

HEALER OF THE WATER MONSTER

◊ B R I A N Y O U N G ◊



Heartdrum

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Healer of the Water Monster

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First Edition

GLOSSARY

I have decided not to include pronunciation in this because some Diné accents and sounds just don't have a phonetic equivalent. But if you wish to hear the Diné language and perhaps some of these very words, please check out <https://navajowotd.com>, as they have a wonderful library of Diné words pronounced.

Family Relationships

There are multiple variations of family terms, and certain contexts determine proper designation or colloquial usage. Let's take 'análí, for instance. In colloquial Navajo, which often is mixed with English words, 'análí is used with a possessive prefix such as shi- (my), ni- (your), or bi- (his/her/its). Shinálí, ninálí, and binálí, respectively. In English conversations mixed with Navajo words, it's common to say my nálí, your nálí, or his/her/its nálí.

Navajos also use clans to determine family relationships outside of blood relationships. For instance, Nali is related to Devin as his clan mom. Through the clan system, Nathan's father and Uncle Jet would consider Devin a brother. And last, Nathan would refer to him as uncle and should treat him as such. There is no Navajo word for "clan relative" because that relationship

would be as real as a blood relationship. In the story, Devin calls Nali shimá (my mom) and she calls him shiyáázh (my son). Often Navajo kids will know who their blood relatives are at a very young age. When older family members indicate the existence of another relative, the kid will assume it is a clan relative and not some long-lost relative.

náíí (full spelling: 'anáíí)

Literal meaning: paternal relationship. Contextual: some

Navajo children will address their paternal grandparents as simply náíí. Nathan's name for Nali references this.

shináíí: my paternal relationship

náíí 'adzáá (full spelling: 'anáíí 'adzáá)

paternal grandmother

shináíí 'adzáá: my paternal grandmother

náíí hastiin (full spelling: 'anáíí hastiin)

paternal grandfather

shináíí hastiin: (older to younger) my adult grandson,

(younger to older) my paternal grandfather

náííyazhí

little paternal relation; in this story, often means "your young grandson."

shináíí 'ashkii: my young paternal grandson

shináíí yázhí: my paternal grandchild

niye'

Literal meaning: your son. In Navajo culture, brothers of the father are considered fathers of the kid and their offspring

are considered siblings not cousins. Sisters of the mother are considered mothers of the child, and their offspring are considered siblings, not cousins. Jet is the brother of Nathan's father, and culturally Jet and Nathan would refer to each other as father and son.

shiyáázh: my son (female speaker: mother to son, maternal aunt to maternal nephew)

shiye': my son (male speaker; father to son, paternal uncle to paternal nephew)

shimá: my mom

shitsilí: my younger brother

zhé'é (full spelling: 'azhé'é)

father

nizhé'é: your father

shizhé'é yázhí: literal meaning is little father; actual meaning, paternal uncle

Numbers

t'áálá'í	one
naaki	two
táá'	three
díí'	four
'ashdla'	five
hastáá	six
tsosts'id	seven
tseebíí	eight

náhást'éí	nine
neeznáá	ten
la' ts'áadah	eleven
naaki ts'áadah	twelve
táá ts'áadah	thirteen
díí' ts'áadah	fourteen
'ashdla' ts'áadah	fifteen
hastáá' ts'áadah	sixteen
tsosts'id ts'áadah	seventeen
tseebíí ts'áadah	eighteen
náhást'éí ts'áadah	nineteen
naadiin	twenty
naadiin dóó bi'aa t'áálá'í	twenty-one
naadiin dóó bi'aa naaki	twenty-two
naadiin dóó bi'aa táá'	twenty-three
naadiin dóó bi'aa díí'	twenty-four
naadiin dóó bi'aa 'ashdla'	twenty-five
naadiin dóó bi'aa hastáá'	twenty-six
naadiin dóó bi'aa tsosts'id	twenty-seven
naadiin dóó bi'aa tseebíí	twenty-eight
naadiin dóó bi'aa náhást'éí	twenty-nine
tádiin	thirty
tádiin dóó bi'aa t'áálá'í	thirty-one
tádiin dóó bi'aa naaki	thirty-two
tádiin dóó bi'aa táá'	thirty-three

Words and Phrases

'alk'idáá	a long time ago
'abínídáá	earlier this morning
'Adzáá Nadleehí	Changing Woman
'ahéhee'	thank you
'átsé	wait
'aoo'	yes
'ayóó' 'ánínínish'ni	I love you.
'éí biniinaa	this is the reason
'éí dooda	Literally: this is no. Understood meaning: nope (firmly)
'iishjáshjì	we'll see; wait and see
chaha'oh	Literal meaning: shade. However, also refers to a traditional rectangular structure constructed out of pine trees for the frame and oak branches for walls and ceiling. Modern interpretations use plywood for walls and ceilings.
Cheii Chizh	Grandpa Firewood

cheii (full spelling: 'acheii)	Literal meaning: maternal grandfather. Also refers to horned toads. Often when spoken with English, it's common to say and spell cheii without the 'a- at the beginning. When a Navajo comes across a threatening animal, it is common to address the animal as cheii (grandpa) or masani (grandma) in hope that by referring to the animal as a loving relative the animal won't harm the person.
chizh	firewood
da'ósą	eat (direct command)
dah nidá	sit down
Dibé Nitsaa	Mount Hesperus
Diné	Navajo
Diyin Dine'é	Holy Beings
Dook'o'oolííd	San Francisco Peaks
ha'át'ííłá	No equivalent English translation, but loosely translated it's an exclamation that can mean the following things: What the heck?/ What's wrong with you?/What in the world!/What in the dickens! Can be used in a teasing manner, can also express frustration.
hágo	come over here; get closer

hágoónee'	goodbye
hágoshíí	okay, as in agreement
Hash 'akót'é?	Is that right?
hastiin	man
hataaʼlii	medicine man/medicine woman
hózhó náhásdlíí	There is beauty around me.
Hwééldi	Literally: where they suffered. Actual meaning: Fort Sumner, New Mexico, where Navajos had been relocated between 1863 to 1868.
N'dáá (full term: 'Ana'í N'dáá)	Enemy Way Ceremony. Very common to just use N'dáá in conversation.
naadą́ą'	corn
Nááts'íílid Dine'é	Rainbow Being
naahłtin	rain
ní	you
Níłch'its'ósí	November
níníł'į	Look at that.
nizhoní	good
Sháh!	No equivalent English translation. Expression of light frustration, sometimes used jokingly.
shidóó	Me too
shił łikan	Literally: this tastes sweet to me. Also used to say this is delicious.
shooyá	expression of tiredness or accomplishment

Sis Naajiní	Mount Blanca
skoden	This isn't Navajo but rather a contraction of the phrase "Let's go then." Sometimes spelled "skodan."
sq'	star
Sq' Náhookqs	Northern Star
tádídíín	corn pollen or corn pollen pouch
Tsoodzil	Mount Taylor
txí'	let's go; come on
yá'át'ééh	hello
Yaa!	Expression of mild frustration. Never used jokingly.
yaadilá	No literal translation. Closest English equivalent is: Are you kidding me?
yé'ii	a specific type of Holy Being
yiskáągo'	tomorrow

Sentences

'Áyoo nanitł'a.	It's going to be very hard.
Ch'iyáán 'adaal'íígi bóhoo diláál.	I'm going to teach you to cook.
Dichin nísín.	I am hungry.
Díí shináálí 'ashkii, Nathan.	This is my grandson, Nathan.

Doo 'ájínída'!	Don't say that!
Háájí Jet?	Where's Jet?
Haash yit'éego sindá?	How are you doing? (Person being asked is sitting.)
Hastóí lą́'í.	There's a lot of men.
Hazhóó'ógo, shináíí.	Literally: "Easy, my paternal relation." In context: "There, there, my grandson."
Jó Vegas go diniyalá.	You're going to be in Vegas now.
K'ad altso.	We are finished.
K'ad amá 'idiiljii bí'oh díneshdlíí. T'ááshí ako.	Right now, I have to accept that I wasn't a good enough mother.
K'ad, níká 'o'olwod.	You have help now.
K'adí. 'Altso tsídé tsáá.	That's enough. I've heard enough.
Kwe'é sikéhíjii.	Right here where we sit.
Na'ahyíłá.	He's drunk right now.
Ni' 'at'ééd niba'.	Your girlfriend is waiting.
Ni'dó 'ahéhee'.	You too, thank you.
Níléidi chizh ła' nidiiyah shináíí.	Over there, grab some firewood for me.
Sha'awe'. Hazhóó'ógo.	My baby. Take it easy.
Shighandí 'ałwosh.	At home, he's asleep.
Shináíí, ch'iiyáán 'adeiilnł.	My grandson, let's cook dinner.

Shiwos neezgai.	My shoulder hurts.
Shiyáázh Jet shá bik'é jidlíido'.	Bless my son Jet wherever he may be.
Yá'át'ééh shik'is, Nathan. Ni dootł'izhii shá?	Hello, my friend Nathan. Where's your turquoise?
Yá'át'ééh, shiyáázh!	Hello, my son!