

**Gaa-zhi-ndaadizid Nenabosho - The Birth of Nenabosho –Manitoulin Dialect  
Debaajmod Waasaagoneshkang, Pelican Lake near Bois Fort Reservation  
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**Wiigwaaming anishinaabeg gii-daawag, mndimoowenh miinwaa daansan  
owiiigendaadwag.**

In a wigwam lived some people, an old woman and her daughter lived together.

**Ngoding ganoonaan niwi daansan: “Ambe sa naa n-daanis aangwaamizin. Ga-  
bzindaw dash wi waa-wiindmooninaa.**

Once she spoke to her daughter: “I beg of you, my daughter, be careful. You will listen to what I am going to tell you.

**Aapji go n-naniizaanendam giin onji, g-naniizaanenmin.**

I am in fear of danger for you, I am afraid for you.

**Gegwa wiikaa zhichgeke oodi e-pngishmog ji-naasmabyan zaag’aman.**

Never sit facing toward the west when you go relieve yourself (pee).

**Gegoo ka-zhi-yaa giishpin widi naasmabyan.**

Something will happen to you if you face that way.

**Mii wi sa ezhi-naniizaanenminaa.**

That is what causes me to entertain fears for you.

**Aangwaamzin wi noongo eninaa ji-zhichgeyan; ka-nigaatoon k-wiiyaw.**

Be careful to do what I now tell you to do; (or else) you will make your body suffer.

**Mii sa iw eninaa.”**

Now that was what I had to tell you.”

**Aanish mii sa go iw, aaniish mii sa geget aangwaamzigobanen aw kwe e-  
shkiniigkwewid.**

Now such was the way it was, for it was true that at the time heedful was this woman who was a maiden.

**Gaawii wiikaa niniwan besho gii-waabmaasiin.**

Never with men had she intimate association.

**Ngoding go gaa-zhi-wnised aw shkiniigkwe;**

But once on a time unmindful became the maiden;

**mii dash pii zaag’amgobanen gaa-zhi-naasmabid e-pngishmag**

so when out of doors she went (and) afterwards sat down facing the west,

**mii dash pii noondmogbanen biidweweyaanmadnig.**

then heard she the sound of wind coming hitherward.

**Gaa-zhi-gkendang dkaashid iwidi zaaga'moowining.**

When she felt it, she was chilled there at the place of the passage out.

**Mii dash ezhi-bzigonjised. "n-maamaa, nashke genii, gaa-zhayaayaan!**

Accordingly she quickly leaped to her feet. "Oh my mother, behold the state that I am in!

**Mii gnabach gaa-zhiyan ezhi-ayaayaan."**

It may be that what you told me of is the matter with me."

**Gaa-zhi-gnoonaad aw mndimoowenh niwi daansan: "Memdage kii-nigaatoon k-wiiyaw."**

Then spoke the old woman to her daughter, saying: "Exceeding harm have you done to yourself."

**Aaniish mii sa iw zhigwa gii-mwid aw mndimoowenh. "Aaniish mii go iw n-daanis, nigaatooyan k-wiiyaw.**

So therefore then did the old woman weep. "Now therefore, my daughter, have you done yourself a hurt.

**Nashke ga-gkendaan go ge-ni-zhiwebiziyan.**

You shall learn what will happen to you.

**Wiya gii-biindgeshkaag k-wiiyawing, mii go iw n-daanis, nigaaziyan.**

Certain beings have entered into your body: therefore, my daughter, you are in a pitiable state.

**Gaawii anishnaabewisiwag gaa-biindgeshkaagoowin imaa sa k-wiiyawing.**

They are not human beings that have gone inside of you there.

**Gaawii waasa iw ji-niigiwaad.**

The time is not far distant before they will be born.

**Na, mii dash giwi gaa-gsagig."**

Therefore it was they whom I feared."

**Aaniish nashke dash gmaa go pii mii sa go gii-noondwaad aw sa mndimoowenh wiya mdwe-giikaandinid.**

Now, lo, in the course of time did the old women hear the sound of beings that were quarrelling one with another.

**Gii-gkenimaan biinji'ii danwewedamnid.**

She knew by the sound of their voices that they were inside.

**Mii dash pane gii-mwid aw mndimoowenh, gii-aabdademo.**

And so without ceasing did the old woman weep.

**Mii dash geget imaa gii-gwayakwenmaad ji-bmaadzisinig niwi daansan.**

It was true that then was she sure that her daughter would not live.

**Aaniish gii-noondwaan sa iw gaakaandinid, imaa misadaaning danwewedamnid.**

Now she heard them quarrelling one with another, there in her (daughter's) belly the sound of their voices could be heard.

**Wa dash mdwe-kidwan: "Niin go nga-ziikis."**

This was what one was heard to say: "I wish to be the first brought forth."

**"Gaawii" mdwe-kida bezhig miinwaa go kida aw bezhig: "Gaawii gdaa-ziikzisi. Niin sa nga-ziikis."**

"No," one was heard saying, even did one say, "you cannot be the first-born. I am the one to be the eldest."

**Aaniish mii sa pane mwid aw mndimoowenh bzindawaad iw giikaandnid.**

It was natural that all the while the old woman should weep as she listened to them quarrelling one with another.

**Gii-gkenimaan aw mndimoowenh wi waa-dazhnid iw oosheyen.**

Knowledge of them had the old woman as to how many would her grandchildren be.

**Na, mii dash iw ekidwaad ngaawebnidwaad aanawii-zaag'amowaad.**

Hark! this was what they said as they pushed one another back from the place where they tried in vain to go out.

**Giwi dash aanin aano-gii-kidwag: "Gegwa bina! Ka-nigaa'aanaa gsha g-maamaanaa.**

But others of them tried, but to no purpose, to say: "Don't, please! We shall surely do injury to our mother.

**Weweni bina go zaagjiitmadaa," aano-kidwag.**

In proper order please let us go out," (thus) in vain they said.

**Gaawiin dash zhi-minwendziwag giwi waa-ziikzijig.**

But not content with the idea were they who wished to be the eldest.

**Mii dash iw e-kidwaad zhigwa noonj go wii-zhi-zaag'amwaad.**

Therefore then they said that now from different places they wished to go out.

**Bezhig ogii-waabndaan waaskonenig.**

One saw where there was light.

**"Aaniish mii imaa gwayak niin waa-zhaayaan."**

“Now, straight by this very way do I wish to go.”

**Mii dash pii gii-gagwedaanmidwaad, aagnetaadiwaad, wenen aw ntam ge-zaag’ang,**  
And so while they were debating among themselves as to who should be the first to go out,

**Mii dash iw gaa-zhi-biigshkawaawaad niwi omaamaawaan.**  
then was when they burst open their mother.

**Wiikaa go ngoji bbaa-naabid mndimoowenh gii-mkaan mskwi bngii.**  
After a while at a certain place where round about the old woman was looking she found a clot of blood.

**Mii sa wiigwaas ezhi-baapaagonang.**  
Thereupon some birch-bark she began shaking out (to remove dirt).

**Mii dash maa gaa-zhi-tibiignang wiigwaasing iw mskwi, mii sa gaa-zgaknang.**  
And now, after she had put the blood upon the bark, she then folded the bark over it, and laid it away.

**Aaniish piichnaag gii-waabndaan.**  
Naturally, by and by she looked at it.

**Ngoding go biniskweginang gii-waabmaan binoojiiyan, mii go iw gii-gnoonigod, ow dash gii-igoon:**  
Now, once when she opened the bark she beheld a babe, whereupon she was addressed, and this is what she was told:

**“Nookmis,” gii-igoon pii genoongod.**  
“O my grandmother!” she was told at the time that she was addressed.

**Aaniish mii sa zhigwa gii-igoon: “Gii-gkenim na yaawyaan? Niin sa Nenaboozhoo.”**  
So now this was what she was told: “Do you know who I am? Why, I am Nanabusho.”