



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Lu·kwé Kátsi? Waha·tú.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1970/1979

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/5HVVKH6TK6F7I8L>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

A Man Became a Fish

There was a man called Tsiwakha who changed and became half fish and half person. Long ago it happened in New York State at [Skull-impaled] an Oneida town. And back in those times when they go hunting, they go far. This Tsiwakha was among them and they went sixty miles and then set up their tents when they got there. They dried meat until they filled their packs and set out again with a lot of meat that they could carry in packs as they travelled. Now this man was quite a joker and he joked about all kinds of things and he mocked the Indian dancing and he threw his tobacco in the fire. So they told him that what he was doing was not good. It was important in meaning how they carried out ceremonies. They had a resting spot by the river so again they were there and as they rested they smoked and told stories. Tsiwakha sat by the river and filled his pipe with tobacco but he dropped it in the river. It wasn't deep enough that one would drown so he went in after it and he disappeared. Now his friends didn't see where he could come up anywhere. The man was just gone. They looked for him along the river where they thought he might reappear but finally they gave up and went on.

Just a year later they again were backpacking along going hunting. Again towards evening when they were at a place, they stopped and again they rested. When they finished eating, they talked about this young man Tsiwakha and he reappeared there. So they talked and he told them how it happened when he disappeared here. That man said, "When I dropped that pipe, a woman picked it up and I followed her tracks and arrived at the place where they live. There were houses all around. So I married one of these half-fish and half-person beings" and he himself even had that kind of body. He said, "Don't ever give any one my name." And he told them that that was the last that they would see each other.