

**ts'uw'xilum | Tzouhalem**  
**by Elwood Modeste**

Hul'q'umi'num' story, Quw'utsun' dialect. Recorded at Koksilah Reserve in 1980. Translated by Arnold Guerin and transcribed by Donna Gerdts.

- 1      sqwul'qwul' 'u kwthu ts'uw'xilum.  
The story of Tzouhalem.
- 2      stl'i's kws hwushne'ums.  
He wanted to become an Indian doctor.
- 3      sis 'uw' stl'i's kws haays 'ii tthu tl'elhum qa' kws suwq's kw' m'i tse'  
hwushne'ums.  
And he wanted to especially to be in the salt water to seek that which  
would make him a shaman.
- 4      sis 'uw' yu ... yuhun'qum'utus tthuw' mukw' 'untsu tun'ni' 'utl' ... tu'i  
xinupsum.  
He was diving everywhere from here at Greenpoint.
- 5      sis ne.e.em 'uw' xwte' 'u kw'i sqtheq yuhun'qum' 'u tthu nuw' ...  
And he went on over toward the narrows going along diving [down]...
- 6      'uwu kw's tsakws 'i' ni' tl'uw' wulh nuqemutus tthu ni'  
yushhwhune.e.em's.  
It was not far and he dived again toward the place where he was going.
- 7      yusew'q'tus kw' ni' tse' shkw'am'kw'um's kws hwushne'ums.  
He was seeking what would be his power so that he could become a  
shaman.
- 8      sis ne.e.em 'uw' tus 'u kw'i sqtheq kwis yuxut'e' 'u tthey', yuhun'qum'.  
And he went on and got to the narrows doing that, diving.
- 9      xut'u 'i' ni' wulh hwunin'sus tthu hwuhwul'i'wun' tl'itl'up 'u tthu qa',  
He was doing that and then he got to a cave way down in the water,
- 10     sis nem' 'uw' nuw'ilum.  
and he went in.
- 11     ne.e.e.em' nuw'ilum 'u tthey' smeent.  
He went a long way inside that rock (cave).

- 12    tus 'u tthu nuts'a' 'i' tl'lim' hweluq 'i' 'uwu ni'us yul'ewulnamut.  
Coming to another (cave), he almost didn't manage to get through.
- 13    wulh tl'ulim' nuw' 'ulh tsulel 'i' 'uwkw' tthu slhekw'ums  
He was really almost running out of breath
- 14    'i' yelh sus yul'ew' 'u tthu qa' ni' 'u tthey' shqwuwqe.  
before he got through the water in that hole.
- 15    si.i.i.is nem' 'uw' ts'tem nem' 'uw' yushtetul' 'u tthey' ni' nem'  
          shnuw'ilums.  
He went along crawling, following along the place that he had entered.
- 16    xut'u 'i wulh... xut'u 'i wulh tus 'u tthu ni.i.i. thi 'u tthey' shqwuwqe  
          sun'iw' 'u thu smeent.  
He now got to the big hallow inside the mountain.
- 17    sis ne.e.m 'uw' yu'i'mush 'i' wulh tus 'u tthu stl'eyuq'um.  
He went walking along and he came to where there was smoke.
- 18    sis 'uw' nem' yu'i'mush nem' stl'i's kws lumnuhws 'uw' niis tun'untsu  
          tthu stl'eyuq'um,  
He kept walking along wanting to see where the smoke was coming from,
- 19    'i' nem' wil' 'i'... 'i' 'aam'ut tthu ni' 'u tthu tl'itl'up.  
and (some people) came into view, sitting way down below.
- 20    'i 'uw' slhunlheni' 'al' tthey' 'aa'mut.  
Those that were sitting were all women.
- 21    xut'u 'i' ni' wulh lumnum.  
And those ones saw him.
- 22    suw' tssetum thu naan'ts'a' 'uw' ne'mus, mi.i.is t-sutum  
So one was told to go approach him
- 23    'i' 'aatum 'uw'...'uw' ne'mus nuw'ilum.  
and call him to come inside.
- 24    sis nem' 'uw' nem' tthu'nilh ts'uw'xilum.  
And Tzouhalem went.

- 25 suw' tus hwuni' 'u tthu shni's tthu slhunlheni' suw' pte'mutum 'uw'  
stemus kws stl'i's.  
And he arrived to where the women were and they asked him what it is  
that he wanted.
- 26 'i' 'uwute' shtatul'stuhws, 'uw' thut 'al' kws stl'i's kws kwunnuhws kw'  
shkw'am'kw'um's.  
But he didn't know, he just said that he wanted to get something that  
would be his power.
- 27 suw' kwuyxthut thu naan'ts'a' slheni' suw' kwunutus thu yasa'qws,  
One woman got up and took her hat,
- 28 'uw' tuw' nets' 'ul' tthu yasa'qws, sis 'uw' hukwumustum.  
it was a rather strange hat, and put it on him.
- 29 suw' thut-stum 'u they' slheni', "nilh kwelh 'un' shkw'am'kw'um' tse'  
tthey'.  
And that woman told him, "That will be your power.
- 30 "'uwu te' tse' na.a.an'tsa' swuy'qe' q'aaythamu.  
"No man will ever kill you.
- 31 'uwu te' naan'ts'a' q'aaythamu.  
No man will ever kill you.
- 32 tl'uhwla'us 'uw' stl'eluqum'us 'i' skw'ey kws q'aaythamut."  
Even if he is a fierce, he won't be able to kill you."
- 33 suw' thut-stewut, "'i'...'i' slheni' tse' thulh kwsu q'aaythamu  
and he was told, "But it will be a woman that kills you
- 34 'u kwthuw' tumtem' tse' skweyul."  
at some future time."
- 35 sis 'uw' tssetum, "nem' ch kwelh... nem' ch kwelh t'akw'."  
And he was told, "You go on home now."
- 36 suw' tssetum, "nem' ch xwte' 'u tu'inulh."  
And he was told, "You go this way."

- 37 hwi' nets' tthu ni' nem' shxwte's stssetewut 'uw' nem'us shnem's  
kws m'is hwu'alum'.  
This time it was a different direction that he was told to go  
when he came back out.
- 39 'i'...'i' m'i wil' kwis wulh m'i wil' kwis m'i hwtelum 'u tthey'  
shwuhwul'i'wun'  
He appeared when he appeared by following the passage
- 40 'i' m'i shhw'ewus kws m'i...m'i t'akw',  
that he took to get home,
- 41 'i' hwi' 'i' 'u tthu s'uhutsun 'u thu xinupsum smeent kwus... kwus wil'.  
and it was amazingly the other side of Greenpoint mountain where he  
showed up.
- 42 tun'ni' 'u kwthey' 'i nilh ni' wulh hwusht'es kwis hwukw'am'kw'um'  
From that time he seemed to become powerful
- 43 sis hwi... sis hwi' qxutus tthu slhunlheni'.  
and he had a lot of women.
- 44 ni' xwixwu'etus 'u kwthu ni' lumnuhwus slhunlheni' sun'iw' 'u kwthu  
smeent.  
He was replicating the group of women that he had seen inside the  
mountain.
- 45 mukw' 'untsu ni' hwi' shhwunum's kwis tstsehwum.  
He went everywhere proposing.
- 46 sis 'uw' hwusii'si'mutum' 'uw' t-hw 'amustum 'ul' 'u tthu ni' shnem's  
They got so they were afraid of him so they would just give him what he  
came to get
- 47 'u tthu q'e'mi', ni' tl'e' wulh huye'st-hwus.  
—a young girl—and he would take her away also.
- 48 sis 'uw' hwuqux tthu stul'ta'lusth.  
And so it got to where he had many wives.
- 49 ha' ni' ni' kwthu ni' nan 'uw' qulnuhw 'i' nem' nem' stl'i' kws  
q'aaytewut,  
If someone should get mad at him and wanted to kill him,

- 50 'i' skw'ey kws q'aaytewut.  
it was impossible to kill him.
- 51 ha' ni' t'a'thut kwthu nem' tl'its'ut kw' q'aayt,  
If someone tried to go sneak up on him and kill him,
- 52 'i' ni' hwi'uw' st'e 'uw' niis 'uw' thima'tum nuw' t-hw ste'u 'al' 'i' ni'  
q'aaytum.  
it was like he was frozen just like that and then he would be killed.
- 53 xut'u 'i' ni' wulh nem' hwtskwilum nem' xwte' 'utl' pun'e'luxutth'.  
After sometime, he went further away, toward Penelakut.
- 54 'i' ni' wulh hwustatul'stum 'u tthu' mukw' temts kws n'ans 'uw'  
stl'eluqum mustimuhw.  
He got to be known by every tribe as a fierce person.
- 55 suw' tus 'u tthey' ni' shnem's wulh yuxixunum' yuhe'kwul'ush.  
And he arrived where he was going already growling and shooting.
- 56 sis 'uw' 'ulh tl'shathut tthu mustimuhw ni' tsam 'u tthu tsa'luqw.  
And the people would split up and go up to higher ground.
- 57 'i' hay tthu naan'ts'a' ni.i.i huqilum 'u tthu lhxul'we'stun kwis kweel.  
One crawled underneath the seating platforms (in the longhouse) to hide.
- 58 'i' naan'ts'a' thu sthis.... naan'ts'a' thu slheni', thu thi, kw'am'kw'um'  
slheni'.  
And there was one woman, a big, strong woman.
- 59 ni' kwunutus tthu pi'kwun sis 'uw' kweel slhulhaal'we'lh 'u tthu shelh.  
She took a roasting stick and hid behind the door.
- 60 sis 'uw' hun'tsa'luqw tthey' 'uw' nilh ts'uw'xilum yuxixunum'.  
When he came up from the beach, that one Tzouhalem came growling,
- 61 nem' hun'nuw' 'u thu thi lelum' sis 'uw' nuwa'qwtus 'u tthu t'eluw's  
thu'nilh  
He entered the longhouse and she got his head inside her arms
- 62 kwun'etus tthey' pi'kwun, sis 'uw' .. sis 'uw' tqwutus.  
holding that roasting stick, and she squeezed him.

- 63 'uwu te' tl'e' stsla'thut-s tthuw'nilh kwis... ts'uw'xilum,  
And there was nothing that Tzouhalem could do
- 64 kws me'namut-s, n'an 'uw' kw'am'kw'um' thu slheni'.  
to free himself, because that woman was too strong.
- 65 suw' tuteem' thu slheni' 'uw' miis 'ewu kw'u ts'ewut.  
And the woman called for someone to come help her.
- 66 hwun' xut'u 'i' wulh mi.i.i quya'thut tthey' naants'a ni' si'qw 'u tthu  
lhxul'we'stun.  
Finally the man that was underneath the seating platforms came out.
- 67 nem' wil', 'i t'ut'a'thut kws stl'i's kws me'namut-s tthuw'nilh, 'i' skw'ey,  
He came out, and he (Tzouhalem) was trying to get himself free but it was  
impossible,
- 68 'i' slhelhuq' tthu thi lhets'tun's—ni' kwen'hwus.  
and his big knife was lying on the ground—he had dropped it.
- 69 suw' kwunutus tthey' tthu lhets'tun' 'utl' ts'uw'xilum  
And he took Tzouhalem's knife
- 70 suw'... sisuw' t'qw'atum tthu sxa'yusth tthuw'nilh ts'uw'xilum  
and cut off the head of that one Tzouhalem.
- 71 ni.i.i ts'u mukw' 'untsu ni' sht'usth kwis yusi'lum' tthu sxa'yusth  
And it is said that his head was rolling around everywhere
- 72 kwus... kwus q'etth'q'um' thu yunusth (kwis)  
and his teeth were grinding.
- 73 ni.i.i ts'u hith kwis si'lum' ni' 'u tthu lhuxunuptuns thu thi lelum' 'i yelh  
sus 'unuhw.  
and it's said that it was rolling for a long time on the longhouse floor  
before it stopped.
- 74 ni' ts'u mukw' 'untsu ni' shtus kwis yutsetl'um' tthu 'uw'  
smustimuhwsulh tthuw'nilh ts'uw'xilum.  
And it's said that Tzouhalem's body was jumping around everywhere.

- 75     ni' st'e' 'u kw'uw' ni' t'qw'i'qwtum chukun.  
It was like a chicken with its head cut off.
- 76     suw' q'ay.  
And he died.
- 77     nilh sxwi'em' 'u kwthu ts'uw'xilumulh tthey'.  
And that is the story Tzouhalem.
- 78     nilh ni' shni's kwis q'ay.  
It was that place that he died.
- 79     'i' nilh nuw' syuthustewut 'u kwthu ni shni' .... shtun'ni'stuhws kwis  
             kwunnuhwus tthu shkw'am'kw'um's  
That's what he was told where he got his powers from
- 80     kws 'uwus te' tse' naan'ts'a' swuy'qe' q'aayt.  
that there will not be any man that will kill him.
- 81     'i' slheni' tse' thulh kw'u q'aayt 'u kw' 'uw' tum'tem skwuyul.  
And that it would be a woman instead that would kill him some day.
- 82     That's the story about Tzouhalem.