

**tl'lim' 'uw' s'eluhw**  
**Really old**

by Delores Louie | Swustanulwut  
transcribed by Donna Gerds (Jan 2015)

suw' qwaqwul's kwthunu sts'a'muqw 'u lhu tens.  
My greatgrandchild was talking to his mother.

“nu stl'i' kw'unus nem' nets'uw't-hwum' 'u lhu nu si'lu, granny.”  
“I want to go and visit my grandmother, granny.”

[suw'] xut'us lhu tens, “aa skw'ey. nan 'uw' s'ul'eluhw.  
And the mother says, “You can't. They are just too old.”

'i' nu stl'i' q'u kw'unus 'uw' nem'.  
“But I really want to go.”

'uy' tsun tse' stl'itl'qulh, mam.  
“I'll be a good boy, mom.

tth'ihwum, tth'ihwum, mam.  
Please, please, mom.

nu stl'i' kw'unus nem' (ni') [nem'] 'u lhunu si'lu.  
I want to go to my grandmother.

m'i ch tl'umastham'sh 'uw niihw wulh hay 'u tthun' syaays.”  
You come and get me when you finish your work.”

suw' xut'us thu tens, “nii ch tse' kwu'elh 'uy' stl'i'tl'qulh?  
And his mother says, “Are you going to be a good boy?”

nii ch tse' hwiiyunem'ut lhu 'un' sts'a'muqw?"  
Are you going to listen to your great-grandmother?"

"hee'. 'uy' tsun tse'.  
"Yes, I'll be good.

ni' tsun tse' 'uw' hwiiyunem'."  
I'm going to listen."

suw' neet-s kwthu mun'us, hun'utus Noah.  
So she called her son by name, Noah.

"lhun' sts'a'muqw, s'eluhw, tl'li-i-im' 'uw' s'eluhw.  
Your great-grandmother is old, really really old.

'i 'u ch 'uw' hwiiyunem'?"  
Are you listening?"

[suw'] xut'us kwthu Noah, "'i tsun 'uw' ts'i'ts'elhum'."  
And Noah said, "Yes, I am listening."

suw' ptem's thu tens, "ni' tsun kwu'elh hw'iint?"  
So his mother asks, "What did I say then?"

"aa, mom, ni' ch p'e' xut'u, "tl'li-i-im' 'uw' s'eluhw, tl'lim' 'uw' s'eluhw!"  
"Oh mom, you said that she's old, really really old."

"oo, 'uy'. ni' ch ts'elhum'utham'sh.  
"Okay, so you did hear me.

'uy', nem' tsun kwu'elh qw'imuthamu, nem' ch nem' 'u lhu nu si'lu."  
Okay, I will bring you there and I will drop you off, we'll go to my grandmother."

suw' huliye'. suw' tus 'u kwthu lelum's lhu sts'a'muqws.

So they went and they got to the house of the his great-grandmother.

suw' yus-hiil'ukw, hay 'ul' yus-hiil'ukw kws wulh hun'nuw' m'i kw'i' 'u  
kwthu .... [skw'ukw'ishe'num'].

And he was really happy when he entered (the front steps).

m'i lemutham'shus.

He went and looked at me.

suw' xut'us kwthu nu sts'a'muqw, "i tsun hwu'i, si'lu.

And the great-grandson says, "I am here grandma.

'i tsun m'i nets'uw't-hwum.

I am here to visit.

nu stl'i' kw'unus m'i hwu'i 'utl' nuwu.

I want to stay with you.

m'i tse' tl'umasthelum 'u lhunu ten 'uw' niis wulh hay yaay'us.

And my mother will come and pick me up when she is finished working.

ni' tsun tse' 'uy' stl'i'tl'qulh.

I'm going to be a good boy.

tl'lim' tsun 'uw' hwiiyunem'uthamu 'uw' niihw qwaqwul'."

Whatever you say I will listen."

nusuw' xut'ustuhw,"aaa 'uy' m'i 'ewu m'i qwumtsustham'sh."

So she said, "Oh, come over here, give me a hug."

[suw'] xut'us kwthu nu sts'a'muqw, "'oo, si'lu, ni' tsun mel'q."

And my greatgrandchild says, "Oh granny, I forgot."

[suw'] xut'us, "'aaa. hay 'ul' 'uw' 'uy' kwthnu nu skwoul 'u tun'a kweyul.  
He says, "What I learned from school was very good today.

tl'lim' tsun 'uw' hay 'ul' 'uw' 'uy' stl'i'tl'qulh.  
I've been a good chld.

hay 'ul' 'uy' kwthunu skweyul.  
I had a very good day.

'uwu tsun niin' t'eyuq'.  
I never even got mad.

'uwu tsun niin...' 'aa, yustsekwul'st-hwus?....  
And I never...' Oh, how did he put it? .....

"tl'lim' tsun 'uw' yuhwiiyunem'ut lhunu shhw'iiw'tssun'uq."  
I really listened to my teacher."

[suw'] qwals qul'et, "granny, ni-i-i ch 'uw' ts'elhum'utham'sh?  
And he says to her, "Granny, did you hear me?

'i' xut'u lhu mam kwun's tl'li-i-im' 'uw' s'eluhw.  
My mom says that you are really old.

nii ch 'uw' ts'elhum'utham'sh?"  
Can you hear me?"

"hee', ni' tsun! ni' tsun 'uw' hwiiyun'em'utham'u, ts'a'muqw."  
"Yes, I do hear you, greatgrandchild."

"oo 'uy'"  
"Oh good."

ni' hay.  
The end.