i3i3i’ he’ihnoohobee, ne’ehyihoot.
a little later he saw her hen he went over to her

“wohei heeyou? heeyou? heeyou tohuubiiwoohun?”
wohei what what what because you are crying

“neisonoo noh neinoo nihnouso’oni3i’.
my father and my mother they chased me off

neihoowuuheyehi’.
I don’t have a home

neihoowoe’in tooheetniistoonoo.
I don’t know what I’m going to do

neihoowoe’in toonheetniisiseenoo.”
I don’t know how I’m going to get by

“hee, heentoonoo,” heehchk nehe’ nihoo3oo.
yes I’m here he said this nihoo3oo

“heetni’ ononihe3en.

I can take good care of you

heetni’ niisnениino’.

we’ll be alone together

niini’ iinoo’ einoo heenei’ isiihi’.

I can go hunting and so forth

heetniini... heetneihoownoonoo’ ouh.

you will you won’t be lacking in anything

heetneihoownoonoo’ ouh.

you won’t be lacking in anything

heetbehniiniistone3en.

I will work to provide everything for you

heetniini... heetniiniiso’ niisnениino’.

we will it will just be the two of us living together

heetnookoo3e3en,”

I will take you home [with me] heehehk nehe’ nihoo3oo.

“ine,” heehehk nehe’ hisei, “heetni’ iini tous.”

okay she said this girl it will be good then

“wohei heetnooxoniseeno’;

wohei we will move on quickly

‘oh niito’ iini... niito’ heetniitenetino’.

but first first we will kiss each other

heetni... heetne’ ehce3ei’ oono’.”

we will then we’ll set off on our way

Translation

Nihoo3oo happened to meet Fox. “Fox” the Arapahos call it, “Fox” they call it; or others call it “Red Fox” when they talk about it, or “Red Fox.”

Nihoo3oo happened to meet him. “I’m more powerful than you,” he said to Fox. “I’m going to show you my power.”

“Yes..., wohei show it to me!”

“Wohei you wait on me right here for a while. I’m going to run on down the stream. You come on down to me a little while later.”

Fox [waited] and then he headed off down stream. He saw an antelope just lying there. “Hmm...” “He walked all around it. He sniffed it here and there.

“Umm...nope! It’s you, Nihoo3oo.”

That’s who it was. So then Nihoo3oo jumped up again. “Wohei we’ll try another time.” So once again Fox [waited and then] he come on down the stream. Then he saw a deer lying on the ground. “Hmm...” He walked all around it. Then...

“Umm...nope! It’s you, Nihoo3oo.”

Wohei once again Nihoo3oo jumped up. Wohei once again Nihoo3oo jumped up. He came running on down the stream. He plopped down again right there. Now it was a nice, plump elk that was lying there. And once again along comes Fox. Oh boy! He was really eyeing that nice, plump elk. “Hmm...” He sniffed all around it.

“Umm...nope! It’s you, Nihoo3oo. Nope!”

Then Nihoo3oo jumped up again. “You can’t fool me, you can’t fool me,” [Fox said].

Wohei one more time, the fourth time. Now Fox ran off down stream. Now it was a buffalo bull that was lying on the ground – it was big, and plump too! There was a lot of meat on him. Along comes Fox. He walked all around the bull.

“Umm...nope! It’s you, Nihoo3oo.”

“Wohei my turn now! [said Fox]. I’m going to show you my power. You wait right here for me. Later, you come on down the stream. I’m going to run on down the stream that ways for a while.”

[So Nihoo3oo waited] and then he set off. Right there off to the side of the path, among some rocks, he heard a woman crying. A little later, he saw her, and he went over to her.

“Wohei what’s going on? what’s going on? What’s the cause of your crying?”

“My father and my mother have chased me off. I don’t have a home. I don’t know what I’m going to do. I don’t know how I’m going to survive.”

“There now, I’m here,” said Nihoo3oo. “I’ll be able to take good care of you. It’ll be just the two of us. I can hunt and so forth. I can...you won’t lack for a thing. You won’t lack for a thing. I’ll do everything for you. I will...It’ll just be the two of us together. I’ll take you home with me,” said Nihoo3oo.

“Okay,” said the woman. “That will be good then.”

“Wohei, let’s get a move on! But first, first we’ll give each other a kiss. Then...Then we’ll set off on our way.” Then he took the girl in his arms. And suddenly she turned into Fox. It was him.

“I’ve tricked you! I’ve tricked you! I’ve got the most power!”

Fox ran off down the stream. That’s how the story goes.