

The Corn Fable. [Vce Nakonvkuce.] Given by Taylor Postoak, Second Chief of the Muskokees, to Mrs. A. E. W. Robertson, at the request of Hon. P. Porter. Bureau of American Ethnology #571, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Suitland, Maryland. Translated by A. E. W. Robertson. Edited by Jack B. Martin.

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### Vce Nak Onvkuce

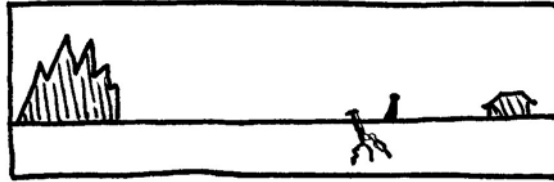
Este vculvke ennak onkvvn  
opunvyecvrans.

Hoktet likvtes, momet enhvmkuset  
omvtes. Cuko vwoluse sekot omvtes.  
Momen ekvn-hvlwe hopvye atvkhaket  
omvtes.

### The Story of Corn

I am going to tell one of the old people's  
stories.

There was a woman, and she was alone.  
No house was near.  
And a mountain stood off in the  
distance.



Momen hoktet mv ekvnv-hvlwan  
ohwvlapket vyeptes. Momet matan  
eraret, ehuten rvlaket, etoh-aret omvtes.  
Momet eto nenen ohtvkhaken tohwvlapket,  
ele tempusat catet liken hecvtes.

Momet, "Naket ohaks?" komet, caten  
hecvtes. Momet caten nekeyicet, hecvtes.  
Momet, vwahet vhopvnkeko tetayet on,  
esvtes.

Momet ehuten sayet, ehuten  
resorvtes. Momet fvkke vrkvswn vpihket,  
ohranvtes.

Mohmet hofonofvn enramet  
hecvtes. Hecatet, cate rakkepet  
ocen hecvtes. Momet hvtvm  
vpiket, hvtvm ohranvtes,  
momet hvtvm,  
hofonofvn enramvtes. Enrahmet,  
hecet, estuce hocvckepen,  
ena tis omvlkvt hocvckepen  
hecvtes.

And the woman crossed over the  
mountain. And returning from that place,  
she came back to her home. And she  
crossed over a tree lying across the road,  
and saw blood near her feet.

"What is it?" she thought, looking at the  
blood. And she moved the blood and  
looked at it. And unable to get rid of it, she  
took it.

And she arrived back at her home with  
it. And she put it in a clay pot and covered  
it.

Then after a long time, she uncovered it  
and looked at it. Looking at it, she saw  
that the blood had gotten bigger. And  
putting it back in, she covered it again.  
And again, after a longer time, she  
uncovered it. Having uncovered it, she  
looked at it, and saw that a babe had been  
created, that its entire body had been  
created.



Mont hvtvm matan vpikvtes,  
vrkvswn. Mont hvtvm hecet,  
nekeyet, vculepe haken,  
aesvtes.

Momet cepvnuset omvtes.

Momet, mvn vfastepen, vculepvtes. met  
etcvkotvksen enhayvtes.

Momet, "Fuswn elecet, ero tis elecvs:  
hompety tes," kicen,  
elecvtes.

Momen hvtvm, "Econ elecvs,"  
kicen, elecvtes. Momet, faye arat,  
erlakat, hompetyv tayen hayepet, hoktalat  
ocen, rvlakvtes. Momen mv hompetyv  
hayat, nake sepekot omaten  
hompetyv tayet omvtes. Naken omat  
kerretv eyace heret arvtes, mv este  
hunvnwv mvnettat.

Momen hoktalat este-hunvnwv mvnettan  
em punayat, "Vsv ekvn-hvlwan ohcemiket  
afvnnahketskvs," kicet, em vsehvtes.

"Estomet on vm vsehet omehaks?"  
komet, vkerricvtes, mohmet, "Cvhecekon,  
ekvn-hvlwan ohcemiket, hecares,"  
komvtes.

Mont vyepvtes.

Mont rohcemiket, ekvn-hvlwen, topvrn  
fvnnaket hecvtes. Momet  
hvtvm ervtepvtes. Ekvn-hvlwe  
topvrn fvnnakof,  
tvloftv on, este tayen  
hecvtes. Momet, ervlakof, vtcetyv  
kvpotoyety, pohyaket,  
wakkvtes.

Momen hoktalat kerrvtes.

Mv hoktalat, "Nake cem  
vsehvyvnye, ekvn-hvlwen  
ohcemiket, afvnnahket,  
eratetskvs, cekomis,"

And she put it back in the same thing,  
into the pot. And when she looked again,  
it moved, and had become older, and she  
took it out.

And it was a little boy.

And she cared for him and he grew to  
manhood. And she made a bow for him.  
And she said to him, "Kill birds and kill  
squirrels: they are food," and he killed  
them.

And again she said to him, "Kill deer,"  
and he killed them. And when he came  
back from hunting, he found the old  
woman had a great deal of food that she  
had made. And when she made the food,  
there had been nothing, yet now there was  
a great deal of food. The young man was  
very curious to know what she had done.

And the old woman spoke to the young  
man: "Do not climb that mountain and  
look around," she warned him.

"Why does she warn me?" he wondered.  
Then he thought, "When she does not  
see me, I will climb the mountain and  
look."

And he left.

And having climbed the mountain, he  
looked around on the other side. And he  
came back again. When he looked around  
on the other side of the mountain, he saw  
that there was a town and a great many  
people. And when he came back, he drew  
a blanket over his head, and being  
lonesome, he lay down.

And the old woman knew.

The old woman said, "I think you have  
come back from what I forbade you to do,  
from having climbed the mountain, from  
having looked around. And so, even

makvtes. "Momusen, ecefastvyvnet omis, vyepetskēs," kicvtes.

Momet, "Cehompicvyvte omat mv tvlofv sahsekos," makvtes.

though I have cared for you, you may go," she said to him.

And she said, "There is no one in that town who will feed you as I have."



Momet mv hoktalat okatet, "Vce toyis," makvtes. "Vce toyit, vnet cehompicet omvvytes. Momen, rvfohake kvsappofvn rvlvketksvres," kicvtes.

"Ervlaketskat vce lokcet on hecetskvres. Momet vce-hute hayetskat, cvton ometskvres," kicvtes. "Mohmen mv ayetskat, tvlofv vtekusen uewvt wakken tiketskvres. Momen tvpalv tat cukon rorvtcvs," kicvtes. "Mohmen mv ayetskat, kohlikvn cemaresh," kicvtes. "Momet hvttvm fehpnv cemaresh," kicvtes.

Momet kohlikvn emet, fehpnv emvtes.

Momet, "Ayetskat, cukon roretskat, hoktvke tutcenet vpoken hecetskvres," kicvtes. "Mv eroretskat, 'Likepvs,' hokte hvmet cekicvres. Momet mv cekicat cehiwtv okepvres," kicvtes. "Momen mvt cehiwtv hakat, rvro tis em pvsatetskvres" kicvtes. "Mv tvlofv roretskat este vpokat rvro elecetv tat kerrekot os. Mvn em vnicet aretskvres," kicvtes. "Momet ervlaketskat, cehiwtv tepaketskat, vlahokatskvres. Momet vcn vtelayatskvres. Cvto tohton hahyet, mvn vtehatskvres. Mvt cvna-vpeswvt os. Vce toyis," makvtes.

Momet, "Cehompicvyvte tvnke matvpomen hayet, hompetskvres," kicvtes. "Momusen vyepvs," kicvtes.

And the old woman spoke: "I am corn," she said, "I am corn: it is I who have been feeding you. And in the fall, when it grows cold, you must return. When you return, you will see that the corn is ripe. And when you make a container for the corn, you must do it with stone," she told him. "Now where you are going, you will cross water lying just by a town. And on the other side of that, you must go to a house," she said. "Now as you are going there, I will give you a plume," she said. "And I will give you a flute as well," she said.

And she gave him a plume, and she gave him a flute.

And she said to him, "When you go, when you get to the house, you will see three women there. When you get there one woman will say to you, 'Have a seat,' and the one that says that to you will be your wife," she said. "And when she becomes your wife, you must kill fish for her," she said. "The people in the town you are going to do not know how to kill fish. You must be helpful to them," she said. "And when you come back, you and your wife must come together. And you must both gather the corn. You must build a stone corn-crib and put it in that. That is my flesh. I am corn," she said.

And she said, "You must make it the same way that I fed you, and eat it. Now go," she said to him.

Momen fehpu haket, vyeputes.

Momen kohlikv wenaken emvtes. Mv kohlikv tvset omvtes.

Momen, vyeput, hoktuke tutcenet vpoken, rorepvtes. Mohmet roret, hoktuke tutcenat hecvtes. Momen hoktuke tutcenat hecvkepet omis, lvpken punahoyekot, vpokepvtes. Momen hvmket, "Likepvs," kicvtes. Momen liken, mv hokte tat hompetvtn enhopoyvtes. Mvt ehiwv momusen hakepvtes.

Momen mv tvlofv vtehkat rvro tis hopoyaket, elecvekeko tayet fullvtes. Momen, Cem pvsatvkvyēs," kicvtes, mv este-hunvnwv rorat. "Heleswvn hopoyvks, alonesken," kicvtes. Mvn heleswvn 'senhayet, rvron pvsatvtes. Momen mvn vrakkuehocen vrepvtes, mv este-hunvnwvn.

Mont, kvsappof, vce erhecet vhoiyvtes, hoktalat likvtes. Mont, erorhoyan, vce lokceptet ocn hecavtes.

Momusen cvton vteloiyvtes. Mont vce-huten mvn hayvtes. Mont vcn vteloiet, vtehvtes. Mont vce-huten facken vtehvtes. Mont yecawet, hompepet omvtes.

Momen, vce vnahepen, cvto-tohto likan rorhoiyvtes. Momen, fuswv cahmelikvt cvto-tohto nvkaften, rorhoiyvtes.

Fuswv estomis omvlkvt nvkaftvtes.

Momen, "Estit lekvfatske tayat, lekvfvks," fuswvt makvtes.

Momen Opvt, "Vnet omares" makvtes, mont cvto-tohto vcakhvtes, momis lekvfeko tayvtes.

Momen fuswv etvt, "Vnet omares," makvtes, momis lekvfeko tayakvtes.

Lvmhet, hvtvm, cvton vcakhvtes, momis lekvfeko tayvtes.

Momen Arvnwvt, "Vnet omares," makvtes.

Mvt vcakhat, cvto omvlkvt

And sounding the flute, he left.

And she had given him a living plume. That plume was a jay.

And he left and reached the place where the three women were. Then, upon reaching it, he saw the three women. And although the three women saw him, they sat there and did not speak to him right away. And one said to him, "Have a seat." And after he sat down, the woman sought food for him. That one at once became his wife.

And the people in that town looked for fish, but could not kill them. And the young man who had come there said to them, "I can kill them for you. Look for medicine," he said, "for devil's shoestring." He made it into medicine for them and killed fish. And the man was held in great respect.

And when it grew cold, the two went to see the corn, to where the old woman had lived. And when they got there, they saw that the corn was ripe.

Immediately he gathered stones. And he made a container for the corn there. And gathering the corn, he put it in. And he filled the corn container, and taking from it, he would eat it.

And when the corn was gone, they came again to the stone corn-crib. And when they reached it, birds of various kinds had assembled at the stone corn-crib. All different kinds of birds had assembled.

And one bird said, "Whoever of you can tear it down, tear it down."

And Owl said, "I will do it," and clawed at the stone corn-crib, but could not tear it down.

And another bird said, "I will do it," but he could not tear it down.

And Eagle also clawed at the stones, but could not tear it down.

And Falcon said, "I will do it."

When he clawed at the stones, all the

lekvfkepvtes. Lekvfkehpen,  
fuswv cahmelikv omvlkvv vce  
lokvkepvtes.

Mohmen Osahwvt vce hvmken eset,  
estvmket, rawiket saren, este-hunvnwvt  
eshehcet, esassecet, vce vkonahepvtes,  
momet entalvpe hvmkusen  
resvlvlvkepvtes, ehuten, momet mvn  
vhocet, vce sulecepvtes.

Momen mv tvlofv likvte tvlofv vpokvte  
omvlkvv vce vhcovke hakvkepvtes.  
Momen vce sulke hakepvtes.

Monkv, Osahwv vce eyacetv mahets,  
kihocvnts.

stones fell apart. When it had fallen apart,  
all the different kinds of birds devoured  
the corn.

Then Crow took one ear of corn, flew  
off with it, and dropped it. The man saw  
him with it, chased him, and took the corn  
from him. And he came back to his home  
with only one ear of corn. And planting  
that, he produced a great deal.

And all the town's inhabitants  
became corn planters, and corn became  
plentiful.

That is why Crow still wants corn, they  
say.

