

Miigwanag (Feathers)

Gaa-wiindamaaged: Betty Gurno

Gaa-ojibwe-aanikanootang: Maajigoneyaash aka Gordon Jourdain

Gaa-Ojibwewibii'ang: Nenaaw Giizhig aka Charles Smith

Originally appearing in: *A Long Time Ago is Like Today*

The very fact that you are born is all you are entitled to as a gift from your mother and father. You are also entitled to one feather. You are born with it. That is your heritage. This is what I learned from my great-grandmother.

A woman in her lifetime can only earn two feathers. A third one is very rarely given. The only girl I know who got the third one was the little girl, Peckaweka, who led that Louis and Clark expedition. The Shoshone tribe supposedly gave her a third feather. Now she could wear three if she wanted to, but I don't think she wore any.

Gibi-dagoshin omaa, gibagamiwane gibimaadiziwin. Mii eta go iw bagamiwaneyan. Gidibinawewiz eta bezhig miigwan. Gigagi-ondaadiz. Mii iwe gimiinigoowiziwin. Mii iwe ezhi-nisidotamaan.

Niizh eta miigwanag gii-miinigoowizi ikwe. Gaawiin aapiji niswi gii-miinaasii. Mii eta go ikwezens gekenimag gaa-miinind niswi, Zaagajiweyaa, ogii-kinoowinaa' Louis miinawaa Clarkish. Zhoshoniig ogii-miinaawaan miigwanan. Gii-nisobadakibine'o, gaawiin dash ganabaj gii-badakibine'osii.

A boy can wear as many feathers as he has earned, but not one more than that.

He makes his own cap. It is made out of squirrel. He first kills the squirrel, then eats the meat, and, finally, dries the hide. He shapes it to fit his head. He puts the number of feathers that he has earned on it in any shape or form that suits him. Over a period of years, if he earns more and his cap becomes too full, he can go out and repeat the process of killing the squirrel and eating the meat.

You do this by yourself. You fix the fur part up to suit you and put the feathers on the way you want.

Gwiiwizens wiin minik igo gaa-miinigoowizid badakibine’o, gaawiin awashime. Ozhitamaazo owiiwakwaan.

Ajidamoowayaan onji-ozhichigaade. Akawe onisaan ajidamoon, ezhi-amwaad miinawaa dash ozhiiba’ataanaan. Odizhitoon otigwaaning jidebisininig. Ezhi-agwaako’od miigwana’ gaa-miinigoowizid jikiwe’od, mii dash kinawaajitood. Giishpin nawaj geyaabi miinigoowizid miigwana’ ji-mooshkinenig owiiwakwaan, mii go bizaan miinawaa bezhig ozhitood wiiwakwaan. Mii go naasaab ezhichiged.

Ginishike-izhichige, ginishikewiz izhichigeyan. Gikinawaajitoon ajidamoowayaan miinawaa gidagoshimaag miigwanag ezhi-misawendaman.

Glossary

aapiji pc very, quite	ganabaj pc maybe	minik pc a certain amount, a certain number
agwaako'o vai s/he posts/sticks things on (to wear)	geyaabi pc still	misawendan vti want it, desire!
ajidamoowayaan ni squirrel hide	giishpin pc if; also iishpin	mooshkine vii be full
akawe pc first	gikenim vta know him!	naasaab pc like, the same
amw vta eat him!	go pc	nawaj pc more
awashime pc most	gwiiwizens na boy	nazhike- prv alone
badakibine'o vai s/he sticks a feather in one's hair/cap	ikwe na woman	nishikewizi vai s/he acts alone; also nazhikewizi
bagamiwane vai s/he arrives with pack	ikwezens na girl	niizh nm two
bezhig nm one	iw pr that; also i'iw	nisidotan vti understand it!
bi- pv2 toward the speaker, here, this way	izhi- pv3 in a certain way, to a certain place	nisobadakibine'o vai s/he has three feathers in one's hair/cap
bimaadiziwin ni life	izhichige vai s/he does things	niswi nm 3
bizaan pc quiet, still	izhitoon vti2 cause s.t. to, make s.t. a certain way	omaa pc here
dagoshim vta take/put s.o. in a desired location	ji- pv1 to, in order to	nishi vta kill him!
dagoshin vai s/he arrives	kinawaajitoo vti2 make/mark s.t. to be known	onji- pv3 from a certain place, for a certain reason
dash pc and, but; also idash, -sh	kinoowizh vta teach/show s.o. by bringing them; guide s.o.	-tigwaaning ni on the head, in the
debisin vii it fits sufficiently; it has enough space	kiwe'o vai s/he represents home	ozhichigaade vii it is made
dibinawewizi vai s/he inherently owns things or acquires them from the spirits	mii pc	ozhitamaazo vai s/he makes it for themselves
eta pc only	miigwan na feather	ozhitoo vti make it!
gaawiin pc no, not	miizh vta give s.t. to s.o.	wiin pr s/he singular personal pronoun
gagi-ondaadizi vai s/he is born with; also gigondaadizi	miinawaa pc and, again	wiiwakwaan ni hat
	miinigoowiziwin ni spiritual gift	zhiiba'ataazh vta stretch him!