



Legend of Poplar

We are told in legend that kāyas, long ago, all the plants and animals were given jobs. They were asked by Kisemanito, Creator, to look after kahkiyaw ayisiyinowak, all the people, ekwa kahkiyaw Nēhiyawak, and all the Cree people; to look after them and watch over them and take care of them in some way.

Now, at this time we are told that Kisemanito didn't like what he was seeing because ayisiyinowak were starting to talk bad and gossip and tell lies, talk badly, curse, and say swear words. Kisemanito didn't like this so he called on all the plants and animals. He said, "We need some way to look after ayisiyinowak. One of you needs to look after these Nēhiyawak. Watch after them so they're not talking bad. We need to find some way to stop them from talking bad."

First one to step forward was mitos, tree, the poplar. Poplar said, "I'll look after them. I'll take care of this." Kisemanito said, "Well, how are you going to do this?"

"I know. We're everywhere. We're near their homes; we're near their mikiwahp, tipi. What I'm going to do is anytime any person is talking bad, a black mark will appear on us; anytime they gossip, swear, or talk badly about someone, a black mark will appear on us. So, in this way, kahkiyaw

ayisiyinowak will know if somebody speaks badly, or gossips, or lies, all they have to do is look at kahkiyaw mitosak around their place and if they have black marks around them then the people will know this person talked badly or gossiped, lied, or bad things came out of his mouth."

Kisemanito thought about this and said, "Okay, that's good. Then this way everyone will know that person talks badly and bad things come out of his mouth."

As Nēhiyawak, we are told that this is how it is even to this day. We are told to look at the mitosak around somebody's place, their tipi or their home, and if these mitosak have black marks all over them, that means those people gossip, curse, or bad things come out of their mouths. This is how it is even to this day as we are told. Anytime you go to somebody's place, look at the mitosak. If you see black marks all over the mitosak, then you'll know that bad things come out of that person's mouth. They gossip and tell lies. This is how it is.

Now you know the legend of mitosak. We, as Nēhiyawak, look around a person's place to see if lies or bad things come out of his mouth. This is the legend of mitosak as it was passed to me.

Ēkōsi Maka

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