

Title

Ohkwalikó khále' kwaná yehnekihlata

The Giant Bear and The Big Dipper

An Iroquoian Legend, as told in the Oneida Language

Illustrated by Perry Elijah

Inner cover

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The Giant Bear and The Big Dipper

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The Oneida Language and Cultural Centre

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Page 1

Onyota'a:ka lonatnatayltaħnu: né: kłs ka'í:kł

latikalatúkhwá Ohkwalíhko khále' kwaná yehnekihláta'

Ne:kłs yakł ka'í:kł Ohkwalíhko shakonatakalyus

This is an Oneida village where they used to tell this story about the giant bear and the big dipper. They told about how this giant bear used to raid their village.

Page 2

Sheku kłs yakł tsi' lotinłstaylntħóslu tho ya'tehotáwłlyi lanłstanłskwas

He used to go into their corn fields and steal the corn.

Page 3

Khále' onł wahunityohku:ni nłsok wahuwayanáħawe'

After awhile, three brothers had a dream where they tracked the bear.

Page 3

Khále' onl wahunityohku:ni nlsok wahuwayanáhawe'

After awhile, three brothers had a dream where they tracked the bear.

Page 4

Khále' onl wahuwahnúklane' nlsok wahute' nyatl ahuwáli

In this dream, they caught up the the giant bear and fought with him.

Page 5

**Khále' onl thíkl ahsa nátehutahnútele' tsi' ká:ya nén
lotislatakla: tsi' niyawahsle' wahuwayanólne' nlsok wahuwayanáhawe'**

Upon awakening from this dream the three brothers found the bear's tracks and followed them.

Page 6

**Ne: kaí:ka ahsa na'tehutahnútele' wahuwahsle' kwah tsi'
niyo:le yahonatuhutsyoktáhse'**

They tracked the giant bear to the end of the world.

Page 7

**Nl tshayhunatuhutsyoktase: nl sok watati:tl kaluhyáke
nyahatiti, kl wahnislake Sheku yetiklhe' tho kaluhyake,
ne: nén kwana yehnikihláta'**

When they came to the end of the world, they all flew up and continued to chase across the sky. This constellation is known as the BIG DIPPER.

Page 8

**Kanyónl kanana'kéne, nl lkantlahtlne' khále'
tlwatahsohkwaténi, ne: kas né: lute tsi' ne: nén ohkwali
lonekhwáu tsi' nu: nihonuhlyaku khále' thíkl ahsa na'tehutahnitehle' nale' shuwalu'tatuhe'**

In the autumn as the leaves are turning colours, they say that the bear is bleeding from his wounds and that the three brothers are close enough to shoot at him again.

Page 9

**Nl kohsla'kéne, thíkl kwána yehnikihlata' kwah é:nik tsi'
latinákele' nen Onyota'a:ka, nl ki' ya'káhewe' nen
ahutlihwahtatyete' nén tsya'tekohselha**

In the winter, the Big Dipper is over the Oneida village and it is time to have the Mid Winter Ceremony