

The Wise Old Dog

Adam Grayson (Haas XIX:9-13)¹

Yvhvt ēnvkvfthcet,
yahát i·nakafíhcit
The wolves had a meeting,

“Afvcketvn hayvkēts. Afvcketvn hayēn omat,
a·fackitán há·yaki·c² a·fackitán ha·yí·n o·mâ·t
“Let’s celebrate. If we celebrate,

yepohsēcakē fullvnkē em vkeriyet
’yipohsí·ca·kí· follánki· imakilēyyit
we can trick those who chased us back [home],

omvlkvn cawēn omat
omáلكan câ·wi·n o·mâ·t
and if we catch all of them,

hompetv tat hompēpēt etefullēpeyē tayēt omēs.
hompitáta·t hómpi·pí·t itifólly·piyí· tâ·yi·t³ ô·mi·s
then we’ll have activities and food to eat.

Ēkvnkorken koriyēt omvlkvn mvn vktēhēn omat,
i·kankólkin kolēyyi·t omáلكan man aktí·hi·n o·mâ·t
We’ll dig a ditch, and if we put them all in it,

epofvckvkēt fulleyē tayēt omēs.
ipo·fäckaki·t fólliyi· tâ·yi·t⁴ ô·mi·s
we can really celebrate.

Sukhuce estencvwēpeyat
sokhocí istíncawi·piyâ·t
When we took people’s little pigs,

puletecicvkepvntot sepupenkvlēcak omētvnks.
politicéycaki·pántot ’sipopiŋkalí·ca·kít o·mí·tánks
they would run us off and take them away from us.

¹ M: Adam Grayson was a Creek freedman. There are a few peculiarities in transcription here that we take to be mistakes on Haas’s part rather than features of Mr. Grayson’s speech.

² M: Haas nb has á·yaki·c.

³ M: Haas nb has itifólly·yít â·yi·t.

⁴ M: Haas nb has fólly·t â·yi·t.

Efv-cule-mahēt Oktasas-mēkko hocēfkēt eleyopv kvckēt
ifacolimá·hi·t okta·sa·smí·kko hocífkí·t iliyopá kácki·t⁵
A very old dog with a broken hind leg named Oktasas-mikko

yvhvn ohcokopericvtēs. Yvhvn kicet okat,
yahán ohcokopíleycatí·s⁶ yahán keycít o·ká·t⁷
visited the wolves. He told the wolves,

“Cēpvnvke fullicvyvnkē omvlkvn vnsvlvfkuec’ t omatskes.
ci·panáki fólleycayáŋki· omálkan ansalafkôyct o·má·ckis⁸
“You have made prisoners of all the sons I have.

Monkv ’svm ohsicatskekon omat,
mōŋka ’samohséycá·ckikon o·mâ·t⁹
If you do not release them,

horren cenhayvkarēs.
hóŋin cinhá·yaká·ŋi·s
I will make war on you.

Cepéfathueceyat,
cipifá·thoyciyâ·t
When we made you run,

cenhesaketv tat cem esēkvns
cinhisa·kitáta·t¹⁰ cimísi·kánk
we did not take your lives.

Momis hiyomat cēpvnvken sohsicatskekon omat,
mo·mêys hayyô·ma·t ci·panákin sohséycá·ckikon o·mâ·t
But this time, if you do not free the boys,

omvlkatskaten cepvsvteyvrēs.”
omálká·cka·tin cipasatíyáŋi·s
we will kill all of you.

⁵ M: Haas nb has iliyo·pokkácki·t.

⁶ M: Haas nb has ohsokopíleycatí·s.

⁷ M: Haas nb has o·kêyt.

⁸ M: Haas nb has ancalafkôyt o·mác. Grayson may have pronounced ct here as tt.

⁹ M: Haas nb has amohseytá·cikono·mâ·t (but see a similar form below).

¹⁰ M: Haas nb has cinhissa·kitáta·t.

Monkv yvhv tat penkvlvkehpet esossicvtēs.
môḡka yaháta·t piḡkalakíhpit isósseycaṭí·s¹¹
So the wolves got scared and released them.

¹¹ M: Haas nb has isóhseycaṭí·s (perhaps the way he spoke?). MM feels it is odd that this verb is singular: “maybe he’s talking about the wolf population.”