

# *Squamish Translation by Setáalten, Norman Guerrero Jr. of the Squamish Nation*

## *Story Transcript: English and Squamish*

### **Etsím Skw'shim̓ iy ta Hiyí Stsek** Small Number and the Big Tree

Na na7 kwétsi s7ixwalh, Etsím Skw'shim̓ kwi snas, lhiḵ na wa eswéts'wets'.

Small number is a young boy who gets into a lot of mischief.

Kwétsi nch'u7 skwáyel, Etsím Skw'shim̓ iy ta áyishs Nach'ím̓ Skw'shim̓ kwi snas, na námwit txwnách'awtxw lha sí7lswit na7 ta lam̓s.

With his sister perfect number he visits their grandma who lives in a small village on their nations traditional territory.

Na há7lhstas kwis em̓ímash ays ta lam̓s kwi ses mékw'ems kex nach' es7átetem.

Small number likes to wander around grandma's house because whenever he visits he discovers something new and exciting.

Na kw'áchnexwas ta kw'ewkw'ín̓ sitn

This time he finds an old woven basket.

"Na ha7lhs ta sitn" na tsut ta Etsím Skw'shim̓ kwis lha7n ta sitn

"Look how beautiful these patterns are," says Small Number while touching the smooth surface of the basket.

"Na wa tahím̓ ta sitn lhen si7l" na tsut lha si7ls

"It was made by my great aunt." Small numbers hears grandma's gentle voice.

"Nu chexw télnexwas kwi ses tahím̓stas ti sitn t'l'a t'kw'ámyexw?" na tsut lha si7ls.

"Do you know that this basket was made from cedar roots?"

Na wa kw'áchtas ta shíshich'us lha sí7ls.

Grandma looks at Small Number's puzzled face.

Na tsut, "Ta new iy Nach'ím Skw'shirñ esk'éw ta ents kwis nam chet ek' k'exwen ta t'kw'ámyexw kwáyles.

And says, "You, Perfect Number will go with me tomorrow to help me gather cedar roots.

Wi7ski nam chet ílhen kwis sen hánstumiyap, k'es tirná wa wanáxws chet ta xpáy ta stélmexw chet."

Now let us eat and I'll tell you why cedar is a sacred plant for our people and how it can be used in many ways."

"Chan wa k'exwen kwi t'kw'ámyexw na7 ta Tem Ekwáyanexw.

"I try to gather my roots in the fall after the rains and before the frost.

Nilh melh welh sen p'í7nexw kex kwi t'kw'ámyexw kwins p'áyažen ta sitn na7 ta Tem Tikw'."

That way I make sure that I have enough supply for the winter to make my baskets."

Na tsúntaswit lha sí7lswit kwi ses nam ta stséktsek.

Says grandma to Small Number and Perfect Number when they entered the forest.

Na wa surnálhen kwi ha7lháyakep ta stséktsek na ti slhémlhem natlh kwa Etsím Skw'shim

It's a misty morning and small number can smell the sweet scent of the forest.

Na wa tkwayá7nminswit ta slúlum tl'a kw'ínexw chíhíwílh na7 ta stséktsek

He hears how the birds sing to each other somewhere high in the trees.

“Stam melh táychiwílh ta hiyí slhékw'wílh?” wa ta7áwn ta Etsím Skw'shim kwis í7imesh na7 ta státaɣáys.

What is behind those big trunks?” thinks Small Number and starts walking over the course woody debris on the forest floor.

Men wa shích'átsuts ta kw'up'chík iy ta esxítskachxw welh tsítsixws ta stséktsek ch'it ta stákw.

He moves between fallen dead trees and the remains of large branches until he reaches the group of trees standing by a creek.

Na mhi ch'íti ta stsek na wa tsekwúsems

Small number gets close to one of the trees and looks up.

“U... an tékw'em ti stsek!”

“How straight this trunk is!”

“An tl'áktiwa!”

“This tree must be at least 50 metres tall!”

Ses men kw'awch ta stákw.

Then he looks down at the water.

Na m̄i hiyí ta k̄é̄lkelum̄s na m̄i awíts t̄l'a skweníwsems ímen kwis kw'áchnexwas ta achcháwam sts'úkw̄i7 na7 ta stak̄w.

Small Numbers Eyes widen and the beating of his heart fastens when he realizes the creek is full of spawning salmon.

“an k̄ex sts'úkw̄i7 i tti!”

“There must be thousands of fish here!”

Na wa tsek̄wúsem kwa Etsím Skw'shim̄ wa kwáyantsuts táychiwil̄h ta stsek̄.

Small Numbers lifts his head and quickly steps back behind the tree.

Ses men iyím kwis skwálwens na kw'áchnexwas ta ílhek̄a7min ta swá7elt

After a few moments, gathering all his courage, he peeks out at the other bank of the creek.

Na wa kw'áchnexwas ta chésha7 míxalh iy ta chácheñat míxalh-ul-lhs wa emútswit lesíw̄il̄h ta hiyí xápa7ay.

There he sees a huge cedar tree and a black bear with her three cubs just under it.

“na ts7it, wa ílhen ta sts'úkw̄i7 ta míxalh” wa lhák̄at ta Etsím Skw'shim̄

“So it's true that bears eat salmon” whispers Small Number

“an ha7lh en skwálwen kwis kw'áchnexwas ti stsi7s!”

“This is the most exciting day of my life!”

“Etsím Skw’shirh! Chen tsun chexw kwis ch’ích’its ta ents!”

“I told you to stay with me all the time Small Number!”

Na wa tkwayá7nmins ta nekwéltns lha si7ls ní táychiwilhs.

Small Number hears his grandma’s quiet voice coming just from behind him.

Na wa sheych’ántsuts ses men k’áts’usen lha si7ls. “An chen tem st’i7 ta new lhen si7l” na tsuntm

“An chen tem st’i7 ta new ímen, welh haw kw’exw ip’áakw’ulhmints!” na tsun lha si7ls.

He turns around and hugs his grandma very tightly. “I love you so much grandma!”

“I love you very much too, but please don’t scare me like this again!” replies grandma.

An ha7lh skwáiwens ta Etsím Skw’shirh kwis ítimusem na7 ta stséktsek kwis tsuntm ta syets na7 ta larhs lha si7ls.

During dinner back at grandma’s house Small Number cannot stop telling grandma and Perfect Number about his adventure.

“Chen kw’áchnexwas ta míxalh wa ílhen ta sts’u7wi7 lesíwilh ta hiyí xápayay!”

“I saw bears eating salmon under the biggest tree ever!”

An hiyí ta slhékw’wilh ta stsek kwis ses men huy tektkách en síiyay wa ip’áchstway kwis ses sheych’ántm tas chet

The trunk of the tree was so big that I would need at least eight of my friends to

hold their hands to get around it.

“Chen wa nan ti stsek... ta míxalh stsek!”

I'll call it the Bear Tree!

“Haw kw'exw hans lhen cheshá7 kwins í7imesh mench'nch'ú7 na7 ta stséktsek.”

“Just don't tell Mom that I wandered through the forest on my own.”

Swelkw'áls: kw'in kwi síiyáys kwi ses sheych'ántem ta míxalh stsek?

Question: How wide was the bear tree?