

## The Squirrel Council

*As told by Robert Red Hawk Ruth  
Translated by Shelley DePaul*

Yesterday, I was walking in the woods and I came upon a bunch of squirrels. I said, "Hello brothers! How are you all? One squirrel said, "What people are you from? What do you want? He said, "You walk quietly through the woods unlike most of you two legged people." I said, "I am sorry to interrupt your Council, brother. I was born here and my people were born here, but now I live in Wisconsin." He said, "I know about Wisconsin from my Elders. We have been taught that at one time a squirrel could stand on the beach and climb a tree and not touch the earth until he came to the Mississippi River. Your kind cut all the trees down and we understand that now you call Wisconsin the dairy state. You two leggeds killed all the woodland buffalo and replaced them with the spotted buffalo." I said " You are right. My ancestors told the people who came to walk softly on their mother Earth. To share our blanket in peace. They did not listen."

### Na Xanikw Achimelsink The Squirrel Council

**Lokewe, npemaska tekening ok npa wiwash xanikok.**  
Yesterday, I walk in the woods and I came to a bunch of squirrels.

**Nteluwe, "He nitisak xanikok! Kulamalsihemo hech?"**  
I said, "Hello brother squirrels! How are you all?"

**Kweti xanikw luwe, "Keku hech lakeyu?"**  
One squirrel said, "What people (tribe) are you from?"

**"Keku hech katatam?"**  
"What do you want?"

**Luwe, ""Ktkauxwe tekening. Ku alashi tat nishkata."**  
He said, "You walk softly in the woods. Not like a two legged person does."

**Nteluwe, "Nshielindam kenachihel ki achimelsink, Nimat.**  
I said, "I am sorry I bother you Your Council, brother.

**Yu tali nemitachpi ok elhakeya yu tali hmitahpuwak**  
This place I was born and my tribe/people this place they were born

**shek yukwe Wisconsinink newikin."**  
but now in Wisconsin where I live."

**Luwe, "Nuwatun untshi Wisconsin. Nkikayuyemena ntelkuk.**  
He said, "I know it of Wisconsin. Our elders they tell me.

**Luwen kweten, xanikw nipait shohpe ok kentahkusu hitukwink**  
It is said, once, a squirrel he stands at the shore and he climbs up in a tree

**ok e hitkwike Mississippink Sipuku ok tahashi pemske**  
and he goes among the trees to the Mississippi River and never he walks

**xkwithakamika. Kiluwa nishkataok hitkuk kiskhawaok ok yukwe**  
on the ground. You all two leggeds trees you all chop them and now

**mpentahena luwentasu the Dairy State. Kiluwa nishkataok knihelaok**  
we understand it is named the Dairy State. You all two leggeds you killed them

**wemi neki sisilitekenisak ok kelaphatunaok wichi neki all**  
those woodland buffaloes and you replace them with these

**sesapsitchik sisilieyok."**  
spotted buffaloes."

**Nteluwe, "Pishi. Nemuxumsunkana nteluwoo auwenik**  
I said, "It is true. My ancestors they told them people

**pahtit yuni, "Ktkauxwe Kahesink.**  
when they came here, "You walk softly on your Mother.

**Kemeshenemeneyo ntakwiyanamana welankuntewakanink.**  
You people share/receive it our blanket in peace.

**Kwelistamen.**  
They did not listen.

