

Tth'uwxe'le'ts

by Dr. Ruby Peter, Sti'tum'at of Kwa'mutsun

- (1) 'i-i-i ts'u yath 'uw' wi'wul' thu tth'uwxe'le'ts, sew'q' 'u tthu stl'ul'iqulh.
tth'uwxe'le'ts was always coming around looking for children.
- (2) 'uy'st-hwus kws lhey'xt-s tthu stl'ul'iqulh ni' 'u tthu tsa'luqw.
She liked to eat children up in the mountains.
- (3) sis m'uw' t'at'uhw m'i 'e'wu 'u tthu shhw'is tthu hwulmuhw, wulh tetsul 'utl'
kwa'mutsun, yu kwun'atul' 'u thu skw'uyuth.
*She would come down the mountain, coming here to where the First Nations
people dwelled, arriving here at Quamichan, together with her slave.*
- (4) yath 'uw' kwune'tus nilh yaay'us 'u tthuw' mukw' stem tthu ni' stl'i's.
She was always had her with her to do all the work that she wanted done.
- (5) 'i' nilh thu skw'uyuths nilh ni' kwukwun'ut, 'amust 'u tthuw' stem 'ul' stl'i's.
And her slave was the one grabbing and taking to her whatever she wanted.
- (6) qux tthu mustimuhw 'i 'utl' kwa'mutsun.
There were a lot of people here at Quamichan.
- (7) skwa'mutsun thu skw'uyuths, 'uhwiin' slheni'.
Her slave was a humpback—a little woman.
- (8) wulh kwunnuhwus tthu stl'ul'iqulh, 'i' 'uw' hay tthu m'umun'lh ni'
kwukwun'utus.
She took the children. It was only the small children that she grabbed.
- (9) suw' wulh kwunnuhwus 'i' ni' nuw'ushus 'u tthu thi-i-i le'tsus, tsum'e'tus tthu
le'tsus.
She grabbed them and put them in her big basket, packing the basket on her back.
- (10) suw' hun'wush-s tthu stl'ul'iqulh 'u tthu le'tsusth.
And the children were put into her basket.
- (11) ha' ni' kwunnuhwus tthu t'xumulu stl'ul'iqulh 'i' nilh sus 'uw' tl'umst-hwus,
ts'uhwle' 'i' te'tsselu.
When they took six children, that was usually enough, or sometimes eight of them.

- (12) 'i' nilh kwsus qw'ulutus tthu stl'ul'iqulh 'u kwsus wulh kwunnuhwus.
And then they would barbecue the children that they took.
- (13) 'i' nilh thu skw'uyuths nilh tswe' yaay's, thuytus.
And it was the slave's job to prepare them.
- (14) wulh kwunnum 'utl' tth'uwxe'le'ts tthu t'xumulu, suw' thut-s, "a-a-a, ni' tl'am!"
When tth'uwxe'le'ts had grabbed six children, she said, "Oh, that's enough!"
- (15) 'uy' kwun's yuqwul'tsup, qw'ulum tst 'u tthu ni' kwunnuhwut."
You best build a fire and we'll cook what we caught."
- (16) suw' thuythut-s yuqwul'tsup, thuytus thu skw'uyuths thu huy'qw.
So the slave built a fire.
- (17) ni' wulh saay'st-hwus tthu pi'kwun, ni' tse' sht'uyum't-s tthu stl'ul'iqulh.
So she got the big barbecue sticks ready to attach the children to.
- (18) suw' yu q'eq'up'utus yu hunum'st-hwus 'u tthu pi'kwun, xuxeem' stl'ul'iqulh.
So she tied them up onto the barbecue sticks, the crying children.
- (19) kwus wulh t'ut'uyum'tus tthu smuqw'iws 'u thu qulum's.
And then she put balsam pitch into their eyes.
- (20) 'i' nilh kwus wulh t'uyum'tus 'u thu qulum's suw' xut'ust-hwus tthu stl'ul'iqulh,
And so she stuck it in the their eyes and she said the children,
- (21) "hwtqet ch thun' qulum'! tth'up'nuhw ch 'u kw' 'uw' hay 'ul' stitum'.
Close your eyes! Close your eyes real tight!
- (22) ha' ch tse' kwu'elh ni' niihw tse' yuxwnamut 'i' tsuw' hul'iqul' kwun's xunuq't."
When you manage to get free, it will be easy for you to open your eyes."
- (23) kwus wulh hay kwus yut'ut'uyum'tus tthey' smuqw'iws 'u tthu qulum's tthu
stl'ul'iqulh, sq'eq'up'stum' 'u tthu pi'kwun.
*When she finished sticking the balsam pitch in the children's eyes, she tied them up
to the roasting sticks.*
- (24) si-i-isuw' t'un'utum sel'ts' 'u thu huy'qw.
They were lined up side by side around the fire.
- (25) wulh saay' wulh huy'qw thu huy'qw.
The fire was already burning.

- (26) wulh qwal, thu hay 'ul' thi tth'uwxe'le'ts wulh qwal,
And then the great big tth'uwxe'le'ts said,
- (27) “aaa, nu stl'i' kwunus qw'uyulush. nu stl'i' kwunus qw'uyulush.
“Oh, I want to dance. I want to dance.”
- (28) t'ilum tsun tse'. nilh tse' 'un' suw' q'uwwut.”
I will sing and you will drum.”
- (29) suw' hun'ut-s thu skw'uyuths, “wa'thun ch!”
And she was calling out to her slave, “Sing the song!”
- (30) wulh tstl'um wulh t'ilum, suw' wa'thuns thu skw'uyuth.
So she started to jump and sing, and the slave started to sing the song.
- (31) song:
huy yay yu tsiin, huy yay yu tsiin
huy yay yu tsiin, huy yay yu tsiin
huy yay yu tsiin, huy yay yu tsiin
- (32) yu tsetl'um' hay 'ul' thi.
She was jumping really high.
- (33) thithu thu squma's ni' yu sel'q'um'.
Her big breasts were hanging down.
- (34) yu sel'ts' 'u tthu stl'ul'iqulh yu t'it'ulum'.
She circled the children while she was singing.
- (35) song:
huy yay yu tsiin, huy yay yu tsiin
huy yay yu tsiin, huy yay yu tsiin
huy yay yu tsiin.
- (36) wulh saay' thu skw'uyuths suw' q'uww'ut.
Her slave was already drumming.
- (37) 'i' 'uw' ni' tthu sts'esht-s sus 'uw' lhukw'shutus thu thi tth'uwxe'le'ts.
And she took her staff and tripped the great big tth'uwxe'le'ts.
- (38) si-i-isuw' wutl'uts' ni' xwte' 'u thu huy'qw.
And she tumbled into the fire.

- (39) sisuw' hwusts'uts'e' 'u thu huy'qw.
And she went right into the fire.
- (40) wulh kwe-e-etsum tth'uwxe'le'ts, kwetsum.
And Tth'uxe'e'luts was screaming and screaming.
- (41) "ts'e-e-ewutham'sh! ts'ewutham'sh! xwum ts'ewutham'sh!"
"Help me! Help me! Hurry up and help me!"
- (42) "'uy'! ts'uwuthamu tsun tse'," suw' xut'us thu skw'uyuths.
"Okay, I will help you," said her slave.
- (43) kwunutus tthey' thi sts'esht-s, xut'u kwus ts'ets'uwutus, 'i' ni' yu thextus, yu the-e-extus, yu hun'wushus 'u thu huy'qw.
She took her big stick, though she was saying she would help her, but she was shoving her deeper into the fire.
- (44) wulh yuqw tth'uwxe'le'ts 'i' 'uw' tuteem', "ts'ewutham'sh! ts'ewutham'sh!"
And tth'uxe'le'ts burned up, shouting, "Help me! Help me!"
- (45) "'i tsun ts'uts'uw'utha'mu! 'i tsun 'uw' ts'uts'uw'utha'mu!"
"I'm helping you! I AM helping you!"
- (46) 'i' nilh yu thextus yu hun'wushum' 'u thu huy'qw.
But she was in fact pushing her deeper into the fire.
- (47) wulh yuqw tth'uwxe'le'ts, 'i' kwukwtsem'.
And tth'uwxe'le'ts burned up, and she was screaming.
- (48) kwus wulh yuqw 'i' ni-i-i' lhakw' tthu qwa'tsup, lhakw' tthu qwa'tsups.
When she was burning, the cinders were flying.
- (49) sus 'uw' yu 'eeye'q, n-i-i-i' hwu sqw'uli'qw'lush, hay 'ul' qux sqw'uli'qw'lush, hay 'ul' qux kwus nuts'tul.
And they changed into little birds, many little birds, many different kinds of birds.
- (50) 'uli'uy'mut thu sqw'uli'qw'lush ni' wil' kwus nem' lhakw' tun'ni' 'u thu tth'uwxe'le'ts.
The little birds that came flying out of tth'uwxe'le'ts were very beautiful.
- (51) 'i' 'uw' stitiya'xw thu skw'uyuths wulh me'shum tthu stl'ul'iquhl, xuxeem'.
And the slave got busy freeing the crying children.

- (52) me'shum sus 'uw' yuxwutum, mukw' nuw' yuxwutum.
She freed all of them from their bonds.
- (53) sus 'uw' hulinamut tthu stl'ul'iqulh, hulinamut.
And the children were saved.
- (54) ni' q'ay thu tth'uwxe'le'ts ni' yuqw.
tth'uwxe'le'ts burned up dead.
- (55) ni' 'eeye'q ni' hwu sqw'ulesh.
She was changed into birds.
- (56) ni' hay thu sqwul'qwul', hay.
That's the end of the story.

Told by Ruby Peter on September 22, 2016.

Sound recording and editing by Donna Gerds.

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