

Dàani Tatsò Weèhdà Dikodeèwò How Raven Lost His Beak

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How Raven Lost His Beak





Gokwe whaà, hagedi, Tatsò kòta
hazhòò gota k'et'a xè dọ ghọ yaeà
ghaewi, eyits'ọ tich'aàdi dọ làanì
geeda sìi gok'aàlawo ghaewi, ts'edi.

In the early days, it is said, Raven
flew from village to village making
mischief and playing tricks on the
animals who lived like people.



Ehgwa dọ ghọ eeṙì eyits'ọ kwe
nechà-lea gilibò yì yehdè.

Dọ gete nìdè gotsọ goni k'e k'etlo,
eyits'ọ tọ yì jìe dàgoòṙọ sù
nałayeehtl'ì.

He stole dry fish off the racks and
dropped dirty stones into drinking
cups.

He walked over people's faces
when they were sleeping and tipped
over pails full of berries.



Hanikò t'asii ìlè Tatsò hat'ì deʔò
wegha nezi. Idòò ts'ika gots'ò
hodàet'a gà ts'èko kwìghà kàehdlà
ghaewì. Ts'èko yaizeh ts'ò et'ì Tatsò
edet'o ts'ò niit'a. Edeèhdà t'à kwìgha
yàitòò gà "Kaa, Kaa, Kaa," di. Ts'èko
kwìghà edet'ot'à yeewa.

Raven's favourite trick was to
swoop down from a tree and pluck
hair out of a woman's head. The
woman would screech and Raven
would cry "Caw Caw Caw" through his
closed beak as he flew off to line his
nest.



Tatsò hat'ì t'à dọ k'aàlawo ghaewì.
 Dọ sì gìgha nezì-le t'à gìgha nezì-le.
 Tatsò yaìzeh xè k'et'a gùkw'o nìdè dọ
 hazhọ tì'ohbàa yì tìmogeedè gà
 nàdegee?

Tatsò dats'ọọ dọ ghọyae?à t'à dọ
 wìzìì ehkw'ì gode gùhwhọ-le ajà.
 Hazhọ nèk'e k'et'a xè t'asì ịọ ghàeda
 ts'ihzọ gọọzọ ne gùhwhọ kò ehkw'ì
 gode gùhwhọ-le.

Each time Raven played another
 trick, the people got angrier and
 angrier. When they heard Raven's
 squawking cry coming through the
 trees, people scurried to hide in their
 teepees.

Raven told people so many lies that
 no one could believe anything he said
 anymore, even though people had
 always respected his wisdom of all the
 things he had seen as he flew.



Ìlàà Tatsò deṛò nèhoḍì. Bebìà
wewà gots'ò bò xàìhdla. Eyits'ò
edeèhdà t'à bebìani k'et'ìts'ò t'à bebìà
wedoò ajà. Dìga eyits'ò Sah, Tatsò,
hajà gìaṛì.

Then one day Raven went too far.
Wolf and Bear caught Raven snatching
a piece of dry meat right out of a
baby's mouth. Not only did Raven grab
the meat, his beak scratched the
baby's cheek so the blood came.



Dìga eyits'ò Sah sìi gini-le t'à hotsa
eezhiekò làani nàgeèhdò. Dìga, Tatsò
wechè daachì, eyits'ò Sah, yeits'òò
daachì. Tatsò eze kwe et'ìi dèe k'e
nègìhxà gà weèhdà xàgìhdla.

Wolf and Bear got so angry they
moved like thunder. Wolf grabbed
Raven's tail and Bear grabbed a wing
and before Raven could let out two
squawks, the hunters had wrestled
him to the ground and yanked his beak
right out of his face.



Tatsò weèhdà while t'à wetl'axò zò
gòzò.

All Raven had left was a nozzle
where the beak had been.



Hanì et'ì Tatsò sì hòt'ò whezeh.
"Kaa! Kaa! Kaa!" dì. Tai toò eyits'ò
nàke dzèè ts'ò hadì yaizeh.

Did Raven ever squawk then. Caw!
Caw! Caw! Caw! For three nights and
two days Raven cawed and
squawked.



Tatsò, Dìga ghò nàdaetì, hadì,
 “Seèhdà seghòichi,” etse xè eteèt’ì
 ladi.

Dìga ekì edeehgò doewe, eyits’ò
 ededziìhk’w’òò k’e whohdì.

Tatsò, Sah ghò nàdaetì, hadì,
 “Seèhdà seghòichi,” yèhdi.

Sah edilà yets’ò ayìlà, yeèhdà
 k’eza-le yek’èezò ha t’à, eyits’ò ededì
 sì ededziìhk’w’òò k’e whohdì. Tatsò
 hòt’ò etse t’à gidziìhk’w’òò goege.

“Please give my beak back,” he
 begged Wolf.

Wolf just shrugged his shoulders
 and covered his ears.

“Please Bear,” he begged. “I need
 my beak back.”

Bear spread open his hands to
 show he didn’t have the beak and
 covered his ears too. They were
 hurting from Raven’s endless
 squawking.



Eyitl'axoò Tatsò t'asadi-le ajà,
nàdaeti-le si ajà. Ts'èwhià dechìni ts'ò
naèhtla, giaʔ.

The Raven got silent. He stopped
begging. People noticed him slipping
off through the bush.



Det'ọ hadi, "Tí ts'ò ajà sọni. Ekọ edeèhdà ịkw'à ayele-a sọni," di.

"Goèhdà whẹgọ nịdè eya dìi ne, goghòò eya nahk'e eya họt'e," Ts'èko Ọhdaà hadi.

"Dọ k'aàlawo xè dọ ghọ yae?à ghaewị là. Ededị xàà ade?ị ne," Nọgèe hadi.

"He must be going to the lake to wet his nozzle," said Duck.

"A dried out nozzle hurts more than a toothache," said Elder Woman.

"Serves him right," said Fox, "after all the tricks he played on us."



Dọ gogedeè họt'e, Tatsò goèhkw'ọ.
Eyt'à kòta ts'ọ anat'ị taàt'e hòt'ò
họtse. Eyits'ọ ninaìt'a nịdè sì họtse
ladi.

Hanìkò deṛṛ wègoèht'ị-le ts'ọ et'ị
tabàa gà edị nàdeeṛṛ gòṛọ sì ekọ ts'ọ
ṛwhàà anat'ị.

Raven heard the villagers talking, so
he made sure he was moaning in pain
each time he came back to the village.
He also moaned each time he left.

But as soon as he was out of sight,
he hurried to his secret point on the
lakeshore.



Tsà, deh daèzhaa ehtsì ǵlè. Ts'ì
yeghò dèrǵ gà nàke dzèè t'à xǵ
whohtsì. Dechì k'e ehtǵ'èe eyts'ò tǵ'o
eleta ayehǵ t'à dò làanì whohtsì. Xǵ
k'e nègoǵwa. Eki dò nagiat'òo làanì
gìgaat'ǵ agòòlà.

Hòt'a nǵhts'ì ehkw'ì nawhets'ì zò
k'enaèhǵ.

Raven stole some trees a beaver
had cut down for a dam and in two
days he had built a raft. He took
branches and mud and dried grass
and shaped them into figures. When
he set the figures on the raft, they
looked like people paddling.

Now all he had to do was wait for
the right wind.



Tatsò eki-ats'òò dechìni ts'ò naedà
dò gighàeda. Ìlè dzeè ek'ètaì hani-le
dè lòhdi eht'aà ekò noedà. Ekò nòetlo
eyits'ò ek'ètà naeda taàt'eè hòtì'ò
hòetse ladi.

"Weèhda sù wegga eya t'à adi
sòni," Ts'èko Qhdaà hadi.

"Mahsi ajà," Nògèe hadi.

"Asìì efaàwì-a sòni," Det'ò hadi.

People noticed Raven heading out
through the bush more often, six,
seven times in a day. Each time he left
and came back, he was moaning and
groaning.

"His nozzle must be very painful,"
said Elder Women.

"Serves him right," said Fox.

"I wonder if he will die," said Duck.



Tatsò k'achì dechìni ts'ò naèhtla.
Edì xì nàehzì sù ts'ò naèhtla. Nìhts'ì
k'aèhtò. Kòta ts'ò ehkw'ì nawhets'ì
agòjà.

Tatsò wìnà t'à nàzeehdlò. Xì ìkwè tì
k'e ts'ò yeèhtso.

Xì kòta ts'ò weèhì yaṛì ts'ò et'ì
kòta ts'ò tìmoèhza. Kòta ts'ò niwà-lea
nìitla kò k'achì hòetse ladi.

Raven headed out through the bush
again to stand on his secret point
where his raft was hidden. He checked
the wind. The wind was right. It was
blowing toward the village.

Raven laughed a squawky laugh
through his nozzle and pushed the raft
out onto the lake.

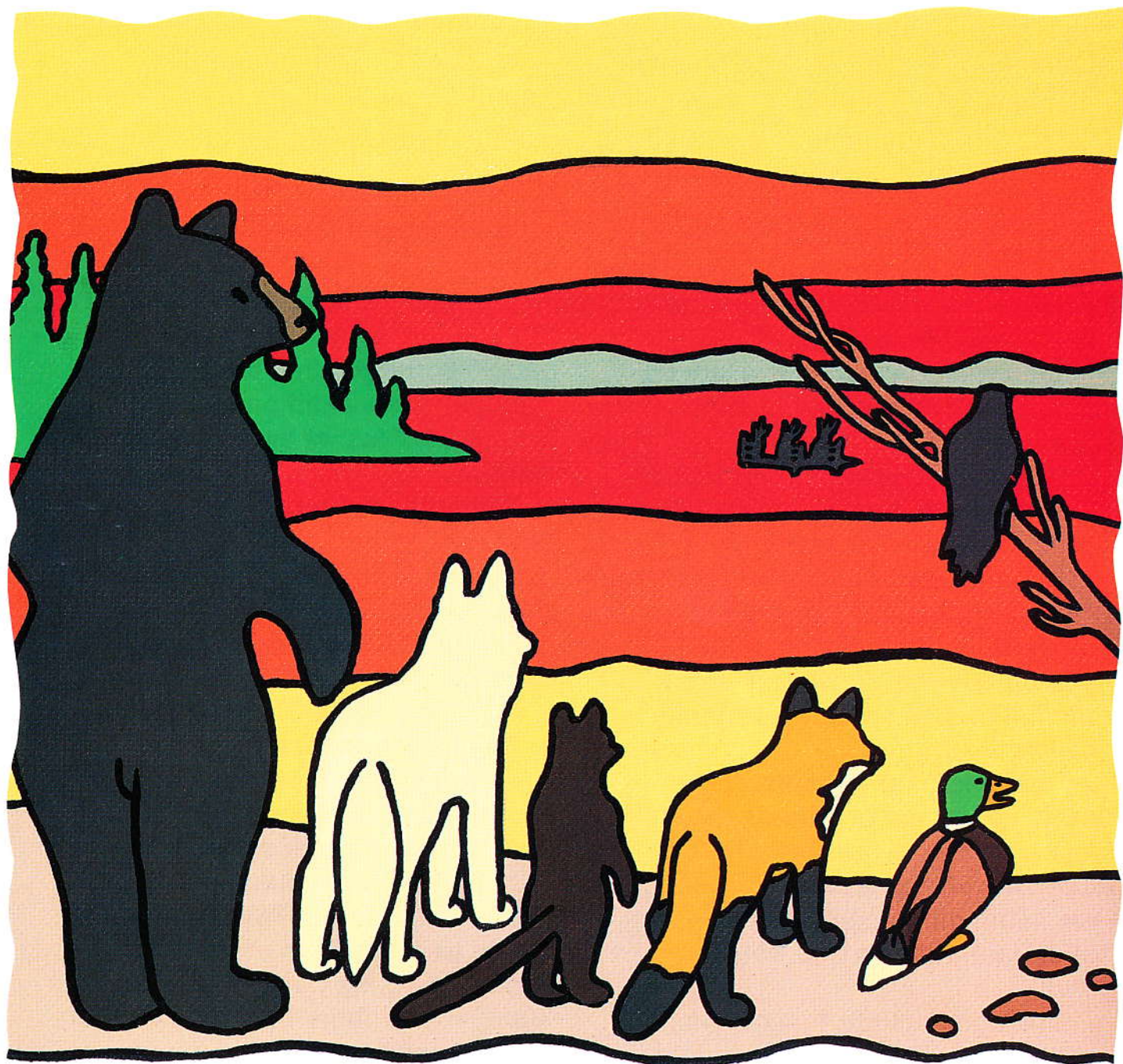
As soon as he saw it was drifting as
planned, he rushed back, going into
his moaning and groaning act as he
entered the village.



Tatsò edenaht'á t'á dọ goxoehdi.
 Xì wègoèht'ì ha k'enaèh?ì.
 "Yee k'eaht'ì!" Wha hadì whezeh.

Raven watched the villagers out of
 the corner of his eye. He waited for the
 raft to appear.

"Look!" shouted Marten.



"Edjì?" Dìga dèèjà.
 "Yèè! Ehdalọ ets'agò?à ekọ gots'ọ!
 Xì l àanì wègaat'ì," Nọgèe hadì.
 "Dọ nagiat'ò l àanì," Sah hadì.
 "Amèe agiit'ì sọnì?" Dìga hadì.

"Where?" said Wolf.
 "There! Coming around the point!"
 "It looks like a raft," said Fox.
 "People are paddling it," said Bear.
 "Who could they be?" said Wolf.

Sah, Tatsò ededı sı xıı ghàeda ya?ı t'à hayèhdi, "Tatsò, whaèhdòò aat'e xè eyı haru k'èizò ne. Dò jò nagiat'òò sì, ayııha aget'ı neewò?" yèhdi.

Tatsò weèhda wegħa eya ladı t'à høetse, hadı, "Hẹ?ẹ, ıhk'è hagòt'e høt'e," dı.

"Dıı dò amèe aget'ı?" Dıga yèhdi.

"K'egedèedòò agııt'e," Tatsò hadı.

"Ayıı gııwò?" Wha yèhdi.

"Asıı elagoghıde ha?" Det'ò yèhdi.

"Ayıı dàts'ele ha?" Dıga yèhdi dayeehke.

Tatsò ededaà k'e whohdı xè tı k'e k'eet'ı. Xıı tabàa ts'ò nıwà-le daele ghàeda.

"Deahjı-le," Tatsò gòhdi, "Ayıı dàahle ha sì naxı ts'ò haehsı ha. Xàhtò nègııze nıdè kòta gots'ò dò hazhòò tabàa nàgeèhzha gà xàhtò làgeetò. Hanı xàhtò gıts'ò eghàlats'eeda nezı høt'e. Hanı-ıdè naxı ts'ò xoedı ha," gòhdi.

"Tı'a-nòò hats'ıde," Dıga hadı.

Dıga tabàa ts'ò dò-amıèhtıa. Dò ededaà k'e gehdıı gà xıı ghàgeeda, wek'e dò làanı gots'ò nagiat'òò ghàgeeda.

Bear noticed Raven watching the raft too.

"Raven," he said. "You are an old timer and know these things. There are people coming. What are they doing?"

Raven squawked painfully through his nozzle, "Yes, at times these things happen."

"Who are these people?" asked Wolf.

"These are wanderers in search of people," said Raven.

"What do they want?" asked Marten.

"Will they kill us?" asked Duck.

"What should we do?" asked Wolf.

Raven shielded his eyes and looked out onto the lake where the raft was drifting closer to the shore.

"Don't be frightened," he said.

"Here's what to do. When wanderers come, all the people of the village should go to the edge of the lake and stand on the shore to greet them. This is the proper way to treat wanderers. If you do this, nothing bad will happen."

"Let's do that then," said Wolf.

And he led the people down to the water's edge. They shielded their eyes and watched as the raft with the paddling figures drifted toward them.



Dọ hazhọ̀ tabàa ts'ò nageṛa ts'ò
et'ìi Tatsò t'òhbàa hazhọ̀ goyì
k'eeta. Tè, yìiwòò, tehmi eyits'ò tọ
hazhọ̀ yìi k'eeta.

"Weladi?" hadi. "Edì nàgeèh?"
hadi.

As soon as the people had turned
their backs on the village, Raven
started searching from tent to tent. He
rummaged through blankets and food
bags and pails of berries.

"Where is it?" he muttered. "Where
did they hide it?"



Tl'ohbàa yìi gots'ò xàetla taàt'e tì
k'e ts'ò k'eet'ì. Asìì dọ ịlaà tabàa xị
ghàgeeda lì gha goxoehdì. Eyitl'axòò
k'achì tl'ohbàa ịè goyaetla, goyìì t'asìì
hazhòò ta k'egole.

Hanìkò ayìì gha k'eet'ìì sìì yegòh'à-
le.

Each time he came out of a teepee,
he glanced quickly at the lake to make
sure the people were still watching the
raft. Then he ducked into the next
opening to rummage through another
tent.

But Raven didn't find what he was
looking for.



Tl'ohbàa nòode goyaèhtla là Tatsò dèhyeh, ts'òòkoa goyì wheda nò. Yech'àèhyeh.

"Dànìghò jò wheèda?" Tatsò ts'òòko ts'ò hadìi hòetse. Ts'òòkoa wedaà goile ye nadìi t'à Tatsò ts'òòkoa ts'ò hadì, "Ehtsì xàhtò jò gĩaò, dànìghò gits'ò xàitla-le," yèhdi.

"Sechàa, jò Tatsò weèhdà k'èhdi ha seghàgeèchì. Xàhtò jò nègì?e kò Tatsò weèhdà dàhlàa lì?" ts'òòkoa yèhdi.

Then in the last teepee Raven was startled to see an old lady sitting in her tent.

"What are you doing here?" he squawked, but even as he spoke he remembered that the old lady was blind. "Granny," he said. "There are strangers coming. Why haven't you gone to greet them?"

"Well, grandchild," said the old lady. "You see, I was given Raven's beak to keep safe. But if strangers are coming, what should I do with it?"



Tatsò k'àhjo nàwèèhdìlò t'e.
Ts'òòkoa hadì t'à sì wìnà nàhòwo.
Tatsò hadì, "Ehtsì negha wek'èwohdì,
negha wek'èwohdì," yèhdì.

"T'á-nòò negha wekak'íht'ì,"
ts'òòkoa yèhdì. Eyit'à ts'òòkoa,
edegoht'ot'à k'eèedì. T'asìi nechà-lea
ewò t'à ts'èht'ì wexeet'ì nòò,
xàyaachì. Tatsò wìnà t'à ìì nàwo ha
dìi.

Raven almost laughed, he was so
happy to hear this, but he calmed
himself enough to say, "Granny,
Granny, let me keep it for you, let me
keep it for you."

"Well, let me look for it," she said.
So the old lady started to look.
Raven could hardly stand still as she
fumbled around under her clothing
until she found a little bundle tied to
her body with a strip of hide.



Ts'òòkoa, t'í ejiegèè kò Tatsò wínià
t'á dàitlā. Wexèhchí ejíyígèè gà
Tatsò weèhdà xàachì.

Tatsò kònàit'í lānì ts'òòkoa t'á
xàyíhdla gà dek'e nayeèchì.

Raven danced with excitement as
the old lady untied the string. She
opened the bundle and pulled out
Raven's beak.

Faster than lightning Raven
snatched it from her fingers and
jammed it back on his nozzle.



“Kaa, Kaa, Kaa,” dèjàa xè t’òhbàa yìi gots’ò xàèht’ò. Tabàa dọkwì te ts’ò et’ìi nìit’ò. Xìì k’e xàhtọ at’ì-le nọọ dọ gík’èhoèhzà, ekì dechì k’e ehtl’è eyits’ò t’ò adlà nọọ.

Ts’òòkoa edetl’òhbàa yìi gots’ò xàchìèhk’a xè ezeh, “Ìda-t’ìi dìga nejìrà ha. Ìda-t’ìi dìga nejìrà ha,” hadìi ezeh.

“Caw! Caw! Caw!” he squawked as he flew from the teepee, wings rushing over the heads of the villagers on the beach. They had just discovered that the wanderers were only branches covered with mud and grass.

The blind old lady hobbled out of her teepee yelling, “May the wolf eat you alive! May the wolf eat you alive!”



Tatsò ts'ì ka dahtla, hot'ò yaìzeh.
 ǀzhìi dọ sì gik'èch'a t'à Tatsò ts'ò
 yàʔegeht'ì, goghaedlò.

Hanikò dànighọ Tatsò wegħa t'asìi
 ehkw'ì-le lanì. Edeèhdà ǀwhàà dek'e
 nayeèchì t'à t'ǀàk'e wheʔọ ayìlà.

Eyit'à dǀi dzeè k'e ts'ò Tatsò hotìi
 wegħaahda nǀdè weèhdà yaazea
 t'ǀàk'e wheʔọ hot'e.

Raven settled on a treetop, cawing
 and squawking at the top of his lungs,
 laughing at the angry people shaking
 their fists at him from the ground.

Then he closed his beak.
 Something's not quite right, Raven
 thought. In his rush to put his beak
 back on he had jammed it on crooked.

That is why, even to this day, if you
 look closely you will see Raven's beak
 is a bit out of place.