<o wi we ti a ki . ma kwa ni . mi ke ta ma ko ta . ne ni wa .> (“The married couple: the man whose wife was wooed by a bear”)
1  A) owi·weti·haki: mahkwani mi·hketama·kota neniwa. [Title: owi·weti·haki is written at the top of the page; some distance below this is: mahkwani mi·hketama·kota neniwa.]

A) The married couple: the man whose wife was wooed by a bear.

[B) meš=wi na=’pi ma·haki owi·weti·haki e·h=owi·kiwa·či.]

B) This particular married couple was just living somewhere, they say.

C) e·h=taši-ša·ši·ša·či neniwa._

C) The man was constantly hunting,

D) e·h=ki·ša·koči·kehtwe·wesiči.

D) and he was an exceptionally good hunter.

E) meše=’nah=nekotenwi wa·paniki e·h=a·nawiha·či pešekesiwahi.

E) And there came a day when he could not kill any deer.

F) mehto·či we·wi tepi e·h=a·nawiha·či.

F) It seemed as if he was unable to kill any temporarily.

G) kaši=’ni=či·h=meko očiwe·pi e·h=a·nawiha·či.

G) Well, to his surprise, he found that he could not kill any from that very point on.

H) ne·nehkani·ki·šekwe e·h=ši·ša·či,

H) He hunted all day long day after day,

I) e·h=pwa·wi=meko mo·hčij nekoti -nesa·či.

I) but he did not kill even one.

J) e·h=nì·šwihe·hiwa·či oni·ča·nese·hwa·wahi, kwi·yese·he·hahi.

J) They had two children, little boys.

K) e·škami=meko e·h=na·wisa·niči. [e·škami (IG): K <eaškami>.]

K) And these lost more and more weight

L) e·h=ahkahahkani·hiniči.

L) and were getting quite thin.

M) na·mo·či e·h=keteminawa·čij okwise·hahi.

M) In his heart he pitied his sons.

These editions and translations are works in progress and minor changes can be expected in the future.
N) “we-ta=ni·hka nekwisaki!” e·h=išite-he·či='p=a·pehe.
N) “Golly, my poor sons!” he would always think, they say.

O) ke-keya·hi='pi e·h=we·pi·mahkate·wi·či neniwa,
O) Eventually, they say, the man begin fasting,
[People fasted to elicit the sympathy and blessing of the manitous. Fasting in this case consisted of not eating until evening each day.]

P) e·h=pwa·wi-mena·škononiči || e·h=keteminawa·či oni·ča·nesè·hahi,
P) as he pitied his children for not having meat to eat,

2 A) e·h=ahkahahkani·hiniči e·h=pwa·wi-mena·škononiči.
A) and as, from not having meat to eat, they were quite thin.

B) še·ški=meko mesi·ko·hahi e·h=amwahamwa·niči,
B) They were getting nothing but dried corn to eat,

C) e·h=pwa·wi- ke·ko·hi·takote·niki.
C) and there was not anything that was cooked with it.

D) še·ški=meko mesi·ko·hahi.
D) It was nothing but dried corn.

E) meše·'=nahi='pi ni·šawahi·me e·h=pemi·amwahamwa·wa·či ne·htawi mesi·ko·hahi.
E) For about two years, they say, the family went on eating dried corn exclusively.

F) a·ye·niwe=ke·h=meko e·h=owihowi·kiwa·či.
F) And they continued to live right there in the same spot.

G) meše·'=nah=nekotenwi ihkwe·wa e·h=manese·či,
G) One time the woman was getting wood,

H) keh·čani·pi me·ka·hkweneki| e·h=nemate·niki.
H) at a place where stood a great elm of large girth.

I) e·h=te·h'te·wahaki,]
I) And she tapped several times on it with a stick

J) “mahkwe, nowi·no,” e·h=iči.
J) and said, “Come out, Bear.”

K) (aše=ke·h=meko e·h=inowé·či.)
K) (Now, she said it just for fun.)

L) e·h=na·no·meška·niki meš ani·pi.
L) And the big elm swayed back and forth.

M) ke·htena=či·h mahkwani e·h=pye·či·j·nowi·niči, ||
M) And, to her surprise, a bear actually did come out,

3 A) meši·mahkwani.
A) a big bear.

B) “hwi·', mahkwa!” e·h=ina·či.
B) “Oh my, a bear!” she said to it.

C) $e\cdot h=ki\cdot wi\cdot nema\cdot so\cdot ci\ mahkwa.$

C) The bear stood there.

D) a-yahpi-hiina-h=meko, “wihihwi’, mahkwa!” $e\cdot h=ina\cdot ci.$

D) Every once in a while she said to it, “Oh my, oh my, a bear!”

E) “ihkwe-we, owi-weti-yakwe, anwa-ci-hkapaha?” $e\cdot h=ine\cdot ci\ ihkwe-wa.$

E) The woman was asked, “Woman, what if we get married, would you be agreeable?”

F) “hwi’, mahkwa kotowe-wa!”

F) “Oh my, the bear is trying to speak!”

G) $e\cdot h=i\cdot ki\ mahkwa.$

G) Oh my, a bear!” said the woman.

H) $e\cdot h=me\cdot so\cdot ci=meko.$

H) She was very much smitten.

I) “na-pi=wi-na ne\-sheki pakhwe-\-samane.$

I) “You should cut a piece off my belly.

J) awa\-siye-kapa_owi-neno-ha,

J) You could take back a little piece of fat.

K) wa\-ca-hiye-kapa=\-ca-hi keni-\-ca-nese-\-haki,” $e\cdot h=ine\cdot ci\ ihkwe-wa.$

K) So, you could cook it for your poor children,” the woman was told.

L) $e\cdot h=pakhwe-\-swa-ci mahkwani\ e\cdot h=o\-shehaki\-ci.$ [e\cdot h=pakhwe-\-swa-ci: K <swa> has <wa> crowded in later over erased <a>.]

L) And she cut a piece off the bear at his belly.

M) “ka-\-ta=wi-na a\-\-\-ci\-mohiye-kani kena-p\-\-\-ma,” $e\cdot h=ine\\-\-\-\-ci.$

M) “But don’t tell your husband,” she was told.

N) “na-pi=we-na,” $e\cdot h=ine\-\-\-ci\ mahkwa.$

N) “Good idea,” was the reply to the bear.

O) o\-\-ni=ye-toke_i\-ya-h=meko pyc\-ya\-\-ci,

O) And then, it seems, when she got back there,

P) $e\cdot h=wa\-ca-ha-ci oni-\-ca-nese-hahi.$

P) she cooked it for her children.

Q) $e\cdot h=keh\-\-\-amwa-wa-ci mahkwio_owi-neno-\-ni,$

Q) The children ate heartily of the bear fat

R) $e\cdot h=ki\-\-hoce-wa-ci || apeno-\-haki.$

R) and their stomachs were filled.

A) pe\-hkote-niki, a\-\-\-\-ka\-\-\-\-ci\-tepehki=meko, $e\cdot h=pya\-\-\-\-ci o\-\-swa-wani.$

A) That night, quite late, their father came back.
What would he be bringing?

He came back empty-handed.

And the woman fed him dried corn.

And for their part, the boys stayed home by themselves all day long.

And they cooked for them hurriedly.

And hurriedly they ate.

They were very nearly caught at what they were doing when he came.

They only barely finished putting away the dishes in time.

The woman made confused remarks.
And then the next morning the huntsman left.

And then the woman left a little later.

They went along watching where their mother went,

keeping out of sight behind her.

At some point over yonder she pounded a stick several times on a great elm.

And there was a large bear, of prodigious size,

and their mother ran and grabbed him.

"Jeepers! Look at our mother," they said to each other.

She had her arms around the bear's neck, hugging him.

Their mother was sleeping with him at intervals, showing no concern.

A little bit of her arms could be seen in places as she lay embracing him.

"Jeepers! Darn if she isn't fearless of it," they said.

After a while, their mother pinched up a handful of its belly

and cut off a piece of fat.

"Jeepers!" they said.

When she started walking back, they took off,

running home.

A little bit of her arms could be seen in places as she lay embracing him.

"Jeepers! Darn if she isn't fearless of it," they said.

After a while, their mother pinched up a handful of its belly

and cut off a piece of fat.

"Jeepers!" they said.

When she started walking back, they took off,

running home.
They came running back to their house,

wa-natohka e·h=ıšına-kosiwa·či.

looking from the expressions on their faces as if nothing had happened.

okiwa·wani wa-natohka e·h=ki-wi·ıšına-kosiiniči,, [e·h=ki-wi·ıšına-kosiiniči: dot added later as a following divider.]

And the expression their mother had on her face was as if nothing had happened,

mahk·owi·neno·ni wa-natohka=meko_e·h=taši·nana·nika·pye·šwa·niči.

and, as if nothing whatever had happened, she was cutting bear fat into small strips.

ki·šesoniči, e·h=amwa·wa·či._

After it was cooked, they ate it.

“ko·sena·na·owi·to·šani,” e·h=iti·wa·či·ki·mo·či,

“Our father’s rival!” the little boys said to each other on the sly,

e·h=apahapane·niwa·či kwı·yese·he·haki. ||

and they laughed.

“kaši=ıškwe=ma·haki išawiwaki, [ma·haki: dot added later as a preceding divider.]”

“What the dickens is the matter with these two,

e·h=taši·wa·wa·waneška·ha·ye·niwa·či,” e·h=inekowa·či okiwa·wani. [e·h=inekowa·či: <e> in <ne> written over erased <a>.]

with their rapscallion snickering?” said their mother.

e·h=na·pe·šıte·he·či=ke·h=wi·na·ihkwe·wa,

But beyond that, the woman had a gnawing suspicion,

e·h=kekha·neškima·či okwise·hahi._ [okwise·hahi: dot added later as a following divider.]

And she scolded her sons sharply.

meše=’nah=aškači e·h=ki·ši·seniwa·či.

And after a while they finished eating.

o·ni nekoti kwı·yese·ha, “ane·he,” e·h=ıná·či.

And then one boy spoke to his mother.

“no·sa=ča·hi| ni·h=ne·hisetawa·wa?” e·h=ıná·či| okye·ni.

“Mother,” he said to her, “So, I’ll save some for my father.”

“ka·ta,=nekwi·hi.

“Don’t, my son.

ketema·khiye·kani ko·sa,” e·h=ıná·či| okwisani.

You might do your father harm,” she said to her son.

“kaši=ča·h=e·h=teki,” e·h=ıná·či.

“So, how come?” he asked her.
“Why, gosh, you see he can’t eat it,” she said to him.

“ō-hō’,” e·h·iči kwį́ yese·ha.

“Oh, so that’s it,” said the boy.

“ka·ta=wi·na a·čimohiye·ke·ko·swa·wa,” e·h·iči ihkwe·wa.

“But don’t tell your father, either of you,” the woman said.

“neškimenakakwe.

“He might scold us.

You see, if he should happen to dream of something, we want him to have a vision of any game animals.

At some point after he had a big mouthful of spit,

They were saying all sorts of different things.

And after a while their mother stopped scolding them.

She would say to them,

“Alright,” said the boy.

“They were saying all sorts of different things.

And after a while their mother stopped scolding them.

She would say to them,

“You should consider your father.”

Older brother,

And don’t spit in the fire,” she told their sons.

That night the younger one said, “Older brother,”

They might scold us.

“Alright,” said the boys.

“She will say to them, “Alright,” said the boys.

They were saying all sorts of different things.

And after a while their mother stopped scolding them.

She would say to them, “You should consider your father.”

You see, if he should happen to dream of something, we’ll be having meat to eat,

If he has a vision of any game animals.”.

At some point after he had a big mouthful of spit,

He might scold us.

You see, at least, you’ve been having some meat to eat,” she to her little sons.

8 A) “hao,” e·h·iči kwi·yese·haki.

A) “Alright,” said the boys.

B) “ka·ta=ke·hi aškote·ki sehkwihi·ko,” e·h·iči okwiswa·wahi.

B) “And don’t spit in the fire,” she told their sons.

C) pe·hkote·nik atena·wi e·hpi·hēki·hita, “nesese,” e·h·iči,

C) That night the younger one said, “Older brother,”

D) “sa·sanakiheti·hiyakwe=wi·na,” e·h·iči.

D) he said, “let’s play riddles.”

E) “hao,” e·h·iči me·kekino·hita.

E) “Alright,” said the older one.

F) a·čipanakिणči e·h·taşi·inohinowe·wa·či. [taşi: short line added later as a following divider.]

F) They were saying all sorts of different things.

G) meše=‘nahi aškɑči e·h·po·ni·neškimekowɑ·či okiwa·wani. [e·h·po·ni·neškimekowɑ·či: K <eponи.nekimekowɑči>, with queried “(s)” added after <ne> in ms. by TM.]

G) And after a while their mother stopped scolding them.

H) aškičɑ·h·ke·h=wi·na, “nepa·ko,” e·h·taşi·johikowɑ·či.

H) But at first she kept telling them, “Go to sleep.”

I) “wa·pamiye·ke·ko·swɑ·wa.

I) She would say to them, “You should consider your father.

J) wanimo·či=ma·hi=‘na ke·ko·hi ina·hpa·hite, ki·h=me·mena·škopena, 

J) You see, if he should happen to dream of something, we’ll be having meat to eat,

K) mo·šiha·te mi·čipe·he·hahi,” e·h·ina·či=’p=a·pehe.

K) if he has a vision of any game animals.”.

L) meše=‘nah=kapo·twe ki·ši·makane·htaki·osehkwini, ||

L) At some point after he had a big mouthful of spit,

A) e·h·šehekwiči aškote·ki,
A) he spat in the fire,
B) e·h=peškone·sa·niki aškote·wi.
B) and the fire blazed up.
C) e·h=taši-sehkwisehkwiwa·či aškote·ki.
C) And they kept spitting in the fire.
D) aškači=meko e·h=nepa·wa·či.
D) And after some time they went to sleep.
E) ma·maya=meko o·swa·wani e·h=taši·a·nwi·pehtawe·niči,
E) Very early in the morning their father was trying to start the fire with no success,
F) e·h=to·hki·wa·či.
F) and they woke up.
G) “mani=ma·h=mani·a·mi·’šawiki,” e·h=ina·či o·swa·wani.
G) “Here, this is how it ought to be done,” one said to their father.
H) e·h=sehkwiči aškote·ki.
H) And he spat on the fire.
I) e·h=peškone·sa·ki| aškote·wi.
I) The fire blazed up.
J) ni·šenwi se·hkwa·taki,| e·h=ki·ša·koči·aniweše·niki.|  
J) When he spat on it twice, it burned with an extremely strong flame.
K) “ši·hčė·’,” e·h=išite·he·či neniwa.|  
K) “Well look at that!” thought the man.
L) e·h=maneto·we·nema·či=meko| okwisani.
L) He imagined that his son was indeed a manitou.
M) ke·ko·h=meko e·h=iši·keteminawesiniči_e·h=išiwe·pe·nema·či.
M) He imagined it meant that he had been blessed with the power to do something.
N) “o·meše=ke·hi maneto·he·hi·toke=meko,” e·h=išite·he·či._ [e·h=išite·he·či: large dot added later as a following divider.]
N) “Or else, he probably is indeed a bit of a manitou,” he thought.
O) meče·mo·ka=wi·na·na·mite·he e·h=se·kesiči. [wi·na: dot added later as a following divider;  
O) But the wife, in her heart, was scared.

10 A) ki·ši=meko ·pwa·wi·_ke·ko·hi -inemeči,
A) Only when nothing was said to them
B) ača·hmeko ihkwe·wa, “pwa·wi=ma·haki| -nahi·asemihenkiki e·h=ši·ša·yani,” e·h=ina·či_ona·pe·mani|  
B) did the woman say to her husband, as if nothing had happened, “These boys don’t ever help you when  

you hunt.”
That's certainly true,” said the man.

After her husband had departed,

“ni:h=mawi=ya-pi -kahkenikopye,” e·h=ina-či okwise·hahi.
she said to her sons, “I guess I’ll go strip some basswood bark.”

[The outer bark was stripped off the inner bark, which was used for cordage, after the whole bark was removed from the tree.]

“hao,” e·h=ikoči,

“Alright,” they replied to her,

“ni:h=mawi-pye-yá-niči okiwa-wani,” e·h=ina-či okwise·hahi.

When their mother got over there,

all she did was go straight to the big elm.

Their mother looked like she was ready to catch the bear on the fly.

“wa·pami kekya,” || e·h=iti-wa-či.

“Look at your mother,” one boy told the other one.

After fooling around for a while, the ones they were watching sat there quietly.

And they began to speak together.

[’Speak together’ translates kakano-neti-, literally ‘converse’, the word commonly used for the conversations held as part of courtship.]

“nahi’, ihkwe·we,” e·h=ineči| ihkwe·wa,

“Alright, woman,” the woman was told,

“kena·pe·ma omi-ša-mi mawi-a-pihano.

go and untie your husband’s sacred bundle.

And in it, woman, and the redstone pipe that is in it, you must bring back,” the woman was told.
And also you must dress up,” the woman was told.

“You must wear the red woolen broadcloth as a blanket,” the woman was told.

“Red woolen broadcloth” translates meškwe·kenwi, a red stroudblanket with an undyed strip of white along the selvage, referred to as “white-listed” or “white list”; a highly desirable trade item.

“Fine broadcloth” translates maneto·we·kenwi, an expensive, deep-indigo broadcloth blanket, also a highly prized trade item.

“Well, why not,” she replied,

and she went home.

And finding her children gone,

she whistled for them.

After some time one of the boys answered, “What?”

The bear was frightened by the cry.

And in no time the bear was hanging on to the tree half way up.

And then they went to her, running in from different directions.

“So, where have you been?” she asked them.

“We’ve been hunting birds,” they told their mother.

She pointed out a different direction for them to go.

“Don’t go that way,” she told them.

“You must go up the river in this direction,

not down the river,” she told them.
H) “hao,” e-h=ina·wa-či.
H) “Alright,” they said to her.
I) o·ni=ye-toke e-h=sese-si-we-pinehka·kowa-či.
I) And then, it seems, she hurried them off.
J) aše=meko e-h=iši·hka·nowa-či, e-h=opye·ni-ki·we·wa-či. [e-h=opye·ni-ki·we·wa-či: K <op yenikiyelwewachi.>, with <ye> erased and replaced by a long divider; TM writes “[ka” above this and “no?]” above K <we>. The divider over the erasure seems to be in TM’s pencil; the interpretation in the text is based on the assumption that the erasure was by AK, correcting <ye> to <we>.
J) But they just pretended and, taking their time, turned back.
K) ihkwe·wa ke·keya·h=meko e-h=kehči·neškima·či. [e-h=kehči: K <ekeča.>]
K) Finally the woman scolded them sharply.
L) o·ni=e-h=na·kwa·niči·kena·či=meko.
L) And then they left, slowly.
M) kape·we e-h=po·ni·ka·škehtawa-či. [e-h=po·ni·ka·škehtawa-či: K <eponikašketa.wači.>]
M) And in time she could no longer hear them.
N) i·ni=ke·h=wi·na=meko=’pi aya·pami e-h=ki·ši·pakamipahowa·či ašiči·owi·kewa·ki. [=wi·na: K <a> written over <e>]
N) But by then, they say, they had already arrived back on the run near their lodge.
O) i·nah=či·hi|okiwa·wani e-h=taši·penaha·hkwa·niči. [K <etaši.pena||akwaniči>.]
O) And there they saw their mother combing her hair.

13
A) meše-na·hina·hi e-h=šekišekišinowa-či.
A) And they lay there not far away.
B) aškači e-h=pi·tike·niči. [e-h=pi·tike·niči: K <epi|tikeniči.>, with <tikeni> crowded in replacing an erased syllable, perhaps <skwe>.]
B) And after some time she went in.
C) pi·tike·niči, ašiči=meko e-h=ihpahowa-či.
C) And when she went in, they ran up right close.
D) aškači=meko e-h=pye·či·nowi·niči,
D) After quite some time their mother came out,
E) e-h=kehči·mi·ša-tesinčiči okiwa-wani.
E) and she was dressed in her finest clothes.
F) a-ya·nekikhwanowe·niči=meko e-h=we·ši·honiči meškwanemonani, [a-ya·nekikhwanowe·niči: K <yane> written over erased <aya>.]
F) She was painted on the whole of her cheeks with red ocher,
G) e-h=kehči·mi·ša-tesinčiči.
G) and she was dressed in her finest clothes.
H) o·ni=e-h=anemí·ahkowi -oči·kahkiso·htawa·wa-či,
And then they went along behind hiding from her,

running along behind.

Over there, they found the bear up the tree.

It kept peering out up in the tree.

And when the bear saw their mother, it jumped down from right where it was.

Then their mother said, "Oh my, bear."

You might have hurt yourself, bear.

Then the bear said, "Oh my, bear.

The bear smoked profusely,

using the redstone pipe.

After he had smoked, he began fooling around with the woman.

They used the red woolen broadcloth as a blanket,

and they slept with each other.

And the bear's feet were sticking out as he lay.

And as he fixed his covers, he accidentally tore the red broadcloth with his claw.

The woman did not think it was anything to worry about at all.

But the boys crept over close to where their feet were,

as fast as they could haul themselves.
K) mahkwani='pi e·h=si-sito·tane·na·wa·či.
K) And they pinched the bear’s heel, they say.

L) e·h=pwa·wi=meko -ame·siniči, wa-natohka=meko. [-ame·siniči (AW): K <amenisi.|niči.>, but divider at line end seems added.]
L) And he did not react at all, as if nothing at all was wrong.

M) o·ni=na·hka e·h=keni·kika·na·wa·či.
M) And then next they tickled him on the foot.

N) wa·natohka=meko·še·ški e·h=taši·wi·kawika·ška·niči.
N) But, as if nothing at all was wrong, all he did was shift his foot restlessly.

O) ke·keya·hi='pi wa·siki·nahte·h|| e·h=patahkito·tane·hwa·wa·či. [wa·siki·nahte·h: K <wasikinite>, with <te> crowded in and unclear (resembles the <to> in <metoči> [15M]).]
O) Finally, they say, they stuck a sharp wooden arrow into his heel.

15 A) ača·hmeko e·h=či·pisahoniči.
A) And only then did he jump.

B) apina=wi·na=ča·h=meko e·h=paseki·čisa·niči,
B) In fact, he even leapt right to his feet,

C) e·h=pa·pakwakoše·škawomeči okiwa·wani. [wo: K <o>.
C) and their mother had the blanket yanked off of her.

D) (meše='yo=ke·h=meko e·h=ahkoče·hoči mahkw.
D) (Now, remember, the bear had already had part of his belly sliced off.

E) “we·ne·h=ni·hka ke·hči·kwe·hta·namita?” e·h=iči mahkwa.
E) “What the hell just took a great whacking bite out of me?” said the bear.

F) “kesakipokwa=ya·pi owiye·ha?” e·h=išiwe·či ihkwe·wa.
F) “Was there something that bit you?” the woman said.

G) pa·pekwa=na·hka| mahkwa e·h=nana·hišiki.
G) Pretty soon the bear lay down again.

H) ki·ši=meko| -menwišiki mahkwa, na·hka e·h=we·pi·keni·kika·neči.
H) And after the bear was settled comfortably, he began to be tickled on his foot again.

I) e·h=pwa·wi=meko -ame·či.
I) He paid no attention at all to it.

J) kapo·twe e·h=pe·šesoči oto·taneki.
J) And then at some point he was slashed across the heel.

K) manahka e·h=pakina·či wi·hpe·ma·čini. [wi·hpe·ma·čini: repeated in ms.]
K) And he threw his sleeping partner aside.

L) e·h=ki·ša·koči·se·kiheči ihkwe·wa.
L) The woman was absolutely terrified.
And your words sound nice when you say that to me,

Kemenowe..." said the bear. "After quite some time, they say, the woman was agreeable.

And she had been tossed like a small object.

Of course, the bear was feeling pain as well, in his heel.

The bear kissed and kissed.

The bear was scared.

And for as long as we may live, we..." the woman declared.

And then the bear tried to comfort the woman.

Besides, if you’re agreeable, we could get married," the bear continued.

Well, you have to agree that it’s as if we’re married as it is,” replied the woman.

And for as long as we may live, we’ll speak together,” the woman declared.

"Oh my, I’m not going to say anything bad about you, am I, bear?” was the friendly reply the bear got.

And your words sound nice when you say that to me,” the woman was told.

"Oh my, so help me, what a bear.

And then the bear tried to comfort the woman.

After quite some time, they say, the woman was agreeable.

And then the bear tried to comfort the woman.

The bear was scared.

And then the bear tried to comfort the woman.

Besides, if you’re agreeable, we could get married,” the bear continued.

Well, you have to agree that it’s as if we’re married as it is,” replied the woman.

And for as long as we may live, we’ll speak together,” the woman declared.

"Oh my, I’m not going to say anything bad about you, am I, bear?” was the friendly reply the bear got.

And your words sound nice when you say that to me,” the woman was told.

"Oh my, so help me, what a bear.”

He was delighted.

He was delighted.

"Oh my, so help me, what a bear.”

He was delighted.

"Oh my, so help me, what a bear.”

He was delighted.
“And she would eat me, if her husband kills me,” he thought.

But for now I’m secretly married to her,” thought the bear.

That evening he gave some of the fat of his belly.

Oh dear,

Their sons came back late,

and her husband came back even later.

After she had been pregnant a little while,

Some time later, the woman realized that she was pregnant.

And she thought.

After that she had been pregnant a little while,

one of the boys told their father everything.

“Father, all I can say is, our mother has been sleeping with a bear,” he said to their father.

“After you’re alone tomorrow, you can cook it for our children,” the woman was told.

[“Our children” is how a step-parent would refer to a spouse’s children.]

“hao,” e·h=i·i ihkwe·wa.

“Alright,” said the woman.

Their sons came back late,

and her husband came back even later.

Early in the morning the woman finished her cooking.

And, after daubing his face, the man left,

[He put charcoal on his face as a sign that he was fasting.]

C) “And she would eat me, if her husband kills me,” he thought.

D) “i·noki=wi·na e·h=ta·ši-ki·mo·či·owi·wiya·ni,” e·h=i·šite·he·či mahkwa.

D) “But for now I’m secretly married to her,” thought the bear.

E) e·na·kwiniki, e·h=mi·šiwe·či oto·wi·nenowimota·kani. [oto·wi·nenowimota·kani: added dividers before and after, perhaps by AK.]

E) That evening he gave some of the fat of his belly.

F) “wa·pake ki·ši·nesapiyane, ki·h=wača·ha waki keni·ča·nesena·naki,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa.

F) “After you’re alone tomorrow, you can cook it for our children,” the woman was told.

[“Our children” is how a step-parent would refer to a spouse’s children.]

G) “hao,” e·h=i·i ihkwe·wa.

G) “Alright,” said the woman.

H) aškači e·h=pya·niči okwise·hwa·wahi,

H) Their sons came back late,

I) po·s-aškači e·h=pya·niči ona·pe·mani.

I) and her husband came back even later.

J) ma·maya=meko e·h=ki·ši·wača·hoči ihkwe·wa.

J) Early in the morning the woman finished her cooking.

K) ki·ši·we·ši·hoči neniwa, e·h=na·kwa·či,

K) And, after daubing his face, the man left,

M) i·niki=ke·hi=’pi kwi·yese·haki e·h=pi·ške·nema·wa·či, ||

M) But those boys, it is said, got bored with them

18 A) e·h=po·ni·_i·tepı·iši·na·na·kana·wa·či.

A) and did not follow her over there any more.

B) aškači_ihkwe·wa e·h=kehke·netisoči e·h=ačihkwiči.

B) Some time later, the woman realized that she was pregnant.

C) “eheye·či,” e·h=i·šite·he·či.

C) “Oh dear,” she thought.

D) ki·ši·no·make·wi·iši·ačihkwiči,

D) After she had been pregnant a little while,

E) e·h=a·čimoha·či o·swa·wani nekoti kwi·yese·ha.

E) one of the boys told their father everything.

F) “ano·se, nekina·na=koči mahkwani·wa·wi·hpe·me·wa,” e·h=ina·či o·swa·wani.

F) “Father, all I can say is, our mother has been sleeping with a bear,” he said to their father.

G) “nasha·aye·ke·h=meko_očipyε·či i·ni e·šahišawiči,” e·h=ina·či o·sani.
“And she’s been doing that for quite a long time,” he said to his father.

“So that’s it,” was the reply received from him.

He told him all the particulars.

“Also, she takes out the redstone pipe that is in our sacred bundle,

and the bear smokes with it.

And for her part, she dresses up in her finest clothes.

After she dresses up, she goes to him.

At first they always fool around,

and after they fool around, they begin sleeping with each other,” the boy told their father.

And then the next day he went out to hunt,

and some time later he came back.

And he said to his wife, “Well, wife, I guess I’ll go spend the night over yonder.”

[It is a stylistic convention to use an expression like “over yonder” in a direct quotation as a substitute for the name or description of the place that the speaker would actually have used; English, preferring indirect discourse, would say: “He told his wife he was going to spend the night at such-and-such a place.”]

“Alright,” the woman replied.

She rejoiced in her heart.

“Now we’ll really have a time,” the woman thought.

And he left.

The man really did go a long ways off,

ke·htena=meko_i ya·h e·h=nepa·či.
K) and he really did sleep over there.

L) o·ni mahkwani i·tepi e·h=išiweneči ašiči.
L) And then the bear was taken near there.

M) o·ni e·h=nepe·swači apeno·hahi mahkwani.
M) And the bear made the children sleep by burning something in the fire.

N) pe·hki e·h=wi·hpeči,
N) And sleeping with a woman for real,

O) e·h=po·si·mehtose·neniwe·netisoči mahkwani. [K <eposimetosenenwbwenetisoči>.
O) the bear thought of himself as very much a person.

20
A) ki·ši·na·witepehki·niki, e·h=na·kwači neniwa.
A) After midnight the man set out.

B) pešekesiwani e·h=nasači nekoti. [Dividers are all added lines.]
B) And he killed a deer, one deer.

C) ke·tawi·wa·paniki e·h=pyači e·h=owi·kiwači.
C) And when it was nearly dawn, he arrived where their house was.

D) mahkwani e·h=kehči·nepači,
D) Meanwhile, the bear was sound asleep,

E) e·h=wi·hpeči.
E) sleeping with a woman.

F) e·h=wa·wači·kehkitehkwe·netiwači.
F) And they had their arms around each other’s necks.

G) e·h=pi·tikeči neniwa,_
G) The man went in,

H) i·nah=či·h=wi·na·owi·wani e·h=taši·wi·hpe·nici.
H) and there before his eyes his wife had a sleeping partner.

I) mahkwani e·h=wi·hpe·ma·nici.
I) She was sleeping with a bear.

J) e·h=ki·ma·hači.
J) He saw them without them knowing.

K) e·h=ne·ya·pi·a·hte·haki aškote·wi,
K) And he put the fire out again

L) meše·na·hina·hi e·h=ači,_
L) and went a little ways off.

M) pye·ta·paniki·mahkwani e·h=pye·či·nowi·nici.
M) When dawn came, the bear came out.

N) meše·na·hina·hi e·nemehka·nici,
And when it had gone a little ways off,
he went and killed it.
The bear was killed.
He carried it a long ways off on his back
and arrived with it where the deer was.
At noon he came back with the deer on his back.
The children rejoiced at his return.
"I see you’ve killed game," she said to her husband.
“Oh, I’ve really killed game on a large scale,” said the man.
“So I believe I’ll start to kill game now.
All I can say is, I killed a bear, too,” he told her.
“You seem to be making unusual kills,” she said to him.
“So, I’m going to go after it,” he said to her.
“Alright,” said the woman.
He left.
And as soon as the man left,
the woman left.
Expectantly but to no avail she pounded several times with a stick,
Expectantly but to no avail she pounded several times with a stick,
N) expecting to no avail that he would come out.
O) “ō’, kehči-nepe-toke,” e·h=išite-he·či.
O) “Oh, he must be fast asleep,” she thought.
P) i na·ka=ke·h=neniwa i·ya·h=pye·ya·či || e·h=owi·kiwa·či,
P) Meanwhile, when the man arrived back at their house,

22 A) še·ški okwise-hahi i·nahi e·h=taši-nasa·hkoheso·hiniči.
A) only his sons were there, roasting a bit of meat for themselves on a spit.
B) e·h=pwa·wi=ke·h=meko·wi-kwa·nemeči pešekesiwani.
B) But no attention had been paid to the deer.
C) awiya·toke=meko e·h=išiniči._
C) It lay there untouched.
D) kwi·yena=meko ki·ši·nana·nika·pye·šomeči owi·neno·ni,|
D) Just when the fat had all been cut in strips,
E) e·h=pya·či ihkwē-wa.
E) the woman arrived back.
F) “ki·ši·pya·wane·ni,” e·h=ina·či ona·pe·mani.
F) “I see you’re already back,” she said to her husband.
G) “ehē-he,” e·h=iniči.
G) “Yes,” said he.
H) “ta·tepí=ča·h| a·piha·yani,” e·h=ina·či.
H) And he asked her, “So, where have you been?”
I) “neša·po·si=ča·h=pe·hki.
I) “My bowels were really loose.
J) i·ya·ma·h=neta·pi·ki·wita·e·h=taši·sa·kisa·kiči·ya·ni,” e·h=ina·či.
J) I’ve been staying over yonder where I go to the bathroom,” she said to him.
K) “ō·hō’,” e·h=iči·neniwa.
K) “So that’s it,” said the man.
L) “ni·na=we·na,| ‘mahkwahi_natone·hwa·hkiče,’ netešite·he,
L) “I thought rather that you might be looking for bears,
M) e·h=taši·te·hte·wa·hkohesoyani,” e·h=ina·či._
M) when you were doing your pounding on the tree,” he said to her.
N) “aše=koh=meko nekokwe·twe·we·ha,” || e·h=ina·či ona·pe·mani.
N) “I was trying the sound of it, just for fun of course,” said she to her husband.

23 A) “ō·hō’,” e·h=ikoči.
A) “So that’s it,” he said to her.
B) o·ni e·h=wa·wi·seniwa·či.|
B) And then they always ate well.

C) nekotah=e-ya-ničiní, i-tepi| e·h=ki·ši-pye-hipahouči.

C) And whenever he went anywhere, she would instantly run over to that place.

D) meše=nah=nekonewi, “peno-či_i-noki ni·h=inešiha,” e·h=ina-či,

D) One time he said to his wife, “This time I’m going a long ways off to hunt,”

E) “i·ni=ya-pi, ”_e·h=ina-či._owi·wani.

E) adding, “I mean now.”

F) “hao,” _e·h=iči ihkwe·wa.

F) “Alright,” said the woman.

G) e·h=ki·wi·keša·čihkwe·wiči, e·h=na·kwa·niči| ona·pe·mani.

G) She had a pleasant demeanor as her husband left.

H) “sese·si_i·h=na·to·ta·pi·we·hke·hani,” e·h=ina-či| okwise·hwa·wahi,

H) “I’m going to make a quick trip for a load of dead wood,” she said to their young sons,

I) e·h=na·kwa·či.

I) and she left.

J) “mahkwe, nowi·no,=mahkwe,” e·h=iči.|  

J) “Bear! Come out, bear,” she said.

K) “toh_toh_toh,”_e·h=inwe·we·haki mehtewi._ [toh_toh_toh: phonetics conjectured.]

K) She hit the tree, making it go, “Tonk, tonk, tonk!”

L) aškači_e·h=ne·wa·či ona·pe·mani e·h=pe·mepahoniči.

L) After some time she saw her husband running by.

M) (aše=k·e·h=wi·na=meko e·h=to·ta·koči.)

M) (He did that to her just for fun.)

N) sese·si e·h=pi·we·hkenese·či,| 

N) Hurriedly she collected small wood

O) e·h=awato·taki.

O) and took home a back-load of it.

P) kwi·yena=meko_e·h=nakiškawa·či. ||

P) And she ran into him coming the other way.

A) “newani·hke=kohi netaša·ti·hani,” e·h=ina·či.

A) “I forgot my stone-headed arrows,” he said to her.

B) o·ni=’pi e·h=maw·ako·si·či neniwa.

B) And then, it is said, the man went and climbed the tree.

C) e·h=pi·čisahoči mahkwa·nakoki.

C) And he jumped into the bear-hole.

D) e·h=mehčinameške·či.
D) He was naked.

E) i-na-ka=ke-hi_ihkwe·wa i-tepi pa-pекwa.

E) Meanwhile, the woman was over there promptly.

F) “mahkwe, nowi·no.

F) “Bear, come out.

G) i-ni=y-a·pi e-h=pye·to-na·ni| ni·yawi na·hkač·i,” e-h=in·a·či| mahkwani ihkwe·wa. [mahkwani ihkwe·wa: K <makwa.niikwewa>.

G) Just to let you know, I’ve brought myself to you again,” said the woman to the bear.

H) “pya·no=pena’,” e-h=in·a·či.

H) “Alright then, come here,” she said to him.

I) “mehto·či=meko_kena·pe·ma·ki·h=ne·wa·wa,| ne·wiyane,” e-h=ikoči._

I) “It’ll be just as if you’re seeing your husband, when you see me,” he told her.

J) “pena’| pya·no,” e-h=ineči ihkwe·wa. [e·h=in·a·či: <.ineči.>.

J) “Alright, come here, then,” the woman told him.

K) “ki·h=po·ni| e-na-pamiyani| -ina·pami.

K) “You’ll no longer see me the way you saw me.

L) šewe·na mehteno·h=meko kena·pe·ma_e·šina·kosiči ni·h=išina·kosi,” e-h=ineči ihkwe·wa.

L) Rather I will look only like your husband,” the woman was told.

M) “a·peči=škwe,_pya·no,”| e-h=ineči mahkwa.

M) “Come on now, come here,” the bear was told.

N) “hao,” e·h=išiwe·či neniva, mahkwa. ||

N) “Okay,” the man as bear replied.

25 A) pye·či·nowi·niči,

A) When he came out,

B) na·na·kači=meko_ona·pe·mani_e·šina·kosiniči mehto·či=či·h| e·h=išina·kosiniči, e·h=išiwe·pite·he·či.

[mehto·či=či·h] (IG): K <metošiči>; above this in ms. TM wrote “[me to tti ?],” and then erased it.

B) it seemed to her that he looked just exactly like her husband.

C) “hwi´, mahkwa,” e·h=in·a·či.

C) “Oh my, what a bear!” she said to him.

D) (ona·pe·mani=ke·h=wi·na.)

D) (But, of course, it was her husband.)

E) “kaši=ča·h| ketene·nema·wa kena·pe·ma,” e·h=ikoči.

E) “So, what do you think of your husband?” he asked her.

F) “hwi´, mahkwa,” e·h=in·a·či.

F) “Oh my, what a bear!” she said to him.

G) e·h=kehkitehkwe·na·či.
G) and put her arms around his neck.
H) “neneškinawa·wa=ča·hi.
H) “I hate him.
I) ki·na=mekoneta·heči·nenehke·nemene, “ e·h=ina·či.
I) You’re the one I’m always thinking about,” she said to him.
J) “wi·na=ke·hi=’na| neneškinawa·wa,
J) “But him I hate,
K) takwi=mekononi·ča·nesahi,” e·h=ineči| neniwa._
K) as well as his children,” the man was told.
L) “ki·na=mata, ‘ta·ni=’nahi wi·čawiwake,’ ketene·nemene.”
L) “As for you, though, I wish I could live with you.”
M) “ayo·h=ča·h=awiyane e·h=owi·kiya·ni,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa.
M) “So, what if you stayed here where I live?” the woman was asked.
N) “na·pi=we·na,” e·h=išiwe·či_ihkwe·wa. ||
N) “Good idea,” replied the woman.
26 A) “a·kwi=ya·pi owi·wanini?” e·h=išiwe·či ihkwe·wa.
A) “I suppose you’re not married?” the woman asked.
B) “a·kwi=kohi._
B) “Surely not.
C) netoškinawé·hi,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa.|”
C) “I’m a bachelor,” the woman was told.
D) (i·ni=m=ke·h=wi·na ona·pe·mani.) [ona·pe·mani: K <ma> is written like <na>.]
D) (But he was her husband, of course.)
E) ke·htena-na·mite he e·h=kehč-a·hkwe·či neniwa.
E) To tell the truth, in his heart the man was very angry.
F) “a·peči=we=ne·hi ako·si·no,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa._
F) “Well, come on, climb up,” the woman was told.
G) e·h=ako·si·či, e·h=pi·čisahoči.
G) And she climbed up and jumped in.
H) ki·ši·pi·čisahoči, “maškiškye·ni ni·h=na·te wi·h=ana·hke·yakwini,” e·h=ineči.
H) After she jumped in, she was told, “I’ll go get some grass for our bedding.”
I) “hwí·’_mehtekoki wi·h=owi·kiya·ni,” e·h=taši·išihe·či.
I) She was thinking, “Oh my, I’m going to live in a tree.”
J) aškači| e·h=pya·niči.
J) After a while he came back.
K) e·h=we·pi·pa·pi·ta·ška·niki maškiškye·ni,
And grass began dropping inside,

mixed in with pieces of bark.

She was arranging it with care, as if it all was completely normal.

A bit later there was another huge amount.

“These are for our covers.

I’ll bring two more loads, and that’s it,” she was told.
M) “Ah, that’s about as much as I would put in there, if that’s okay.

N) o·ni wi·h=wa·kosoyakwe,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa.
N) And now we’ll be toasty,” the woman was told.

[‘Be toasty’ translates wa·kosoi, a verb stem containing an element -eso ‘be acted on by heat or fire’ and an unidentified root of uncertain shape, which is unique to this story and intended to be obscure. The translation ‘toasty’ has been selected to convey the desired ambiguity.]

O) “kaši=ya·pi išawipi ‘e·h=wa·kosoki’, mahkwe,” e·h=iči.[
O) “Tell me, what’s involved in being toasty, bear,” she said.

A) “wa·kosopi.
A) “One is made toasty.

B) ki·h=wa·kosoi=ma·hi,” e·h=ineči.
B) Specifically, you’ll be toasty, of course,” she was told.

C) i·ni=ke·h=meko e·h=sahkahamoweči maškiškye·ni.| C) At that very moment the grass was set on fire.

D) e·h=na·kwa·či neniwa.
D) The man departed.

E) kapo·twe=wi·na ihkwe·wa e·h=kehke·netaki| e·h=sahkahte·niki.
E) Presently, however, the woman realized that it was burning.

F) meše·na·hina·hi=’pi e·h=awiči kotaka mahkwa.| F) Not too far away there was another bear, they say.

G) i·tepi e·h=ihpahoči,
G) And he ran over there

H) e·h=kečisaha·či i·nini ihkwe·wani.
H) and pulled that woman out.

I) ke·hke·netaki ihkwe·wa, kotakani=či·hi mahkwani e·h=taši·hka·koči.
I) When the woman came to, she found another bear tending to her.

J) e·h=ne·se·či.
J) And she recovered.

K) “kena·pe·ma i·na| se·hkahohka.
K) “It was your husband that set your place on fire.

L) e·h=wa·waneška·hi·hta·yani we·či·to·to·hki,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa.
L) The reason for what he did to you is that you behaved badly,” the woman was told.

M) “ayo·h=ča·h=očiwe·pi ka·ta·i·ni išawihkani,” e·h=ineči ihkwe·wa. [e·h=ketenamawoči (IG): K <eketenamawači>].
M) “So, from now on don’t do that,” the woman was told.

N) e·h=ketenamawoči apeno·he·hani e·čihkwima·čini. [keni·ča·nesa]: K <keničane|>, translation “your baby”.
N) The baby that she was pregnant with was taken out of her.
“mana=ča·keni·ča·nesa|[ ayo·ni·ha·taši·pemena·wa,]”| e·h=ineči.
“So, this baby of yours I’ll take care of here,” she was told.

“e·h=oto·kima·miwa·či mahkwaki i·nini·apeno·he·hani.”
“The bears will have that baby for their chief.”

i·niya=ke·h=neniwa wa·natoха ·e·h=pye·či·pi·ti·ke·niči owi·wani, “hao,” e·h=ina·či.
And that man, when his wife came into the house, said to her, “Hello,” as if nothing had happened.

e·h=mayo·či ihkwe·wa.
The woman cried.

“a·kwi=na·hka nehki me·htose·neniwiwa·ne·ni·owiy·ha·wi·h=kakano·neti·ya·nini,”| e·h=iči
ihkwe·wa.
“Never again as long as I live will I speak together with anyone else,” the woman said.

e·h=kehkitehkwe·na·či·ona·pe·mani.
And she put her arms around her husband.

“wa·kosota ki·h=išiso,” _e·h=ina·či| ona·pe·mani ihkwe·wa._
“‘Toasty,’ will be your name,” she said to her husband.

“hao,” e·h=iči| neniwa.

“Alright,” said the man.

“ketasa·mitaneko=kohi,
“You certainly did a bad thing,

mi·čipe·ha=ye·toke·e·h=taši·mi·hketi·yanehe,”| e·h=ina·či.
getting involved, as it seems, in being wooed by a game animal,” he said to her.

ihkwe·wa, “ke·htena=kohi,” e·h=iči.
“That’s certainly true,” said the woman.

“a·kwi=ča·h=na·hka,” _e·h=išiwe·či·ihkwe·wa. [e·h=išiwe·či: K <eišiwači>.]
“So, never again,” she declared.

i·ni e·hkwiči.||
That’s the end of it.