



CEV'ARMIUT QANEMCIIT QULIRAIT-LLU

Eskimo Narratives and Tales
from Chevak, Alaska

compiled and edited by Anthony C. Woodbury

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Eskimo Narratives and Tales from Chevak, Alaska

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QULIREQ

*Told by Thomas Moses
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Nunat-wa taukut
etliniaqelriit
kuigem ciñiini.

Nunauluteng,
nukalpiarluteng,
nukalpiarat-llu-gguq
paningqerrluni.

Tauna-gguq panini,
pingraatgu nulirniangraatgu
uingevkayuunaku,
taum nukalpiarata.

Uikarautengqerrsaqluni-gguq,
angutet iliitneng-taw' nekevuygmeng.
Taum-taw' uikarautiin,
nulirniaryaaqluku.
Nulirniangraaku-ggur-am-taw'
 atiin-taw',
tupkevkenak'-taun' nulirniartii,
angun,
nuliqsugtii.

Cuna-ggur-am-taw' nengaqerrlun'.

...

TALE

There was once a village
that lay
on the bank of a river.

This village
had a great hunter
and the great hunter
had a daughter.

Although many young men
asked to marry his daughter,
the great hunter did not permit her
to accept a husband.

There was one young man whom she
 wanted for a husband
one of the young men of the village.
And this young man
tried to get her for his wife.
But though he asked to marry her, her father
would not let him,
this man
whom his daughter wanted
 for a husband.

So it was, and the girl decided in anger
never to marry.

...

Kiitawani-gguq-taw'-taum atiin-taw',
 uingesqelluk'-taw' pingyaaqaa,
 uingyugpegnan'-taw';
 nengaqercam'-taun'-uikani,
 tupkenrilatgu.

Cuuluteng-taw' cuut tawaten,
 nunauluteng tawani,
 kuigem ciñiini.

...

Piqerluteng-gguq,
 an'uq taun'
 nukalpiam pania;
 tan'gurraat paugkut,
 nanvam kuiguam ciñiini,
 cameng-taw' malirqaraluteng neplilriit
 pawa-i.
 Tawa-am paqnakngamiki ullalliniluk'.
 Maaten-gguq-taw' tekitai,
 kanaqlagmeng!

Ak'a-gguq-taw'
 piunritlinilun',
 anglungremi-ll'
 ak'anun angluumananrir';
 tuqutniaralliniluku.

Tawam,
 tamaku'-pistai malirqarastai-taum
 kanaqliim,
 ayalegtellii taun' igurluk' kanaqlak.
 Taqevkarluk'-taw',
 picacuunrinrakun tuqutniaranratgun.

...

Uterqeqluteng-llu-gguq-taw',
 ellii-llu-gguq-taw' uterrlun',
 kinguatgun.

As time passed, even her father
 tried to persuade her to accept a husband,
 but she did not want to;
 she still was angry that the man
 she wanted to marry
 had been rejected by her father.

Well, life went on that way,
 in that village there,
 on the bank of the river.

...

One day,
 the great hunter's daughter
 went outside;
 behind the village some boys were playing
 at the bank of an oxbow lake,
 noisily chasing something.
 She went up to see what they were chasing,
 and when she got there,
 she saw it was a muskrat!

By that time,
 the muskrat was faltering,
 and though it dove,
 it never stayed underwater long;
 it looked like it soon would die.

But then
 she saved the muskrat by dispersing
 the boys who were chasing it.
 By the time she made them stop,
 the muskrat was exhausted; it was
 practically dead.

...

They went home,
 and she too went home,
 behind them.

Cuuluteng—taw'
icivarpak tawan'.

And life went on as usual
for a few weeks.

....

....

Piuraqerluni—taw',
callermini,
taun' arnaq,
angutmeng—uumeng,
tanglliuq;
kanaqliit-gguq-gga atkui!

Then one day,
while she was doing her chores,
the woman
saw
a man,
and his parka was made of muskrat!

Piluku—taw',
amatngurpakaami—taw' nuliqnaluk'
 ullagyaaqniluku;
tawaten,
anautellermineng amatngurpakaami.

He said to her
that out of gratitude he was coming
 to ask her to be his wife,
out of gratitude that she had saved him
as she did.

Tawa-ggur—taum civunran—taw',
tupekluku,
uingyunrilami.

And the woman
accepted him,
because she was still without a husband.

Tangnerrayauluni,
tangnerrauluni-gguq—taw' taun'—angun.

Now, this man was a stranger,
an odd-looking sort of stranger.

Cuna-ggur—un'—nuliqluku—taw'—
 nuliqsagulluku.

Well, he married her, and they lived
as husband and wife.

Piculliniluni-ggur—taun' pissuraqami—taw';
maklagculuni-llu.

He always caught lots of game when
he hunted;
he even caught lots of bearded seal.

....

....

Inerqurnauraa-gguq,
taum angutem,
angurrlugmeng—makut aturani,
mecungengraata,
kenillermun kanavet,
macireluki kinerciqaasqevkenaki.

But this man
warned his wife repeatedly,
never ever to take his clothes,
even when they were wet,
and put them by the fire pit
to dry in the heat.

Waten,
mecungcuggluni-ll' tekitaqami.

. . . .

Piuraqerlun'-taw'-em,
mecungyerarelun' tekitelrani,
alliqsai piaqai.

Kan'a--kenilleq--kan'
kumallran'
kenillerem--taum matneranun
kinercirluki.

Tayima-llu-ggur-am piinanrani
cillami uitaluni.

. . . .

Piuraqerluni--taw' wa-i itliniluni.

Iternqami-llu-gguq--taw',
taukut--alliqsani,
maciraumalii'--tangerqerluk':
eṅṅaaqerlun',
qip'arrlun' angqertelluiq--tayim .

Taum-llu-gguq--taw' nulirran,
maligarrluk'.

Maaten-gguq maligartaa,
kelutmun--awn' aqvaqulr' tawavet
nanvam tungiinun.

Elliin-llu-gguq--taw',
malirqerluk' kingunraneng--taw' uiksuamiu.

And this was how it was to be,
even if he came home all wet.

. . . .

Well, on one occasion
he was all wet when he came home,
and later on she dried his grass bootliners.

When the fireplace
was lit,
she dried them
in its heat.

Her husband was gone while she was
doing this,
somewhere outside.

. . . .

After a while, he came back.

Well, when he got inside,
he saw his bootliners,
which had been dried in the heat.
"Ungh!" he sighed,
and he turned around quickly and ran out.

His wife
went out after him.

She saw as she followed him
that he was running to the lake
behind the village.

And she
chased him, running right behind him,
because she still wanted him as her hus-
band.

Imna-llu-gguq-pamn' nanvaq,
tan'gurraat-taw' malirqaravillrat
kanaqlagmeng,
tekicamiu-egmian-taw' kan'',
anglurlun'.

Tawamte'-llu-gguq-taun' arniin-taw'
tekicamiu tamte-ll',
egmian anglurluni.

Angllurraarlutek-ggur-taw' pug'uk
kanaqlaulutek,
ataucikun!

Inerqungraani-am
macireluk-taukut alliqsai,
mumigciskii kanaqlaurtenqiggluku.

Taum-llu-gguq-taw' arnam,
maliggluk'-taw' kanaqlaurrlun',
tawan'-taw' kuiguami.

Tawa-ll'-am-taw' nangluni.

Now the lake they were going to
was where the boys had been chasing
the muskrat,
and when her husband reached it, right away
he dove in.

When the woman
reached the lake herself, then
she too dove right in.

Both of them went underwater, and then
came up together,
as muskrats!

So, even though he had warned her,
she dried his bootliners in the heat.
By doing this, she made him turn back
into a muskrat.

And this woman
also became a muskrat,
right there in the oxbow lake.

And now it is the end.