

kwunus titum'ut tthunu shqwaluwun | Fixing up my thoughts

Tsul'tsimiye' | Margaret Seymour & Ruby Peter

- (1) 'een'thu ts'ultsimiye', tun'ni' tsun 'utl' shts'um'inus.
I'm C'ul'cimiye' from Stz'uminus.
- (2) tun'a nu sqwul'qwul' 'i' nilh kwunus 'iilh sq'uq'a' 'u tthu 'i'shul' stey.
My story is going to be about myself as a canoe puller.
- (3) nuts'a' skweyul 'i' 'i tsun tuw' sqiqul'us ni' 'u tthu tum'kw'e'lus.
One summer day I wasn't feeling happy.
- (4) 'uwu tsun niin' tuw' sthuthi' kwunus nem' 'aalh 'ukw' snuhwulh 'ushul.
I wasn't up to going out on the canoe.
- (5) we' kwunus sq'uq'a' 'u kwthuw' mukw' lhwet 'i' ni' tsun tl'uw' skw'eystuhw, 'i' ni' tsun thulh 'uw'q'a'thut ni' 'u tthu snuhwulhew't-hw.
I wasn't up to being around anyone, yet I hung around the shed.
- (6) 'i' tsun hwq'a'q'i' wulh kwunus nem' xwchenum 'i' ni' tsun thulh 'uw' q'a'thut 'u tthu ni' t'ut'a'thut, 'i'shul' mustimuhw.
I had no motivation to go for a run, but I still stayed to do the training,
- (7) we' kwus hiin'exum' tthunu ts'lhwhulmuhw 'i' ni' tsun 'uw' skw'eystuhw 'i' 'uwu tsun thulh niin' qw'ulhnuhw ni' tsun 'uw' ni' 'ul' 'u tthu snuhwulhew't-hw.
Even when they were making noise and I was irritated of it, I did not comment; I just stayed there at the canoe shed.
- (8) ni' tsun 'uw' sq'uq'a' 'ul' 'u tthunu ts'lh'i'shul' kwunus ni' t'ut'a'thut.
I still hung around the crew to get the training done I needed to do.
- (9) wulh tssethelum, "'aw'thut 'i' kwunut ch kw' nuts'a' sq'umul'."
I was told, "Hurry up and grab a paddle!"
- (10) nus nuw' qw'ulhnuhw kws 'aw'thut-stalum, nusuw' thut-stuhw, "nutsim' 'ush 'aw'thut tst?
That annoyed me so I mouthed back, "Why should we hurry?"
- (11) ni' tst yath 'uw' lhuxlhuxi'lush 'ul' 'uwu kws tstamut tst. ni' tst 'uw' 'un'nehw 'ul'."
We're just going to stand around and do nothing as usual."
- (12) wulh m'i 'ewu thunu shuyulh, suw' qwul'qwul'stelum, thut-stelum,
It was then I was talked to by my sister, saying to me,

- (13) “ha’ ch ’uwu hwiin’eem’uhw, tetul’uhw ’u tthu ni’ sqwa’qwul’ mutha’mut, ’uw’ niihw nan ’uw’ skw’eystuhw ’i’ stl’atl’um’ kwun’s nem’ t’akw’.”
“If you can’t do as you’re told respectfully, you must just go on home.”
- (14) ni’ hwi’ xulh nu shqwaluwun kwus tssethelum ’uw’ nem’ ’un’ t’akw’, ’i’ nilh thulh ’ul’ tthu ni’ sht’es ’eelhtun ni’ nu sqwul’qwul’.
Now, that hurt my feelings, when I was told to go home for being honest.
- (15) ’uwu tsun ’ul’ kwu’elh niin’ hwiin’t ni’ tsun ’uw’ t-hwnem’ ’ul’ nus nuw’ kwunut tthunu sq’umul’.
But rather saying anything more, I just got my paddle.
- (16) nus ni’ nem’ ’uw’ numnus tthu yath ’uw’ ha’kwusheen’ hwnun’uts’a’ snuhwulh nus ni’ nem’ ’uw’ qwsut ’u tthu kw’atl’kwu.
And I went and grabbed the usual single canoe I use and took it out on the water.
- (17) nus niw’ nem’ ’uw’ nem’ ’u tthu shni’s kwus ’uw’ hwun’a’ ’ul’ thaythut tthu ’i’wa’tul’.
I went to line up to our starting line.
- (18) ni’ wulh ni’ ’u tthey’ ni’ shni’ tst ’i’ ni’ tsun hwi’ ts’uyulhnamut ’u tthu nu syuw’en’ kwunus st’e ’uw’ ni’ ’un’ yu qw’aqw’ulhnuhw tthu ni’ sqwaqwul’muthe’ult ’uw’ nilhus kws ts’ewutham’shs kwunus yu sthuthi’ tse’.
I started to pray to our ancestors, asking for forgiveness for my bad thoughts and feelings to help me fix them up.
- (19) ni’ tsun ts’uyulhnamut ’u tthunu sq’umul’ ’i’ tthunu snuhwulh ’u tthu ni’ wi’wul’ nu shqwaluwun.
I apologized to my paddle and canoe for how I was feeling.
- (20) ’uwu te’ stem nu shtatul’suhw ’uw’ niis nutsim’ nush ’i’ st’e ’u tthey’ ’i’ nu sht’e ’uw’ ’iin’ t’uy’qw’thut.
I had no idea why I was feeling cranky the way I was.
- (21) kwutst wulh st’ut’in’ ’i’ ni’ qwal tthu shyuw’i’na’qw tst kwus tse’ sxuxitsstum’ kwthu tintun kws nem’s tst ’ushul sht’e’s ’i’ m’i’ tst tse’ qul’et hwu’i’ ’u tthu shhwuna’qsuns.
Once we were all lined up, my skipper told us where we had to go and what he expected our time to be at the end of the course.
- (22) suw’ thut-s tthu w’nilh, “tl’lim’ tseep ’uw’ timuthut. ’uwatul’suhw kwthu ni’ un’ yu st’un’us sht’es kwthun’ timul kwun’s ’ushul.”
He told us, “Push each other start to finish!”
- (23) ’uwu niis tsakw thunu shuyulh kwus tl’uw’ ’ula’ulh ’u tthu swe’s snuhwulhs.
Not too far from me was my sister in her own canoe.

- (24) nusuw' xatsthut, "timuthut tsun tse' kwunus nem' 'ushul, nem' tsun tse' 'uw' yu stutes 'u thunu shuyulh kwunus yu 'i'shul'."
I told myself, "I'm going to challenge myself to keep up with her today."
- (25) 'i tsun sht'eewun' xatsthut kws wa'wu skw'ey's kwunus sq'uq'a' 'u tun'a 'i'shul', 'i' ni' tsun thulh 'ul' 'uw' hwthtiwun 'ul' kwunus tl'im' 'uw' timuthut.
Although I wasn't up to doing the training, I pushed myself to beat a goal that I've always thought I couldn't do.
- (26) susuw' wil' kwus st'e 'uw' niin 'uw' 'uyq tsmulmelum 'u tthunu shqwaluwun.
Well, this day I proved myself wrong.
- (27) 'i' tsun 'uw' hwu yuw'en' 'ul' 'u tthu tth'a'kwus sunihwulh, hwnun'uts'a'.
I kept ahead of all the seven single canoes.
- (28) nu stl'i' kwunus 'uw' yuw'en' 'u thunu shuyulh kwunus 'uw' tl'hwut.
I was determined to stay in front of her and beat her.
- (29) nus nuw' ts'uyulhnamut 'u thunu snuhwulh, nu sq'umul'.
So I started praising my canoe and my paddle.
- (30) nus nuw' qwul'qwul'thut, thut 'uw' timuthuteen', "hwuythut. 'uwu tsun 'iin' lhtsiws."
I then told myself to fix up, "Wake up! Don't be tired."
- (31) nus 'uw' yath 'ul' 'uw' yu hwtitumeen'wus 'ul', "yu hun'aathut, tth'ulsimiye'.
I continued encouraging myself, "C'ulcimiye', you can do this!"
- (32) 'uwu ch 'iihw lhtsiws. 'i ch 'uw' kw'am'kw'um'.
You're not tired! You are strong.
- (33) xwum ch 'i' 'uw' thuynamut. timuthut ch!
You can manage to do more, so use it!
- (34) ts'ul'tsus ch, tth'ulsimiye', ts'ul'tsus ch'un' suw' miq'ut tthun' sq'umul' 'i' timuthut.
qaw'uthut ch tse'."
Next switch, C'ulcimiye', you hit it! Push and pull! Use your strength!"
- (35) kwus wulh hay 'ul' qux ni' timutul kwus yu 'i'shul'. 'i' ni' tsun yu hiil'ukw kwunus ni' tus 'u tthu shq'uw'ilum. ni' tsun hay 'ul' yuw'en'.
With so much excitement, I felt so proud of myself, and I made it to the turn first before all the ladies.
- (36) kwunus ni' wulh yu hunum' 'u tthu shni's kws hwq'a'qsuns 'i' ni' tsun wulh 'ayumthut.
I started heading back to the finish and that's when I started to lose.
- (37) 'i' nilh thunu shhw'a'qw'a' ni' st'ee'kw'uw' timuthut sus nem' 'uw' xwumthat nem' yul'ew'tham'shus.
My sister started to push herself more than I could push myself.

- (38) susuw' yul'uw'nusam'shus thunu shuyulh.
And my sister passed me by.
- (39) ni' st'e 'u kw' nuts'a' munut kwthu ni' hwu yu shyuw'en's, susuw' tl'hwunuq thunu shuyulh.
We got half way back to our finish, and she won by just over a minute.
- (40) kwutst wulh nem' se't tthu sunihwulh tst nemustuhw 'u tthu snuhwulhew't-hw. 'i' wulh 'uwu tsun niin' hwu sthuthi'.
When we both packed our canoes into the shed, I didn't feel well at all.
- (41) nus 'uw' yuthust thunu shuyulh 'i' tthu na'nuts'a' nu shuyulh, "uwu tsun 'iin' sthuthi'. 'iihw tsun 'a'lu tstamut?
I told my sister and brother, "I don't feel well. What's happening to me?"
- (42) tthuw' hwun'a' 'i' 'uwu tsun 'iin' thuthi' 'u tthunu shqwaluwun kwunus m'i 'i' 'u tun'a kweyul.
I really wasn't feeling up to being here at all today.
- (43) 'i' ni' tsun thulh 'uw' t'a'thut 'ushul 'u tun'a kweyul.
But I did the required training for today.
- (44) sht'eewun' nem' tsun tse' nem' 'u kwthu taktu 'uw' kweyulus netulh.
I think I will go see the doctor tomorrow morning."
- (45) tl'lim' tsun ni' 'uw' st'e 'ukw' t'uy'qw'thut kwunus ni' sq'uq'a' 'u tthu ts'lh'i'shul' siiye'yu.
I was feeling so annoyed at the many paddlers that were around me.
- (46) 'uwu niis 'uy' kwunus ni' sq'uq'a' 'u tthuw'ne'ullh.
I didn't want to be with them.
- (47) mukw' tthunu smustimuhw, nu sulii' nu slhekw'um nu shqwaluwun, ni' kweyuxum, 'i' ni' st'e 'uw' 'uwu niis sthuthi'.
All sorts of emotions were churning in my body, my soul and my thoughts.
- (48) kwus wulh qul'et kweyul netulh kwunus ni' nem' 'u kwthu taktu, 'i' wulh yuthusthelum, "ni' ch wulh yusa'lus lhq'el'ts' kwun's 'i' wulh kwun'eem' 'u tthu qeq."
Next day, when I went to the doctor, and he told me, "You are already two months pregnant."
- (49) tl'lim' tsun nuw' 'unuhw, 'uyqthut 'u tthu teti' ni' 'u kwthey' sil'anum.
So that was the end of my training for that canoe season.
- (50) kwus wulh kwan thunu mun'u 'i' kwsus wulh tus tth'a'kwus sil'anum 'i' ni' tl'uw' hwu 'i'shul' sq'uq'a' 'u tthu stey.
My daughter who was born also became a canoe puller at the age of seven.

- (51) ni' yu tetul' 'u tthu yath 'uw' teti' sq'uq'a' 'u tthu ts'lhhwulmuhw tst.
She is following along in our family tradition by being a canoe puller.
- (52) 'i 'uy'stuhw tsun kwunus qwiil'qwul' tthu ni' sht'es kwunus hay 'ul' 'uw' 'iyusstuhw
kwunus sq'uq'a' 'u tthu 'i'wa'tul' stey.
This is one of the stories I want to share about my passion as a canoe puller.
- (53) hay tseep q'a'. ni' hay.
Thank you. The end.