Joe’s Insite to Noodendam/Courting

# Gaa-tibaajimod(told by) Joe Nayquonabe Sr. Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin(transcribed by) James Clark **Introduction/Reasoning**

This month Joe would like to give out some insight about courting. He sees a lot of families that remind him of a simple story told to him long ago, and with that I’ll let Joe take it away.

## Body

* When the young man begins courting a lady, he would come over and get to know her. They’d begin to learn about each other, beginning with the truth and honesty.
* After a while they will know a lot of things about each other and gain experiences and trust together. No longer is it lust/affection, it’s about maturity and what comes with it. When things are getting serious, they will get together at night, parents/guardians will be weary of this. Once they get intimate there is an obstacle in the way, the trust will start to lift that obstacle and the family continues to oversee the relationship. Spending a night together did not seem like a big thing long ago but it was trust not only from the family but from the partner herself.
* Once this man is ready for the final step. He brought gifts (horses, rice, blankets) to the father of the girl. He will deliberate, by having a feast. Using the food that the young man gave them he would have the family over for a discussion. Anything the family would have in favor or against him would come out at this time, whether it would have been talked about or not with the girl it’ll come out.
* If the family approves, then he is all set to marry her. They do this by inviting him back and having another feast, however, not having him back over is a sign that they were against giving her to him for life. “Why did you bring gifts to her father?”- people asked him “to prove to her father that I can provide for her, food, housing, and other essentials that a father wants to see to give permission for his daughter’s hand”-he said.

### **Conclusion**

“That story is a big thing even today, knowing that the daughters are going to be taken care of after they leave the home that they grew up in. To prevent everyone getting headaches and heartaches.” Joe speaks from the heart when he tells this as he only wants the best for our people now, and in the future. “To all families that have young girls in their life, we all want them to have the healthiest life they can have. It is our duty as a community to strive for healthy relationships for generations to come.”