

The Mice Plot Against the Cat (Cesse Oh-onkv)¹

Told by J. Hill (IV:55-61)²

Cesse sulkemahēt nvkaftet vpoket omat
císsi solkimá·hi·t nakâ·ftit apô·kit o·mâ·t
mice, rats a lot of them gathered together (were)
Many mice were gathered together,

posen em penkvlvkētot
pó·sin impinjaláki·tot
the cat they weren't afraid of (the cat)
and being afraid of cats,

vnrvpēt opunvyēcet svpokvtēs.
anlapí·t opónayi·cít sápo·katí·s
to oppose, against talked about they were (together) in session
they were meeting to talk about opposing them.

“Pose kihocē fullat tat
pó·si káyo·cí· follâ·tta·t
cats are called go about
When the creatures called cats go about,

vheremañen pustemerrvkuēcēt os.
ahiñimã·ñhin postimíñakoycí·t ô·ñs
awfully punish us do
they make us suffer terribly.

Pupvsatet pupapēt ont
popása·tít popa·pí·t ônt
kill us, eat us do
They kill us, eat us,

hopuetakuce punlokēpet onkv,
hopoyta·kocí pónloki·pít ôñka
(our) little children eat (ours) do
and gobble up our little children,

omvlkeyan pulokvranat tylkuset onkv
omálkiya·n polókañ·nâ·t tãlñkosit oñká
all of us will eat (they're) sure to is
they're sure to gobble up all of us,

¹ Title: císsi ohhonáka ‘story about mice’.

² From Aesop’s Fables -- “Belling the Cat”

estomēcvkē tayen omat
istomí·caki· tâ·yin o·mâ·t
whatever we can do with them (can)
so whatever we can do,

lvpkēn estomēcvkan hērēs” maket vkerricet opunvyēcet
lápki·n (i)stomî·caka·n hĩ·ⁿhi·s ma·kít akíłłaycít opónayi·cít
quick what can we do with it good said thought about talked about
it’s best we do it quickly,” they said, and thought about it and discussed it

hofonēn svpoket
hofóni·n ’sapô·kit
for quite a while (were in session)
and met for quite a while,

“Nake rakrvkē tis cvmhcakvn enocvkuehocē tat hecēs kis
nâ·ki łakłakí·teys camhcá·kan inocakoyhocí·ta·t hicí·skeys
something big a bell around their necks didn’t see any
“Even big things you can’t see

pohken fullēt onkv,
pô·hkin follí·t ôŋka
could be hear[d] going about was
can be heard when they have a bell around their neck,

mv pose tat omvlkvn cvmhcakucen enocvkuecvkan hērēs,
má pó·sita·t omáłkan camhca·kocín inocakóycaka·n hĩ·ⁿhi·s
that cat all of them little bells put around their necks is a good idea
so it would be good to put bells on all the cats,

arvcokat pohkētok.
a·łacóka·t pô·hki·to·k
(hear) them about could be heard
for they could be heard going about.

Pefatkēpaken estehecekot fullen
pifá·tki·pakín istihícikot follín
ran away they didn’t see anybody they were about
We could run and they couldn’t find us

follēpvkan hērēs” mahket,
fólłi·pakâ·n hĩ·ⁿhi·s máhkit
we go about it’s best said
and it would be good for us,” they said,

pose omvlkvn cvmhcakucen enocvkuecvranet
pó·si omáلكan camhca·kocín inocakóycała·nít
cat all little bells will tie bells around their necks
and they decided to put bells

fvccēcahket vpoken
facci·cáhkit apô·kin
they decided sitting (were in session)
around the necks of all the cats;

cesse vçlēt cesse vpokat
císsi acõ·li·t císsi apô·ka·t
rat (very) old one (where) the rats were sitting
a very old mouse where the mice were meeting

rem vtēkē mahhen alikēpatet vpohet okat,
ʾlmatí·ki· máhhin a·laykí·patit apo·hít o·kâ·t
on the outer edge extreme (outer edge) was sitting asking said
sitting on the outer edge asked,

“Mv pose cvmhcakv enocvkuecatskof,
ma pó·si camhcá·ka inócakoycá·cko·f
those cats bell after you put the bells on [their necks]
“When you put the bell on the cats’ necks,

estit pose hvlvtvrētē?” maket vpohen,
istēyt pó·si halátáli·ti·^ ma·kít apo·hín
who cat will catch said asked
who will hold the cat?”

em vyoposkekot vwahvtēs.
imayopóskikot awa·hatí·s
didn’t answer him adjourned
and without answering him they adjourned.

Mohmet pose tat cvmhcakv enocvkuecvkekon
móhmit pó·sita·t camhcá·ka inocakoycakíkon
[and] cat bell didn’t put around their necks
So they never did put bells

esmonkvtēt omēs.
ísmonkatí·t ô·mi·s
never, (didn’t) at any time (was).
on the cats’ necks.