

Small Number and the Old Canoe

Story Transcript: English and Huu-ay-aht

Benson Nookemis recorded the Nuuchahnulth Version of the story himself on a dictaphone cassette recorder and submitted the tape to the Matchcatcher Team. The story was transcribed by Henry Kammler with the assistance of students of the Nuuchahnulth language at U of Munich: Merlin Detschey, Julia Haslinger, Susanne Mors, Lara Stephan, and Filip Wissert from Institut für Ethnologie, München, Germany.

ʔanaḥʔis Huksyuu ʔuhʔiṣ qiickʷiiʔaʔʔi čapac.

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ʔuklaa ʔanaḥʔis Huksyuu sučaqʔičḥʔaʔ meʔiʔqac. Wiwipača saačink. ʔukčiqʔas natnaniqšak. Wiiyaʔaʔ ʔuuswaa ʔani wiwipača saačink meʔiʔqacʔi. Naniiqsu ʔusimʔaʔ ḥasiik ʔuukʷiiʔ ʔaxaas ʔinksyiqtin. "ʔusimʔaʔeʔic", waaʔaʔ naniiqsu, "pisatukquuk hitaash ʔuupaath ʔuksčaʔinminḥukʔitqak. ʔuuʔuuqukma ʔupaa. ʔupiičḥʔiʔaʔ." Kamitqšiiʔaʔ meʔiʔqacminḥʔi. Hitinqsaʔ ʔawaa čaʔakʔi hinas. Tapatsiiʔaʔʔaʔ qʷaaʔapʔaaqʔuusiʔaʔ pisatuk. ʔiiḥʔii Mitxyuu ʔuklaa meʔiʔqac: "ʔuḥaaḥcuumin mʔuksyi ʔaaskaacištuʔʔapqun tuuxtuuxʷap hiłcpriičiłḥčiikap yaqʔaaqʔuusin sayeeʔiyaʔak." Tapatsiiʔaʔ meʔiʔqacminḥʔi ʔani ʔusimʔaaqʔ ʔuʔʔii ʔuʔaaʔ mʔuksyiʔi. ʔuḥaaḥʔiʔaʔʔaʔ.

ʔanaḥʔisʔi Huksyuu yaacšiiʔaʔ yee sayeeʔii ʔuḥaaḥ ʔaskaatquu mʔuksyiʔi. Hisiiʔikʷaqšinuʔaʔ ʔaqmaptʔi yaaq. Wahyaʔasʔaʔweʔin caqyaqasʔaʔ čapac ʔuukʷiiʔ hiyaqsteʔi huptaas. Čaniiʔaʔ ʔani yaaqqa ʔaqmaptʔi. ʔakisšiiʔaʔ, ʔuḥsaatanuʔaʔ ʔani ʔuusuuqta. Nanaaničšiiʔaʔ yaaʔʔii čapacʔi. Qiiʔisckʷaʔ hił huptis ʔuusaahi yaaqʔii ʔaqmapt. ʔakisšiiʔaʔ taastaasaʔ yaa ʔani ʔuusuuqta tuḥčiti. Nanaaničšiiʔaʔ čapacʔi ʔatquu yaaʔakaʔat tuḥčiti. Niłkʷaʔaqstuʔaʔ, haaʔinčiʔaʔ yaaqščaʔinʔitq. Kamitqkʷaʔʔaʔ hinin meʔiʔqacminḥʔi.

Načuʔaʔʔaʔ yaqii qʷayiiʔitq. ʔikaasiʔaʔ čapacʔi ʔani ʔuʔaaʔ ʔuʔaaʔ. "Qiiickʷiiʔaʔma ʔaḥkuu hił," waaʔaʔʔaʔ. ʔiiḥmaa čapacʔi. "Qumistayakituusi ʔaḥkuuʔi?" Waaʔaʔʔaʔ ʔiiḥʔii Mitxyuu ʔukleeʔi: "Qumaaqʔičḥaʔuusi qʷiyimtiiʔaʔ ʔaḥkuu ʔuukʷiiʔ?" Tapatsiiʔaʔʔaʔ. Hayaapaʔšiiʔaʔʔaʔ ʔani pipisatukʷitʔaʔ. Qiičiłšiiʔaʔʔaʔ ʔuumacuk yaa čapacʔi, yaqckʷiiwuusi ʔuuḥwaaʔ.

ʔiiḥʔii Nuutxyuu ʔuklaa ʔiiqšiiʔaʔatuk ʔuʔaqstuʔaʔ, ʔaača ʔuhʔaʔuk ʔiiqšiiʔaʔ. "Hawiiqʔah," waaʔaʔ. "ʔusimʔaʔin hawaasqun," waaʔaʔ yuuqʷaa ḥaawiiḥaʔʔi, meʔiʔqacminḥʔi. Yuuqʷaaʔaʔ hawiiqstuʔaminḥʔaʔ. Kamitqšiiʔaʔʔaʔ huʔacačiʔaʔ hihiyathʔitq.

ʔanahʔisʔi Huksyuu walʔiʔaʔ kamitquk^waʔ hiʔukʔitq naniqsu ʔuuk^wiʔ hūmiishʔin ʔaxaas.
Haaʔinʔaʔaʔ yaa meʔiʔqacʔi "nee neenʔi," naniqsakʔi ʔuuk^wiʔʔaʔ. Naʔiʔaʔ naniqsu, naačapuʔaʔ
yaa. "ʔaqisʔaʔhakʔa," waaʔaʔ. "Yanuuq^wiʔaʔ ʔahñii hiʔsaatakʔitqak." "ʔaqisk^wačiʔaʔhakʔa,"
waaʔaʔat ʔaaʔaatuu. Hayaapaʔiʔaʔ ʔani caqaasit yaa. ʔiiqʔiʔaʔ naniqsakʔi ʔani ʔuuʔip čapac.
"Qiiʔisck^waʔma hiis yee hitinqisʔi. Sučiiqqʔičh^wmatakck^waʔ hiʔ," waaʔaʔ ʔapatʔiʔaʔ.

ʔiixʔiʔaʔ yaa naniqsu. "Hamaʔamah ʔahñiiʔi čapacʔi," waaʔaʔ. "ʔuupimtma ʔahñii čaaxuk
čapacʔi ʔahkuu hiʔathqin. ʔuhitma ʔuuk^wiʔiʔ yaqukw^wiʔiis nuw^wiʔiʔsu ʔahʔaaʔaʔ ʔaʔa qalaatik
qalaatikukʔi," waaʔaʔ yaa naniqsuʔi. "Hačatakuk^witma yaqukw^wiʔiis naniqsu huhtak^wminh ʔuuk^wiʔiʔ
čapac, čiiñuʔ ʔuuk^wiʔiʔ. Naacsahak yaa qacčeʔi čiiñuʔ hiʔ ʔiihʔii maʔas hiisʔatuʔas? ʔuhitmaʔaʔ
ʔuuk^wiʔiʔ yaqukw^wiʔiis neʔiiqsumin^whuksi."

Tuupʔiʔaʔʔitq meʔiʔqacʔi wik^wyuuʔitq weʔičuʔ ʔaataapatʔiʔaʔ. "Yuuq^waamihsamah ʔusiikquus
čapac ʔahʔaaʔaʔ čiiñuʔ q^waa q^wack^wiʔiʔitq yaqwiimit. ʔaʔaatuuʔaaqʔah naniqsakqas ʔamiiʔik
qumaaʔakituusi y^wuk^wiʔiʔsumin^wh nuw^wiʔiʔsakitʔi. ʔaʔa qacča muu suča qumaaʔakituusi," waaʔaʔ
ʔahʔaa ʔapatʔiʔaʔ.

ʔaaʔaatuuʔaʔ ʔanahʔisʔi Huksyuu: ʔunaakiič waa qumaamituk^wituusi naniqsu qalaatikminh?
ʔaataapatʔiʔaʔ: ʔaʔa qacča muu suča. Hawiičiʔaʔ taataapata.