Minobimaadizin Nindigo
A Good Life
An Ojibwe SayITFirst Book

Story told by Jim Windego
Translations by Rose Tuesday
Illustrated by Tim Smith
Written by Mike Parkhill
I am told I have a good life.

Chi-minobimaadiziyan gii-igo.

Chee-mi-noh-bih-maw-dih-zih-yahn gee-ih-go.
After the road was put in, our Reserve was visited by a Government man.

Gii-ishkwa ozhijigataag i’miikana, anishinaabe ogimaa gii-bimawadishiwe ima ishkoniganing.

“The Anishinaabe People are destroying the deer and the ducks, You need to start farming,” the agent lectures.

"Majii gitigeg, ozaam kinishonaji'awaag waawaashkeshiwig, idash gaye' zhiishiibag" izhi-ozone anishinaabe ogimaa.

This is when I started talking.

Miidash owapii ga majii gagiigidowan.

Mee-dash oh-wa-pee gah mah-jee gah-gee-gih-doh-wahn.
“You people have cows, and pigs and other kinds of birds,” Jim explains.

"Giinawaa gidayawaawag bizhikiwag, idash gaye gookooshag, iwe gaye ga-bekaaniziwiwat bineshiiwag" Jim wiindamowan.

“You raise them and live with them,” Jim stated.
“I’ve been doing this my whole life.”

"Gidoombigi’iawag idash gaye gii-wiiji-dama awag" Jim odinaan" mina apane' bii-izhijigewan minik ga bibimadiziyaan.

“No you haven’t,” says the Government man. “I don’t see any fences or farming.”

"Gaansha" ikdo anishinaabe ogimaa "gaangego niwaabadaziinan adakobijiganan idash gaye gitigaanan.

“Where are your crops?” the agent asks.

"Aandi dash gigitigaanan?" giigagwede anishinaabe ogimaa.

"Awn-dih dash gih-giht-ih-gawn-nan?"
Gee-gahg-weh-day ah-nish-ih-naw-bay oh-gih-maw.
"We use wild rice, we take what we need so it always grows back."

"Manoomin dabijitoomin, ga'abijitooowang eti dodapinaamin, apane' jibi-azhe-nitaawigest"

“What about livestock?” he asks.

"Ogonen dash wiin awakaanag?".
Izhi-gwagwede

"Oh-goh-nehn dash ween ah-wah-kaan-ag?",
Lh-zhi-gwag-way-deh.
“You raise geese by clipping their wings, ours fly free,” Jim Responds. 

"Gii-gishki-gonigwiizhaawag, gi-omib'akwaa nikag, bizaan niinawind igo bimisiwag" izhi-nagwedam Jim. 

"You have cows for food, we use moose," he continues to speak.

"Bizikiwag gidayaawaawaag ji-wiisiniwag, niinawaind dash moo-soog," ani gagiiigito ge'aabi.

“You have chickens, we have partridges.”

"Baaka'aa kwag kidaya'awaawaawag, niinawind dash bineyag".
"Baw-kah-aw-kwag kih-dah-yaw-waw-waw, neen-wind dash bih-ahg".
"You have pigs, we have deer."

"Baaka'aakwag kidayawaawaawag, niinawind dash bineyag".

"Goo-koo-shag kih-dah-yaw-waw-wag, neen-wind dash waw-wawsh-kih-sheh-wag".
“We have running water that is better than what you have. Your farm water is polluted. The water I am talking about is pure running water. It doesn’t freeze in the winter and that is how we supply it.”


“We raise everything on our farm but we do not use fences.”

"Gina gego nitawegitoomin oma gitigaanan, Gaawiin dashwiin dabijitoosii-min adakobijiganan.”

“Even someone with a big family will only take one moose.
We don’t kill more to save for our future.”

“Misawago anigii osaamiiniwat ga’inawendiwat Bezig etago moosoon otodaapinaawan, manachi-aananing”.

“If we only take what we need Mother Nature will provide for us.”

"Giispin eta odaapinamang gaawii abijitoowang, gi-maamaanan giimiigonan akinago gego ji-bimii’edizowing”.

“We do not own the land we farm on. It provides for us as long as we live the good life, so life goes on.”

"Gidodaadizomin o'aki gaawiiin gitibendaziimin".

"Gih-doh-daw-dih-zoh-min oh'-ah-kih gaw-ween gih-tih-bend-ah-zi-meen."
The Government man gets back into his car and drives away.

Gii-boozii ima odoodaabaan anishinaabe-ogimaa ga izhi ani-maaaji-bizod.