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Lakota text 2: The mysterious voice

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THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE

1. ahani wicoyake wan oyakap na ha
 long ago folk story the they tell
2. wi casa wan ena'ha 'wiyān wan wa k'ayeja
 man a and wife a child
- wajilah'ci yohapke
 one only they have
3. wa na le wa k'ayejaki le waniyetu
 now this child this years
- wik cemna wa hecetu wa he ha
 ten about that age
4. ayeš lila 'teh'iye yo hapkeyapi
 But much mistreatment they have
- wicasaki- e lila oh'ansica ce ke.
 man this very onery he was
5. hoksi aki- e ha hepihata cašna huyaza
 boy this time night then legache
6. t'ak'ašna ye yapca t'ak'al ceya hanke
 one time he kicks outside he cry there
7. le'toš un kištima -pelo irāšna.
 desirous we sleep he say
8. t'ak'al 'yeyacašna šika
 outside he kicks poor one

9, nah'mah'ma'sna ceya hanke
silently he cries

10. ho yonka a'ke ha hepi wa el
here again time might on

hoksilaki le hoyazana ake ceya hayonka
boy this legache again he cry here

11. atkukuki le he yake o lila icešlilayaceyesalo
father he say very too much cry

t'ak'al iyaina ceyahan hunkies
outside go! weep! all

unkištima-pelo eyinaha
we sleep he say then

12. tiopa ki yag'anahat'a'k'al yus yeyake
door the he opens outside he drags he kicks

13. ohehe cunaha hekta keya kiunkina
he does that and then returns in bed

h'pahamhehal wicasawa honahunke t'ak'al
just lying there man's voice they hear outside

14. naha oyna hoksilaki le lila ceya nah'unke
and now boy this much cry they hear

15. nake at kukuki le t'aicukci icuka's
apprehensively father this his wife they stumble

'peya inap'awake

they ran out

16. henah'cihel canwa lila haska hanca.
right there tree very tall it stands

17. hata han wicaho'wan honah'unpke heyake.
from there mans voice they hear it says

18. oeyale yacim'sninaha t'ak'alk'al sna
well, you not want and outside repeatedly

yeyahanpca miye pelo. haktelo eyake.

you keep doing this I shall have him it said

19. waeyaceke nake atkuku na ha hunkuki h'ahese
well then apprehensively father and mother loudly

nake ceyapnaha

apprehensively they cry then

20. incetkiya yankapnaha hankukile
towards they run when

21. ikta ilhuni wahehan ake t'oh'al
they arrive there again a different place

wak'ayejaki-li ceyank'e
child, this he cries

22. hohecuhamnaha icel iyataknisnike
just then from another place it kept fading away

23. icihihiana wahehan okilepiké.
the next morning there they search

24. yonk'a canwa oh'lake huhu eyealeşe
here tree under bones altogether

honakc wicasa-le la t'aituki-cile
well man this and his wife this

nake yokešicap'eyaš
apprehensively lonesome

26. eyacin t'kalsna iye yahunp cace woyak e yaklepške
because outside they kick him punishment was theirs

27. hoeyale woyakikle oyakapnaha
well legend this they tell and

28. Lak'ota oyakapi naha tuwa tinkta casna is
 Indians they say someone will die if

tuwahe wanji wakip'akta ca hiha
 family one a bad sign happen

wanji honah'unkeyapi elale woyakapkiha oblakink
 one they hear well they tell I tell

Free translation -

1) This folk-story was told long ago. 2) A man and his wife had only one child. 3) Now this child was about ten years old, 4) but they mistreated him because his father was very ornery. 5) At night, they boy's leg would ache (and he would cry). 6) One time when this happened, his father kicked him outside to cry there. 7) "We want to sleep!" he said, 8) so he kicked the poor child outside 9) where he cried quietly (This happened all the time.) 10) Once again the boy was again crying at night because he had a leg ache. 11) His father said "There is too much crying going on! Go outside to cry! We all will sleep!" 12) He opened the door, dragged the boy, and kicked him out. 13) After he had done that, he got back into bed and was just lying there when they (the man and wife) heard a man's voice outside. 14) Then they heard the boy just sobbing. 15) Frightened, the parents stumbled to the door and ran outside. 16) A very tall tree stood right there. 17) They heard the man's voice coming from it. The voice said,

18) "Since you don't want the boy and you keep kicking him outside, I will take him." 19) Then the frightened parents cried out loudly and ran toward the tree. 21) When they got there, the child was crying from a different place, and then another place. 22) His voice kept fading away. 23) The next morning they searched for him. 24) Underneath the tree they found his skeleton leaning back (against the tree). 25) Then the parents were sad and lonesome and sorry that they had kicked him out 26) so they had this punishment.

27) Well, this is the story they tell. 28) The Indian people believe that if someone is going to die, a member of the family will hear an owl as a bad omen.

I have told it as they tell it. End of story.