

Small Number and the Big Tree

Story Transcript: English and Sliammon

mɛnəθɛy hɛgə ʔaxəmay

Mentally and the Cedar tree

hɛw payɛ ʔaxʔaxtən mɛnəθɛy. payɛ gagayɛtən kʷ ʔukʷ taməs. θo qamɛtəm šɛ qɛxs, sosan, šɛ paʔa ʔʰokʷ ta ʔayɛs šɛ čičyɛs.

Mentally was always up to mischief. He was curious about everything. One day he and his sister, Sosan went to visit their grandmother.

χaxapi ta ʔayɛs šɛ čičyɛs. ʔukʷ təm kʷənkwɛntəs. qajɛʔot χəpχəpi ʔi pakʷuxʷəs šɛ piču. "kʷɛt gi ta χaʔkʷs. hɛw ʔajumiš mot." natəm mɛnəθɛy. qarɛtəs šɛ piču. "hɛʔ ʔatʰ čɛpθoʔ ʔa hitoʔ", natəm šɛ čičyɛs. "toχnɛxʷačxʷ hɛʔ ta kʷaʔəmnačs kʷ ʔaxəmay payɛ yiqəšɛt?"

Menathey wandered around his grandmother's house. Looking at everything. He was still wandering around when he noticed a basket. "Look at the design. it is so beautiful." said Menathey. Touching the basket. "It was my aunt who made it", said his grandmother. "Do you know that we always use cedar roots?"

kʷɛnostəm šɛ čičyɛs. χəχyɛʔos mɛnəθɛy. "hočɛpsəm qamɛθ kʷisəm kʷ θičɛm. hoštəm maʔəm kʷ kʷaʔəmnač. qʷaga ʔɛtənšt. tawθɛθəm ninijɛ kʷ ʔaxəmay. hɛwšt ti:sxʷ. ʔukʷtəm haʔhitɛt təwa ta ʔaxəmay. ʔasəm ʔajut kʷ ʔimɛxʷs."

His grandmother looked at him. Menathey looked puzzled. "you and your sister will come with me tomorrow and go up to the woods. We will go and get cedar roots. Let us eat now. I will tell you about Cedar. We treat it with respect. We make many things from the cedar tree. It also has strong medicine."

"tətč θo θɛqɛč hɛwtəms hanəm čɛməm. qax ga tatʰ kʷaʔəmnač ta sotič. hɛʔ yiqəšɛn kʷatʰ hiʔəm kʷ piču." natəm čičyɛ. ʔɛ mot θo tasɛw kʷ θičɛm.

"I like to dig cedar roots before it gets cold and freezes. Then i have lots of cedar roots for the winter. It is what I use to make baskets." said granny. It did not take them long to get to the forest.

ʔaxayitən ʔot. hɛw ʔajɛqəp ta θičɛm, hotɛgən mɛnəθɛy. qax kʷ ʔɛʔɛstɛs čiyɛtəs. "təmčɛ nɛ ʔawtɛgəns ta titi yɛmajɛjɛ?" nonpɛganəm mɛnəθɛy. θo mɛtəs nɛs šɛ qax ʔaxəmay. "hɛw ʔi:mot tɛʔɛ. θič mot. qʷayin θiyɛčisatšɛ θoxʷɛns kʷ ʔaqtʰ! kʷɛtəs ta qʷatəm. kʷɛkt ta jɛnxʷ! hɛhɛw qax mot jɛnxʷ.

It is a very misty morning. Menathey smells the sweet scent of the forest. He hears the birds singing. "I wonder what is behind the big trunks of the trees?" thinks Menathey. He went towards a grove of cedar trees. "This tree is really good. How straight. It must be at least 50 meters tall!" He looked towards the river. The fish were swimming upstream! So many!

čiyex^{wəs} k^w taməs. θo k^wayemot ʔawtəms šε ti jεjε. x^{wə} x^woxəs, t̄ɛt̄a^θawus, mɛnaθɛy. k^wɔnux^{wəs} šε mɛxat̄ hɛga mɛmχat̄s. "hmm, gənax^wɛla! mum k^w təs ta jɛnx^w! natəm mɛnaθɛy. "hɛɛwč ʔεʔajusθot tin t̄θok^w!"

Menathey hears something. He hides behind a big tree. It does not take long before Menathey peeks out from behind the tree. He sees a black bear with cubs. "hmmm, it is true! They are eating the fish!" whispered Menathey. "This is the best day of my life!"

"x^wax^waʔaθεʔot̄č ga x^{wə}ʔux^w θo pɛpayɛ ʔəmɛmiš, mɛnaθɛy" hot šε čičyɛs. k^wɔtosəm mɛnaθɛy. jɛqa nɛ šε čičyɛs. p̄ɛθostəs šε čičyɛs. "hɛwč χaλnomɛ, čičyɛ!" "χaλnomɛč ʔajut. x^wačx^w sɛsaystomšx^w qɛy." natəm čičyɛ.

"I told you not to go wandering by yourself, Menathey" said granny. Menathey turned around. His granny was standing behind him. He gave her a big hug. "I love you, granny!" "I love you too. Please do not scare me again." said granny.

θo χariyεʔɛw k^w ʔayɛs ta čičyɛ. x^wɛtot x^wa čɛmas ʔɛt̄anit mɛnaθɛy. q^wɛyq^way mot. tatawtəs sosan hɛga čičyɛ ninijɛ ʔuk^wtəm k^wɔnuxas k^w θičɛm. "k^wɔnux^wot̄čɛn šε mɛxat̄ ʔεʔɛt̄ən k^w jɛnx^w! k^wɔnux^wot̄čɛn šε ti mot t̄axəmay! θox^wɛn ti:s ta yɛmajɛjəs, q^wayin x^wɛtot taʔačisayɛ θ qəmqəm λayčišsɛtawt̄ k^w yuk^wots šε jεjε. hɛtsəm mɛxat̄ jεjε t̄θ nansx^w!"

They went back to granny's house. Menathey could hardly eat for talking so much. He told Sosan and his granny about everything that he saw in the woods. "I saw a black bear eating fish! I saw the biggest cedar tree! The trunk was so big that i think it would take 8 of my friends holding hands to circle the tree. I will call it the bear tree!

"x^wačx^w tawtux^w t̄θ tan k^wat̄θ yɛyεθotot̄ k^w θičɛm. t̄θ θo pɛpayɛ ʔəmɛmiš."

"just don't tell mom what i did in the woods. That i went wandering off by myself." \

gayɛt̄ənč: čimčɛ θox^wɛns k^w p̄ɛqs šε mɛxat̄ jεjε?

Question: How wide was the Bear Tree?