



SAM ACKO AT NĒTL'UK (OSBORNE RIVER)

“MOSQUITO MAN”

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DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: Sam Acko tells a Dane-zaa story about Tsááyaa and Mosquito Man. Sam describes the story as taking place on a river like the Osborne.

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KEY: 00:00 indicates time in minutes and seconds; [] Indicates translator’s note.

00:00

Hello my name is Sam, I’m from Doig. I’m one of the guy who used to, uh, sit with the elders and drumming with the elders ever since I was knee high, ever since I remember.

00:44

And this is July 6, year 2005. Today we’re here in NĒtl’uk.

This is where they call NĒtl’uk. Chief Sucona used to call this place NĒtl’uk. Chief Sucona, uh, he have cabins here. Just on the east side about one kilometer. There used to be about four or five cabins in there which is a well location today.

00:51

I’m gonna tell you a story about Tsááyaa and T̥ṣ’iihchuk?.

00:55

Tsááyaa he was here first, first time. I guess the Ahhaatáá [Creator] put him here on earth to uh, to work with all kinds of living animals, jii nan on this earth.

So one time there was T̥s̥'iihchuk. He always, uh, go after T̥s̥'iihchuk. T̥s̥'iihchuk, they call human hadaa which is moose. They call us moose because, because we are moose to him. He live on people, T̥s̥'iihchuk Family.

01:37

Long time ago when this, uh, world got made, first time, even animals communicate with, uh, people here on earth. That's why there was T̥s̥'iihchuk family. There was, uh, N̥ówe family, N̥ódaa family. N̥ówe family is kind of short and white. And N̥ódaa is about in the middle. Between uh, N̥ódaa family between T̥s̥'iihchuk and tall and skinny and N̥ówe. They are about medium, medium tall, medium size that is the way N̥ódaa's family is.

02:18

And one time Tsááyaa was walking along this kind of creek, like Osborne here. And then, uh, way up, uh, he spot, uh, T̥s̥'iihchuk, uh, canoeing down. Those years I guess people would make canoe, canoe out of a, a hide, any kind of hide they could sew it together, make it big. Then they can make a frame. And then it will become canoe if they, they know what to do.

02:57

When Tsááyaa was walking along the creek like this, he spot T̥s̥'iihchuk canoeing down. So, there was, uh; There was one big spruce leaning over, over a creek like this. He climbed that, uh, big, big spruce where T̥s̥'iihchuk can't see him. There was so many branches up on top. And then, uh, while he was canoeing down he was just looking good at the water. And then he just slowly is canoeing down, taking his time and, when he uh, when he went under that big spruce, Tsááyaa show himself like this [looks down], so uh, that reflection on the water, the water is kind of still, someplace still like that there [points].

03:51

The human reflection right underneath him where, uh, where his canoe is. So there's a moose, he saw a moose. "There's hadaa," he said. He call us moose, hadaa. And then from there, that uh, that reflection, he keep shooting it with his bow and arrow. Each arrow keep floating down. Keep shooting it, and then uh, keep floating down. Pretty soon all, all his arrow float down. And then, uh, from above, uh, he pee on him. He pee on T̥s̥'iihchuk so

T̥s̥'iihchuk is very, uh, he's not smart. He can make a living but he is not smart. He is just uh – Anything you tell him he will do it. That's the way T̥s̥'iihchuk is.

04:43

So, so he pee on him and then he look at the sky. “Oh, there is no clouds but it is raining on me,” he said. So uh. Pretty soon he can't hold back any more, that uh, Tsááyaa. He start laughing and then he look. There he is. “You wait right there. I'm gonna go get my arrows.” When he canoed down that Tsááyaa got off and he took off, he escaped.

05:13

That's the way uh, long time ago, traditional stories go.

05:18

And this is just perfect spot for, uh, for actors in the future. We're gonna go pick this spot if we gonna have a future, actors from, uh, Dane-zaa people from Doig.

05:32

So, [Beaver words...] that's the end of the traditional stories. It's long. It go on forever these stories. But, uh, sometimes I will tell you some more story about these, these, T̥s̥'iihchuk story and then Nówe story which is, uh, wolverine, and then Nódáa. And then, uh, moose. Those kind of stories are long.