

Stories of the Cahto Tribe

A Prayer for Eels

(This is a line-by-line translation (within the limits of English readability))

"Lampreys swim from the north; let me eat them well.

Let me eat fish with good luck.

May the boys eat it.

May the girls eat it well.

Deer, may I swallow you with good luck.

You are my food, my sweet thing.

Do not let it die.

Let it be good," he said, they say.

Professor Goddard's Translation

"May I eat the eels that swim up the stream with good fortune. May I eat the fish with good fortune. May the boys and girls eat them with good fortune.

"Deer, may I swallow you with good luck. You are mine. My food is sweet. Do not let it die. Let it be good, "he said.

(Based on Cahto oral traditions and beliefs)