CEV'ARMIUT QANEMCIIT QULIRAIT—LLU

Eskimo Narratives and Tales from Chevak, Alaska

compiled and edited by Anthony C. Woodbury
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Reprinted for the
Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska
by the
University of Alaska Press
1989
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 atin-taw',
uingeselluk'-taw' pingyaaqaa,
uingyugpegnan'-taw';
nengaqercam'-taun'-uikani,
tupkenrilatgu.

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

Piqerluteng-gguq,
an'uq taun'
nukalpiam pania;
tan'guraat paugkut,
nanvam kuigum ciinii,
cameng-taw' malirqarauteng neplirriit
  pawa-i.
Tawa-am paqnakngamiki ullalliniluk'.
Maaten-gguq-taw' tekitai,
kanaqlagmeng!

Ak'a-gguq-taw'
puinritlinilun',
angiligreml-ll'
ak'anun angiluumananrir';
tuqtniaralliniluku.

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

Utereqluteng-llu-gguq-taw',
ellii-llu-gguq-taw' uterflun',
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,
oisily 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,
tangliiuq:
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' -nuliqlluku-taw' - nuliqsgulluku.

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

Piculliniluni-ggur-taun' pissuraqami-taw'; maklagculuni-lu.

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 kinerciaasqevkenaki.

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.
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 husband.
Imna-lu-gguq-pamn’ nanvaq,  
tan’gurraat-taw’ malirqaravillrat  
kanaqlagmeng,  
tekicamiu–egmian–taw’ kan’”,  
angllurlun’.

Tawamte’-llu-gguq–taun’ arniin–taw’  
tekicamiu tamte–ll’,  
egmian angllurluni.

Angllurlarlutek–ggur–taw’ pug’uk  
kanaqlaulutek,  
ataucikun!

...

Inerguungraani-am  
macirelu–taukut alliqsai,  
mumigciskii kanaqlaurtenqiggluku.

Taum–llu–gguq–taw’ arnam,  
maliggluk’–taw’ kanaqlaurrln’,  
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.