

DRONE SHOW

WRITTEN BY BARBARA NOLAN

Long ago, here in the middle of the Great Lakes, there was only darkness, so the Great Spirit decided to send out thoughts and he dreamt of creation! These thoughts turned to energy and the four elements were created – earth, air, fire and water and Creator placed them in the four directions – in the East, he placed the earth; in the South, fire; in the West, air and in the North, water. He gave them the original instructions – to get along and work together, to have respect for everything.

Mewnizha, manpii naanaagwiying Gchi-Gmiin, aapji go gii-mshigiizhbikad! Mii dash Debenjiged gii-maajiinaashkang nendamowinan, Giizhenjigewin gii bwaadaan. Nonda dash inendmaowinan gii-ni-aawanoon mashkoziiwinan mii dash nonda niiwin meshkawziigin gii-zhichigaadeg – aki, bgidnanaamwin, ishkode miinwaa nibi. Debenjiged gii-toonan niiwing nikeyaa – Waabnong gii toon aki; Zhaawanong gii toon ishkode; Ngabii'aawanong gii too bgidnanaamwin; miinwaa Giiwednong gii toon nibi. Mii dash gii-miinaad gchi-kinoomaadwinan – weweni wii-wiiji-nokiimdiwaad, wii-mnaadendjigaadeg kina gegoo.

Next, Creator gathered thoughts again and he created plants. He instructed these plants to provide for healing and growth.

Mii dash miinwaa Debenjiged gii-naanaagdawendang mii dash zyaakiigin gii-zhitood. Gii-waawiindmowaan wii-noojmowe'aad miinwaa wii-maajiigtowichige'aad.

Again, Creator gathered his thoughts, and he created the animals. He instructed them to provide teachings for growth.

Mii dash go miinwaa Debenjiged gii-naanaagdawendang, mii dash gii zhi'aad wesiinyan. Gii-wiindmowaan wii-kinoogewaad wii-mno-maajiigwaad.

Lastly, Creator dreamt of a creature that would resemble him and so he created woman. He gave her instructions to walk gently on earth and to respect all things. As time went on, she was lonely so Creator sent her man and they had twins who could not get along nor work together. So as the story goes, these humans could not get along, they did not pay attention to the instructions given them.

Shkwaach dash, Debenjiged gii-bwaanaan agwaya naasaab win ge zhinaagzipa, mii dash kwewan gii-zhi'aad. Gii-wiindmowaan nengaach wii-bmosenid akiing miinwaa wii-mnaadendang kina gegoo. E-ni-piichseg dash, aapji gii nboodewizi, mii dash Debenjiged gii-niindaa'aad ninwan, niizhoodenhiin dash gii-yaawaa'aan. Gaa dash gonda gii-mno-doodaadziiwag nwaa gaa'ii gii-mno-wiiji-nokiimdizsiiwag. Mii dash maanda dbaajmowin gaa-ni-zhiseg, gonad bemaadzijig gaa'ii gii-gshkitoosiinaa'aa wii-mno-doodaadwaad, gaa'ii gii-dbaadendziinaa'aa gaa-zhi-giigmindwaapa.

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At this same time:

Mii dash naasaab pii:

All was good at first with the animals, they took care of each other, they worked together and respected each other. But as time went on, they started to battle with each other, they did not get along nor work together.

Kina gegoo gii-nishin ntam. Wesiinhag gii-naagdawendiwag, gii-wiiji-nokiimdiwag miinwaa gii-mnaadendiwag. Aniishnaa, gmaakpii dash gwa, gii-maajii-maamiigaadwag, gaa-ii gii-mno-doodaadisiiwag miinwaa gii-mno-wiiji-nokiimdisiiwag.

And this is where my story begins:

Mii dash manpii ndibaajimowin maajseg:

The muskrat lived a good life from birth to about the age of five. He was taught how to fish and hunt; how to gather berries; how to build a house and where to build it. He could swim and use his tail to guide him through the water. He could live on land and water. He was loved by his family and community.

At the age of five, his parents decided that he needed to learn other skills that he would need later in life, skills that he would need to survive on his own. So, he was taken to a place where he would be taught these skills. He was sad as his parents left!

Maaba wazhashk mno-bimaadiziwin gii yaan yeshki ndaadzid piish megwaach gaa-naano-bboongizid. Gii-zhinoomaagaaza waa-zhi-giigoonked miinwaa waa-zhi-giiwsed; waa-zhi-miinked; waa-zhi-zhiged miinwaa waa-nji-zhiged. Gii-bgiza miinwaa wzoowaanag gii-nakaazan wii-daaked nbiing. Aking miinwaa nibiing gii-daa. Gii-zaagigaaza aapji.

Mii dash pii e-naano-bboongizid, gitziiman gii-nendmoon bekaanag nikeyiing waawiingewiziwinan ji-gkendgiba, ge-mnwaabjitood gmaakppi, waawiingewiziwinan ge mnwezid ji-gshkewizid nchike. Gii-maanaadendam pii gitziiman myaajaanid!

He was forbidden to use his language, to forget his way of life and he was taught new skills. It was not good there, but he did learn the new skills that he was supposed to learn. A part of him died and remained as only a memory.

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After five years, he returned home. Things were different, he had these new skills and when he was of age, he left to go on his own. He tried to live in the good way that he knew when he was little, but something was missing.

Gii-gnamaagaaza wii-nakaazad dinwewin, wii-wnendang di'inaadziwin, miinwaa gii-kinoomaagaaza shkiwaawiingewiziwinan. Gaa'ii gii nishiznoo omaa, aanwi dash wii gwa gii-ni-gkendaanan ne'en waawiingewiziwinan. Gii-nbomgad aanind e-aawipa, gaawaanh go mjimendmowining gii-ni-temgad.

Gii-ni-naani-bboongak dash, gii-ni-giiwe. Mkaan gegoo gii-zhiyaamgad, nonda shki-waawiingewiziwinan gii-yaanan, mii dash gaa-ni-piichgid, mii gii-maajaad. Gii-wiikjitood weweni wii-bmaadzid gaa-zhi-gkendang gii-gaachiinhid. Gegoo dash gwa gii-mesnisin.

And so, the animals started to fight amongst each other, they did not get along and they did not work together.

Mii dash go wesiinhag gii-majji-maamaamiigaadwaad, gaa'ii-gii-mno-doodaadizisiiwag miinwaa gaa'ii gii-mno-wiiji-nokiimdisiwwag.

All of creation had forgotten their original instructions, that of getting along and working together, to have respect for everything, to walk gently on earth and respect each other. Instead, they fought each other, they disrespected each other, they did not get along with each other.

Gkina go gegoo bemaadziimgak gii wnendaanaawaa gchi-kinoomaadwinan - weweni wii-wiiji-nokiimdiwaad, wii-mnaadendjigaadeg kina gego, nengaach wii-bmoseng king miinwaa wii-mnaadending. Ndowaach dash, gii-maamaamiigwaadwag, gii-baabaapnidaadwag miinwaa gaa'ii gii-mno-doodaadisiwwag.

That is when Creator decided to purify the earth and he did it with water. Water will cleanse the earth and everything on it, he thought.

And so it rained for days on end, everything was drowning. Then Wenbozhoonh grabbed a log floating by, and climbed on to search for land. "I am going to do something, I am going to swim to the bottom of earth." So he dove and he was gone for a long time, but could not find earth!

Mii dash wi pii, Debenjiged gii-nendang ji-biintood aki, nibi gii-nakaazan. Nibi da-biinaabaawdoon aki miinwaa kina gegoo eteg omaa, gii-nendam.

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Mii dash gii maajii-gchi-gmiwang, kina go gegoo gii-gzwaabii. Mii dash Wenebozhoonh gii-noojbinaad mtigoon wii-wiikjitood wii-mkang aki. Naambiing nga-zhaa,nga-ndowaamdaan aki. Gaa dash go gbeying, gaa maamdaa gbeying naambiing wii yaad! Gaa'ii gii-mkaziin aki!

Some animals had gotten on the log – loon, hell diver, turtle, beaver, and muskrat. Each one of them tried to find earth at the bottom but all failed. But there was this one muffled voice, the muskrat, who for so long had forgotten who he really was, that he was capable of doing something “I’ll try next!” But everyone laughed at him! “You can’t swim well!” “You cannot do anything well!” said the animals!

Aaniind dash wesiinhag gii-boozaandwewag agidaatigong – maang, zhingibis mshiikenh, amik, miinwaa wazhashk! Enso bebezhiik gii wiikjitoonaawaa wii-mkamwaad aki naambiing, kina dash gwa gii bwaanitowag. Bezhik dash gii-debtaagozi, wazhashk, wa gaa-wnendang gegeti gaa-aawid, gaa-wnendang ji-gshkitoopa gegoo – “Niin, nga-wiikjitoon!” Gii-gchi-baabaapigaaza wazhazhk. “Gaa gshii gnitaa bgisii”. “Gaa’ii we’eni ggashtosiin gegoo wii zhichigeyin” kidwag kina wesiinyag!

Muskrat was very sad! And then Wenebozhoonh said “Give him a chance, let him try”. “Let’s believe in him!”

Esnaanh maanaadendam wazhashk! Mii dash Wenbozhoonh ekidad “Maanda na ge’ii da wiikjitoon” “Maanoo debwe’enmaadaa”

When muskrat heard this, it gave him confidence and a boost that he could achieve something. So, he dove, and he was gone for a very long time under water, he grabbed earth with his paw and floated to the top. He went too long without air, he drowned!

Pii gaa noondang maanda Wazhashk, aapji gii-dabagendiza miinwaa gii-apiitendiza ji-gshkitood ego. Mii dash gii-googiid, aapji gbeyiing gii-nendi naambiing, gii-noojbidoon aki, mii dash gii-detebgwiinjing gidbiig. Zaami gbeyiing gaa’ii gii nesesii! Gii-gondaapine!

All the animals were in shock and as they prepared him for burial, there was something in his paw. But Creator saw this and said that it cannot be, so he gently blew air into muskrat and he started to breath.

Kina wesiinhag gii-gshkotaawag, miish epiichi zhiitaawshimaa’aad, gegoo gii waamdaanaa’aa wniinjiing. Debenjiged dash maanda gii-waamdaan , mii dash ekidad gaa maamdaa maanda ji zhiwebag, mii dash aapji negaach gii-nesenaamaad ne’en Wzhashkoon, mii gii maajii-nesenid.

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In the meantime, Wenebozhoonh took the earth and the turtle said “Use my back, place the earth on my back”. Suddenly, the four winds ceased to blow, and the waters settled. The earth grew and grew and to this day formed what we now know as Turtle Island.

Neyaapii dash, Wenebozhoonh gii-daapnaan wi aki. Mshkiikenh dash kida “Nbakwan nakaazan, toon wi aki nbakwanaang”. Mii dash geskana gii-boonaanmag miinwaa gii-booni-maangaashkaa. Gii-maamaajjigin wi aki. Mii dash nongwa ezhi-gkenjigaadeg manpii Mshkiikenh Minis.

Through Wenebozhoonh, Creator re-instilled in Creation, the original teachings.

Wenebozhoonh dash onji, Debenjiged neyaab mii-biinaan Giizhenjigewinan ne'en sa Gchi-kiinooamadwinan.

The muskrat realised that he had achieved what he had wanted to do – that of swimming to the bottom and grabbing the earth. He had made a huge accomplishment! This brought back who he was in the beginning, a worthy individual, one who can accomplish anything and be proud of who he is. He was FREE, he had his identity back!

Wazhashk gii-nsadwaamdaan dash wi gii-gshkitood waa-zhichiged – wi sag ii-googiid naambiing, gii-noojbidood aki. Gchi-gegoo gii-gshkitoon! Mii dash gii bskabiimgadnig gaa-aawid ko, gechtwaawendaagozid bemaadzid, ge-gshkitood wegdigwendig gwa miinwaa gechtwaawendizad eyaawid. GII-BAGIDENDAAGOZI, gii-bskaabiimgadni gaa-aawid ko!

“It usually takes something big happening to a person to change their perspective, and once started can help put you on the right path to finding yourself. It is our time of healing that can set us free and be who we were meant to be.”