

Small Number and the Salmon Harvest
(Sliammon Translation)

T^θuq^waʔəm k^w jən^xw mənəθey
Menathey and the salmon harvest



Wiwlos mənəθey. paye ʔuk^wtəm yeyeθts.

Menathey is a young boy who gets into a lot of mischief.

Taset k^w q^wet nes λames. Heł še mans hega še tans nes ʔonaganəm.

He lives in a small village by the water with his father and mother.



Hehew ʔi mot tʰokʷ ta xečič

it is a crisp autumn day

čēčegatəm menaθey ʃe mans. ʔapetas ʃe ʔaʔačs hewtəm θos ʔaʔačum.

Menathey is helping his father to prepare the nets for tomorrow's salmon harvest.

"ne kʷa qax mot jenxʷ kʷikʷtʰem kʷ lekʷanəm. Meqʷjenštəm qajeħas leqʷ", natəm ʃe mans.

"There is a school of salmon by Scuttle bay. We need to set our net in the morning while the tide is still high", says Menathey's father.

Čet kʷa ʔaʔayin menaθey θo qametas ʃe mans kʷ ʔaʔačum. Qax kʷ xaʔs kʷ toxʷuxʷas..

It is the first time that Menathey will go with his father to catch salmon and he has many questions/



“čum k^w nes ta taleč xeyxagis tatəms ta paʔač hega taxəmay ta θahəms?

ʔat^ə tamtən teʔe titi xeyxagis?

čumče θox^wins qatəms še xeyxagis?

čum če θox^wins nijiʔenx^wegas?

čum k^w nəms k^w čits ta taxəmay?

Čum k^w θox^wins laqts ta paʔəč?

Čum k^w θox^wins k^w ləpjens ta paʔəč?”

“Why are these round pebbles on one side and those pieces of cedar on the other side of the net?

Why do we need those two big rocks?

What is the weight of those pebbles?

How far apart are they?

Why are the pieces of cedar cut in this shape?

How long is the net?

How deep is the net?

“həqəmčxʷut mənəθey, ʔukʷsəm təm toxʷuxʷaxʷ kʷisəm”, qasqasəm ʃe mans.

“be patient, menathey, you will learn all tomorrow,” smiles his father.

“Hoga taʔəwt ʃəθ kʷokʷpa hega ʃəθ čepθ hojits ta ʔəʔəč. Tawčuxʷ ga nəʔəs ta qʷets kʷ laʔayin tʰokʷokʷ. Juʔ ga.”

“now run and tell your grandfather and your uncled that the net is ready and that they should be at our beach before dawn!”



Həhew qʷəʔəʃqʷiʃ mənəθey kʷ čet ɣeyθots.

Menathey is very excited about his new adventure.

Xʷə čemas ʔi hay ʔičt. gaʷuxʷas kʷ ti mot jənʷ. Kʷitʰem ta če.

When he finally gets to sleep, he dreams about a big salmon jumping out of the water and falling back with a splash.

“ριζεμ ga μεναθευ. k^wi ne k^w q^wet φαqəm šaθ man.” činəm μεναθευ šε tans.

“wake up Menathey. Your dad is already down the beach”. Menathey heard his mother’s voice.

Θο λαq μεναθευ. qak^wum. K^wank^wontas k^w ʔuk^wčenas.

Pərk^watas ta šeteq^wans ta taqt ta θohomux^w>
čiyetas k^w juʔuk^w hega k^waqts k^w hiyom.

When he steps outside, Menathey stops and looks around.

He sees dark sharp peaks of mountains to the north.

He hears the sounds of the waves and the squawks of seagulls.



K^wonux^was ta qax təmtumiš ʔata q^wet. jilmetas.

Down on the beach, Menathey sees a group of men and starts running towards them as fast as he can.

“ʔi mot t^θ q^wal tas”, natəm šε k^wok^wpas, peθostas.

“Just on time, Menathey” says his grandfather hugging him.

“ʔuk^wtəm hojet k^wums θo. ʔayewuʔ ta nux^weʔ ʔəms paʔač hega ta pičpiciu.”



"Our canoes are loaded with nets and baskets and we are ready to go."

Θο τασεω κ^w λεκ^wανəm . ραλčetəm šε κ^wοκ^wpas hega šε čεpθs šε nuχ^wiyet.

When they arrive at Scuttle Bay, Menathey's grandfather and uncle pull their canoe out of the water.

Neʔot ʔowoʔet menaθey hega šε mans. Xanatojetas šε κ^wοκ^wpas ta sayayins ta paʔač.

Menathey and his father stay in their canoe and pass the ends of the net lines to grandfather/

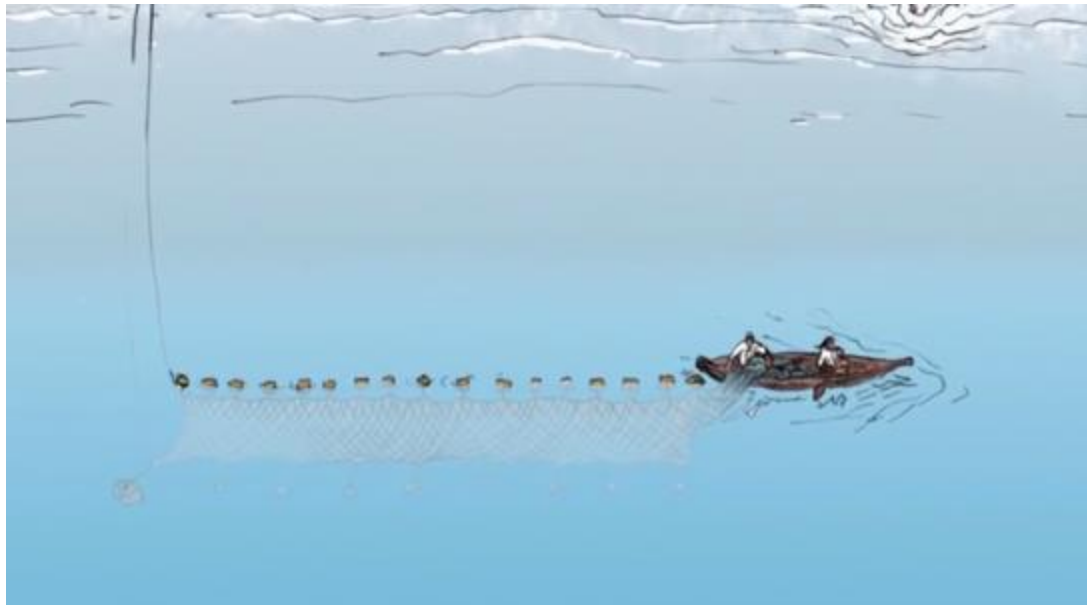


Ἡεῳῑςῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ. ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ . ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ.

Menathey paddles away from the beach while his dad continues to pay out the net lines.

Ἡῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ. ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ.

When they reach the beginning of the net, they turn the canoe parallel to the beach and dad throws a big rock that is attached to the net into the water.



“ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ”, ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ.

“this anchor will hold the net in place,” he says to Menathey.

“ῑῑ, ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑ”, ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ. “ῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ.”

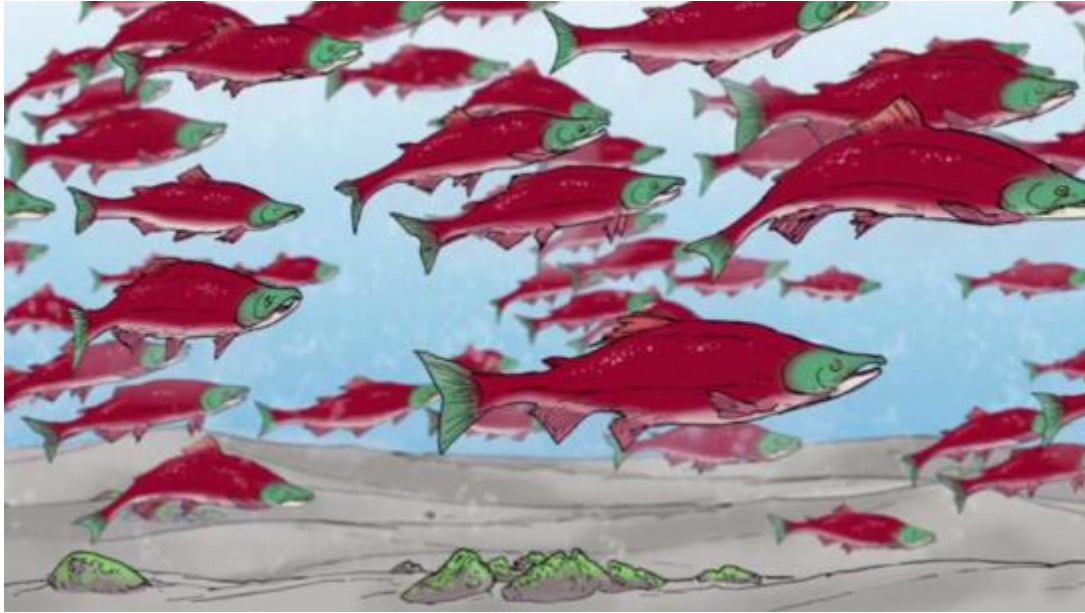
“oh, i see, says Menathey, “the pebbles will keep one edge of the net on the bottom and the pieces of cedar will float and keep the other edge of the net on the surface.”

ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑ ῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑ. Ἡῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑ. Ἡῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ. ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ.

Menathey sees how a large group of salmon have drifted inshore with the incoming tide. He looks at their large smooth bodies and feels his heartbeat fasten.

“ῑῑῑ ῑῑ, ῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ ῑῑ ῑῑῑῑῑῑῑῑ.”

“how strong and beautiful these fish are!”



Չըջետս^{as} ta րաղաճ. Լաղային փայի՛ մենաթեյ. քանոյետս ի՛նչ շերթս ta սայայինս ta րաղաճ.

The anchor secures the other end of the net and Menathey turns the canoe towards the beach where his dad passes the net lines to Menathey's uncle.

“Շւմճեսճեմ թօխ^w ւնս յաճս զայտ? Ի՛նչ զայ գայե՛տն մենաթեյ.

“զախաճեսճեմ յեն^w մաղախ^wե՛տ տօկ^w?”

“Լօմետսճեմ տւմս քանտ կ^w յուկ^w գատս?”

“Շւմճեսճեմ տօխնս^wե՛տ զա զ^wալասճեմ քալի ta յւնյեն^w?”

While his dad pulls the canoe out of the water, Menathey asks,

“How many salmon will we catch today?”

“How are we going to divide the salmon among our families?”

“Will there be enough for everybody?”

“How do we know that the salmon will come back?”



"tox^wnax^wšt ʔot", natəm še mans.

Niščx^wot tεʔε. čεgətčx^w šaθ čεpθ tuk^wtas ta paʔəč. Hot^əam čεgət šaθ k^wok^wpa.

"we have our ways," answers his father. "now, you stay here to help your uncle pull on the net lines. I'm going to help grandpa."

ʔəʔayinəw tuk^wjen ta paʔəč. K^wonetas jεnx^w nεnpet ta paʔəč. Tawtas še čεpθs. "hew ʔi mot tums q^wal qajeʔəs ʔεq^w ta qaye. ʔot qaqa q^wayin x^wə čemas qayeγčt qax jεnx^w. ʔi mot tums ʔeyeθot!

They start hauling in the net. Menathey sees that all fish within the area between the beach and the net are captured and says to his uncle, "Good that we came during the high tide. If the tide were low we wouldn't catch this many fish. Our ways are good!"



Gayełtanč

Čum k^w nonpeganəms mənəθey ga qəqəʔəs kíkíex^wsəmə k^waθ qəyt?

My question:

Why did Menathey think that during a low tide the catch would be much smaller?

