



SAM ACKO AT SNARE HILL  
“THE MAN WHO TURNED INTO A MOOSE”

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**DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS:** Sam Acko gives the Dane-zaa name for Snare Hill, Madáts’atl’oje. He tells about the importance of the Madáts’atl’oje (Snare Hill) area for Dane-zaa people in times when moose were scarce, in “survival times.” He then tells a traditional story about a man who turned into a moose.

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

00:00

Aadzəhdəh təhch’iidəh jii,

*A long time ago,*

00:03

Madáts’atl’oje dane yéhjii.

*they called this Madáts’atl’oje [Snare Hill].*

00:06

Dane yadááhdzé? háá ghədaa.

*People depended on this place to live.*

00:10

Dane yadááq̄zé dáánejiilh.

*People depended on this place to survive.*

00:12

È ii laa háákaa juuhq̄zenéh,

*And that is why even today,*

00:15

sadanené háákaa juuhq̄zenéh ghats'adaa,

*my people are still living here,*

00:19

juune dane kq̄iine.

*and these young people, as well.*

00:20

Gwadádq̄? aja héwq̄hch'ii dé.

*A long time ago that's the way it was.*

00:24

Wq̄lq̄ dé aja hanaajúúne daanenjiitl dé,

*Our ancestors survived even though*

00:26

dq̄ we dane ghweq̄h?.

*people died from starvation.*

00:29

Gwadádq̄h kénejit dé.

*It was tough back then.*

00:32

Wak'was énejit ats'edq̄.

*It was fiercely cold long ago.*

00:35

Ii tl'qh yaş natł.

*There was lots of snow.*

00:37

Héwqhch'e ędaadlah dęh.

*It was like that; those were hard times.*

00:40

Jii Madáts'atłoje giyéhjii ii ts'ęh náághadéhdéshé.

*They called that place Madáts'atłoje [Snare Hill] and they returned to that place to survive.*

00:44

Gii ghadah dane atł'qjé;

*They put snares around it;*

00:48

ii wats'ęh hadaa giits'ę? daayuut ęhhaade.

*then they chased the moose there, walking side-by-side.*

00:52

Ęhhaade ghaadele hadaa giits'ę? daayuut dé.

*They walked side-by-side to chase the moose off the hill.*

00:56

Hadaa daaghelut dé ii wadáádzjh ii ghehdah.

*Every one of them snared moose, and because of that, they were able to eat.*

01:00

Atsedóh gúúhhááke laa jii dane yaak'eh ghadah

*This is how, a long time ago, people lived on that.*

01:01

Gáh elah,

That was the time,

01:04

Tas éh dane ghadaa dǫh gwadadǫh wǫlę.  
*people survived by using bow and arrows, long ago.*

01:07

Ę, lhígé,  
*And, one time,*

01:11

jii sǫ dane yaagae náájeh.  
*some of the people must have been living nearby.*

01:15

Dane yaagae náájeh,  
*Some people camped nearby,*

01:16

hǫhch'e háá yask'ih.  
*in the winter.*

01:20

Yask'ih wǫlę.  
*It was wintertime.*

01:21

Ędaadlah ę aja kǫhjuu hadaa ghazehhelh.  
*Times were hard; they could not kill any more moose.*

01:25

Hwedah wǫlii?é  
*It was around that time*

01:27

jii Madáts'atl'qjii giidzǫhchę déhjiitl.  
*that they went to Madáts'atl'qjii [Snare Hill].*

01:31

Giidzəhchə dəhjiitl dé dane lhígé,  
*When they went towards it there was one person,*

01:33

dane ąske alə, ąske alə,  
*a young person,*

01:35

úújq aadah.  
*who took care of himself well.*

01:41

Ajuulii dejuuh sə ts'ėguu ęhchuut dah sə mak'eh wólə.  
*He didn't even bother with women.*

01:44

Hájii ii mawajəh kéjeh, hōhch'e dane.  
*How pure he was, that person!*

01:49

Dane k'qdii dane táájə.  
*He was young and he lived among them.*

01:51

Ę juu sə dane éh k'ęaadish éh hōhjə,  
*That man must have travelled with them,*

01:55

dəlhígé dane mejíí? ajuu úújq.  
*but there was one person whose mind was not good.*

01:59

Dane sə ę juu dane k'qdii alə haje ləh sə.  
*That crazy man accused that young man of touching his wife.*

02:03

dats'égé? ts'é núúyuulh,

*He had no reason for doing that,*

02:06

jii dejíí? éh.

*it was all in his head.*

02:07

E ę dane,

*That person,*

02:09

aadaa?aaǰeh hǒhch'ii aske alę hǒhch'e, ehse.

*he kept himself clean like that, that young man I mentioned.*

02:14

Jii datsehts'ané? nááne?ęh.

*He was hiding his chest.*

02:17

Datsehts'ané? nááne?ęh zǒh hǒhch'ii,

*He kept on hiding his chest like that all the time,*

02:21

hǒhch'ii éh.

*like that.*

02:23

Ajuu dane yatsehts'ané? a?ęh.

*Still no one saw his chest.*

02:27

Jwe matsehts'ané? k'ehlǒ haada dzisgii!

*On his chest he had the mane of a moose!*

02:30

Haadagháá? náá?Q; dane ajuu adaayejíh.

*The moose hair was hanging from his chest; people did not know.*

02:33

Guu haada mawajii ii sô adaajíh,

*He must have known those clean (spiritual) moose,*

02:34

dę dane k'qdi,

*this young man,*

02:38

hóhch'ii laa wúújQ adaadah ajuu juu ts'éguu gae dayaa hóhch'ii alę.

*and he took care of himself, and didn't go near women.*

02:44

E jii Madáts'at'l'Qjii,

*And here at Madáts'at'l'Qjii [Snare Hill],*

02:49

sô giighadah daşadlųh ghętlQ ahte gwene náádzat.

*they must have set lots of snares around here, all those hunters.*

02:54

Giighada daşedlųh hóhch'e.

*They set snares around it like that.*

02:57

Háá gQ k'Qghadéhk'ún ts'ęh sô ahte ęhlhQghaajiitl ii sô ii.

*Right away they made fire, and it must have been at that time, that they all met together here.*

03:04

Naaghetsatl wawe naaghadahgwan ii kúgááh.

*They were wet and they were drying themselves beside a fire.*

03:08

Ahte ɛl̥hehnaaghes̥jiitl háá hadaa ii ghaaduujiitl dahwól̥.

*They all came together again preparing to go toward the moose.*

03:12

Ẹ deh yii

*Right there*

03:14

ɛ dane hajeloh dats'égé? ts'ɛ? ajuulii kaa núúyúúle,

*that man must have wrongfully accused him of fooling around with his wife,*

03:20

ɛ s̥o̥ ii.

*it must have been.*

03:22

Jii dats'ehtsané? s̥o̥,

His chest,

03:25

dats'ehtsané? úújo̥ ii gúh̥ ii.

*that young man must have hidden his chest well.*

03:29

Ii naane?eh h̥oh̥ch'e̥ ii.

*He hid it that way.*

03:32

Ajuu daguusje ajuu lhéjojé háále,

*He did not pull his jacket apart,*

03:37

ajuu dane yúú?é kaa.

*so people wouldn't see it.*



03:38

Hóhch'ii eh, gwedzeh sô,  
*It must have been like that,*

03:43

jíígets'égúúh, ii yatsehtsanii  
*with an upward motion, the one who accused him*

03:47

yak'wisjé? lhejoge ts'eh hólaa?  
*exposed his chest by ripping open his jacket.*

03:49

Dę, “Dóch'ę hajeloh datsehts'ané nááne?ę sô,” yéhjii ę juu.  
*"Why is this guy hiding his chest?" he said.*

03:54

Jwe matsehtsané? k'ih ts'eh hadaa dzisgii náę?aa?  
*Right there, his chest was covered with moose-hump hair, hanging down.*

03:58

Hadaa dzisgii laa jii,  
*This moose mane,*

04:01

hadaa ę nawóne kéhts'ę?  
*was just like the hair on a moose's hump.*

04:03

Ii magháá? nadzeeze náá?ae.  
*His hair was long and hanging down.*

04:06

Ii laa hadaa dzisgii úúzhe.  
*That's called 'hadaa dzisgii', moose mane.*

04:08

Hadaa ẹ nawọné kéhts'ẹ?

*It's just like the hair on a moose's hump.*

04:10

E wats'ẹh sọ ajuu maawújọ kéch'ẹh ẹ.

*After that, he was not very happy.*

04:14

Háá hadaa eghaduujelh dé wọlẹ.

*They were going to surround the moose.*

04:16

Ii gwadádọh wawọyọ dẹ guune dane,

*Back then those people were wise,*

04:19

juuhdzenéh wadeh dane woyọne ghaẹleh,

*wiser than people today.*

04:23

Gwadadane,

*Those people back then,*

04:24

yíjídọh Dane-zaa,

*our Dane-zaa ancestors,*

04:27

hóhch'ii laa juuhdzenéh háákaa ghasedah.

*were resourceful, that's why we are still here today.*

04:30

Ẹ ah sọ ehts'ẹzọh giyéhlhígé dajii.

*And at that time he said something to his younger brother [to the pure young man].*

04:36

Dane hadaa edéhjiitl, “Dóhch’ii ajuu mawúújò kéje?”

*When they were chasing the moose, [his brother was thinking]“Why does he look so unhappy?”*

04:41

“Ajuu kélii, Dòtsiit méh zòh hááwòhch’e,  
“*Whatever you do, Stay right with him,*

04:45

ajuu dòtsiit,” sò yéhjii.  
*don't let him go off by himself,” someone told him.*

04:48

Hóhch’ii ẹ.  
*It must have been like that.*

04:53

Ii háá ewats’èh hadaa eghadéhjiitl, ye?edé hóhch’èh ye?ech’èh hóhch’èh.  
*At that point, when they started chasing the moose, his brother stayed close to him.*

04:57

Ye?ech’èh hóhch’ii ajuu yadatsiit hóhch’e.  
*He was right with him; he never let him go.*

04:58

Háá jò ẹhtsezòh guu naadẹ sò,  
*All of a sudden, right in front of them,*

05:04

hadaa taawadéhsat jii.  
*the moose all ran off.*

05:07

Jii lhígé ẹhchaage guts’égúh hadaa taawaadéhsat úh.  
*One moose and then another separated from the rest of the herd and started to run away.*

05:12

“Jii naade ustle. Juude jii naade netleh,”

*“I’m going to go around this way really fast. You go around that way and turn the moose around,”*

yéhjii juude sô yaanewó?oh,

*he said [the younger brother to his older brother]. Everything happened so quickly,*

05:17

ę wanehjuude juude yanáe?aak.

*the young man was able to fool his brother who was trying to stay close to him.*

05:20

Juude yanáe?aak hólhch’ii.

*He fooled him.*

05:24

Jii lhígé déhsq adę lhígé déhsq dę.

*While the young brother ran after one moose, his older brother ran after the other one.*

05:27

Ii wats’ęh zoh najwé.

*Then he was gone.*

05:28

Ii wats’ęh ahte hadaa eghaahdel úh hólhch’ii.

*Everyone was chasing the moose.*

05:33

Ahte giyedéhjiitl úh ę juu ajuulii.

*Then when they went toward them, there weren’t any moose.*

05:38

“Dááwqhchęa?” ghajii.

*“What happened?” they asked.*

05:43

Ajuulii hadaa ajuulene hadaa saluut.

*No one had snared any moose.*

05:49

Ii wats'eh gq ahte ehlhónaghajiitl hohjéjúú méhlhígé? e.

*Then they all got together, all of them except for the younger brother.*

05:54

Ii é najwé.

*He was gone.*

05:58

Yaa, ii wats'eh, ii wats'eh,

*From there, from there,*

06:06

ii wats'eh k'aajuu naaghadésjiitl ii wats'eh.

*from there, they went back to that place.*

06:13

E déhlhígé ech'oh déhtl'aa ehde dadó dage.

*That's where he took off from his older brother.*

06:17

Ii wok'aaganeht'aah hohch'e yéhdzihgúuh ii hadaa déhşo gq,

*They were looking over there, where he had chased that moose,*

06:22

gq zoh yii.

*over there.*

06:24

Giik'éh wagaat'aah é juu manadané? zoh salaa,

*They followed his tracks to where his clothes were lying on the ground,*

06:30

hadaa zqh wójit sô naatl'aah.

*and then all of a sudden, a moose took off.*

06:32

Hee ii hadaa aajii eh ahte juude.

*When he turned into a moose, he quickly went among the other moose.*

06:36

Hadaa lqh ts'ê? déhtl'a ahte hadaa yeh wadéhşade gq,

*He went around to the edge of where all the other moose were, and they went with him,*

06:41

lhááhts'ê? juukaats'eh.

*somewhere there was an opening.*

06:45

Ii mełh eyaanédlade ahte hadaa hááwqşat.

*There he ran into the snares, pushing them out of the way and all the moose followed.*

06:50

Guulaa hááwejaa jii, jii wajich.

*That's what happened, in this story.*

06:56

Jii sadaáadzii Madáts'atl'qje

*Right behind me in the picture [video]*

07:00

dak'ęsa?uu.

*is Madáts'atl'qje [Snare Hill].*

07:02

Ii wajich háá ii zqh méyęhch'eh.

*This is the main story about this area.*

07:05

Juuh dzeʔahte eh lhéhwats'ajich h́hch'ii dah.

*Today, people tell stories about this area when they get together.*

07:11

Háá jii zoh wajich s̄o méhjii j̄o s̄o dane ajii.

*This story must be about this place.*

07:15

J̄o laa dane k'e laa hadaa aajaá;

*Right here, a man turned into a moose that day;*

júhdzenéh kuuts'ajiih háá gwii laa w̄lę enúúdle.

*today we believe that's how it was.*

07:22

Ē jii, jii

*And this, this,*

07:25

mawajjé? jii hadaa aaję.

*this is his story, the story about that man who became a moose.*

07:28

Nadzeze l̄o.

*It's long.*

07:30

Méh nahewasjiché dah h́hch'e lh̄laade h́hch'ii.

*I'm going to talk to you guys about these stories, like this, one after another.*

07:36

Taahdajuu dam̄dage nááyecheše h́hch'ii lh̄laade.

*Once in a while, his brother would see him like that, now and again.*

07:41

Méh wajich naadzeş loh hōhch'ii lhédōh.

*His story is really long.*

07:47

Waloh ts'ē? ajuu wōdah ts'ē? nááyaachēh,

*In the end, he didn't see his brother anymore,*

07:48

gwats'ē? lhédōh gwats'ē? wats'ē? méh wajich wōlē hadaa.

*towards the end of story of the moose.*

07:53

Hōhjii elaa juuhdzenéh,

*That is why today,*

07:56

dane yataah néhyah eh

*there are still moose,*

07:58

jii hadaa nahhaagááh néhyaa.

*because he went amongst them.*

*[If they had all been killed there wouldn't be any today]*

08:00

jii hadaa nahhaagááh néhyaa aja dane yaaghadaaghō.

*There are moose standing beside us, yet no man will kill them all.*

*[Because of that man who joined the moose and showed them man's ways, today people are not able to kill all the moose]*

08:01

Ii t'ōh, dane yēkáédaa hōhch'ii de juuhdzenéh hadaa

*After that, today people hunt moose.*



08:09

Èhts'ii, k'èhts'è? dane wehtsan aak'e k'èaagoch hòhchẹ.

*If you are following a moose out in the bush, don't approach from upwind because it circles back on its trail and will smell you.*