

Apache Story Telling



Díí dló t'ah nnee dá' ánágot'iíhi. Dló'hi ía'ádaago yádafti. "Haadast'i'hi dawa binant'a' dagolíf dá' néehíí nohwinant'a' doo ía' da'," daniigo lék'e. "Dafíízihi' nnee daandlji. Nant'an nohwá ágolne'go nteé néé aldo'. Hago ágot'eehíí nohwá yafti' doleet hibigha," danií lék'e.

Go dló ítsogécho haabi'doltji dantséh, "Bit'a' ntt'éé dazhó án," daniigo. "Bit'a'híí dayiní'íígo án binant'a' hileeh hádat'ii lék'e. Nzaad godiyaa, yaa yádaft'igo. Áí n'íí; dah nzhóq án," daniid lék'e. "Bidiyáge danií dénzhóné ndiníí doo zhó yafti'hji k'ego at'éé da. Nohwinant'a siljijyógo doo nohwá yafti'da nkeegonigháh dánkoh." Go án k'izhi'niltji lék'e.

Áídi' bizaagolaani nghanáánáftíí. Dagoshch'i, "Án dazhó bizaagochi'hi at'éé," dabiñniid lék'e. "Dazhó dadzaaníí yaa yafti' ía'íí dadzaaníí yedlji. Án doo nzhóq da nohwinant'a' hileeh yógo. Nohwits'á' ílta yafti' hileeh dánkoh," daniigo. Án k'izhi' naanáltji.

K'adik'eh, jagháshdiyé habi'doltji. "Dín nohwinant'a' hileeh gohíí dat'éé?" naalch'inií. "Án aldo' ía'n'híí k'ehgo at'éé, bizaagochi'go. Doo ntt'éégo nohwá haodzih at'éé da. Doo beegonidzaq da, ía'íí ák'ee yafti'hi at'éé aldo'. Láqgo yedlji hileeh, dázhoqgo na'a níí." Án aldo' k'izhí' naanáltji.

"Ák'ehgo yógo, goshdiyéhíí dat'éé?" danií lék'eh. "Án ntt'éé wíí. Án yógo dijaad, hayú yána'itihyú nohwá nazit'ii doleet. Áídi' ntt'éégo yafti' aldo'." Án nohwinant'a' hileehgo ntt'éé.

Go góshdiyé dló' binant'a' silji lék'eh. Djíí yúgo goshdiyé t'ah dló' binant'a' ninlji.

Choosing the Bird Leader

This story is about a time when birds were still like people. The birds got together to talk. "The different clans (animals) all have leaders, but we do not," they said. We are good for nothing. It would be good for us to choose a leader also. He could speak for us about our activities."

So the birds selected the Oriole first. They said, "His feathers are very nice." Because of his feathers they thought they wanted him to be their leader. They discussed this for some time. "Well, never mind him after all," they said. "His long clothes are pretty, but he doesn't speak very much. If he becomes our leader he might not speak well for us in the future." They put him aside.



Then they chose the Mocking Bird. But they immediately said, "He is too talkative. He always speaks bad and mocks things. It would not be good for him to become our leader. He might speak even worse for us in the future." They put him aside to choose again.

The next time they chose a Blue Jay. "What would it be like for us if we chose him to be leader?" They asked. "He is also like the other one. He talks too much. It would not be good for him to speak for us. He is loud, too stubborn, bullies us and he also brags about himself. There would be a lot of mocking." They also set him aside.

"In that case, should it be the Roadrunner?" they said. "He is good for sure. He would be fast for us in running to meetings. And he also talks well. It would be good for us if he became our leader."

Therefore, the roadrunner became the leader. Nowadays Roadrunner is the leader of all birds.

