

## Veli Money and the Reindeer Hide

June of '74, in the land of the midnight sun  
Me and Veli Monte Smith, our work had just begun  
In Rovaniemi's streets, we were pedaling our way  
When a telegram arrived to change our ordinary day  
"Call the office," it said, and we feared the worst was true  
But President Wade had a different kind of task for us to do

He said, "Find me a hide, of the purest, brightest white  
From a reindeer in the North, a gift of holy light  
A token from the workers in this cold and rugged land  
To place a piece of Finland in President Kimball's hand"

Now, let's give credit where it's due, to a man with a vision so grand  
Veli Money made it happen, with a steady, guiding hand  
He saw the mission's heart, he knew the love we felt  
He helped to forge the legacy in the northern snows we melt

So Veli Smith and I, we rode our bikes into the breeze  
To that processing facility, north among the trees  
we found it. The best one in the house. Pure white.

We rolled it up, and in August,  
I carried that suitcase in one hand and that hide in the other.  
Every missionary in the land put their name upon that skin—  
three hundred signatures of faith, destined for a Prophet of God.

I took that long train ride, south to Helsinki's shore  
Carrying a treasure that the Finnish people wore  
It traveled 'round the mission, every signature was signed  
A symbol of our service and the ties that truly bind

And when President Kimball came, the gift was finally shown  
A piece of Rovaniemi for the world's most sacred throne  
It was a hide of purest white, found in the northern light  
A gift for the Prophet, shining through the Arctic night

Veli Money led the way, with a heart so gold and true  
Bringing Finland to the world, in everything we do  
I'm a Finnish missionary . . . and my heart is full  
The pattern of my life was set... by that northern pull

Thank you, President Wade... And thank you, Veli Money...  
For the hide of white. It was good. So good.