

63. Two Undersea Youths Freeze to Death

(Told by Herman James, September, 1958)

1. maʔú pʰala men ʔama ʔíhmi ʔa di·cíʔtíʔdam- maʔú ʔo kʰe ka·kánʔ di·cí·duwa·du- ʔahqʰa yów ʔbakʰe naʔa yya mí·meʔʔ mi- ʔaʔíʔ nohpʰow- Russian pʰiloloʔ meʔʔ qawi cila ʔíba- ʔaʂoʔoʔ mal- nohpʰoba- mi·meʔʔ naʔá yya ʔul ʔahtʰíʔ citiʔʔ

2. mulido kú·yi- qʰoʂa ʔihcʰe díbucem mi·meʔʔ ma·cáʔ ʔul síhta boʔotí hšicʰmaʔ- síhta kílí šihcimaʔ é- mu- šóhqʰa tol ʔice·du- mulido mi- ʔaha- cunaʔ tol mi- mul ma·caʔ síhta kílí ʔdo- duqʰaya·ciyiʔ men- mulido ʔul mílhqʰaʔ da·bícʰqa- mi- baʔʰe ʔi- šóʔba- men cila dáʔqa- mílhqʰaʔ- menšiba baʔiw-ʔ

3. mulido miʔámhul ʔul- mi síhta ʔiwal tiyaʔ duqʰaya·ciyi·cál i mílhqʰaʔ ʔul dáʔqaw- ʔahqʰa bahtʰé hwoʔ- šóhqʰa wi- mu- mulido ʔul síhta bahtʰé daʔʔaw- duqʰayaʔ- mací hqʰowal duqʰayaʔ- síhcow- kaʔa hla- ʔi- sicóʔ ma·cal- yaláw ʔʔo ʔdú·ciʔ tʰin- ʔahqʰa yó- hayoman ʔʔo- mulido pʰiʔʔan- duweʔliʔli- ʔul ʔihcʰe díbucaʔ pʰala- mihsáʔ dibuʔ- maʔú ʔo šíʔbá hla- ʔi- síhcow-

4. mulido ʔul "dalo·qóʔqate· ya" nihcedu- kú yaʔʔ "yów" hcedu- mulido ʔul qawi beʔi wiša- dalo·qóʔqali- pʰiʔʔan šíʔba ʔel muʔsaʔáʔ min ʔa·du- šicʰmaʔʔ menšiba qawi da·bícʰqaba mi- qʰaʔbe híyeʔ- šuqʰaʔ- mi- hihkoʔʔ mulido cila ʔiba heʔen ma·cal tubʰciʔkʰe tʰin ciʔʔ mihsáʔ min cʰíʔaʔ šahku ʔem- mulido ʔan ʔihcʰe mihsáʔ dibuʔ- duweʔlíʔba-

5. mulido síhta kílí ʔo baʔʰe mišukʰ li- cisátʰmuʔ mi- baʔiw- mulido ku yaʔ- "heʔen íʔba ʔše- ya maʔal šíʔba tól dabo·cíʔbem ʔihʔʰe ʔel-" nihcedu- "cuʔdún ʔtʰin menšipʰila ʔo hoʔʰá·lašuwem-" nihcedu bahtʰe ʔem- mulido menšiba "naʔíʔte· ya" cedu maʔú ʔul- síhta kílí ʔel mul- mišúʔkʰ li šaʔahtalo·qoʔin šuqʰa·tin- tiyá·col kaʔa qʰámʔli bawiliʔʔ men báwiliʔ-

6. ʔihcʰe ʔem ʔʔo kumiʔdaʔ dibuʔ mihsaʔʔ hebeʔi šuwaʔ ʔʰaʔbám tʰin ma·cal šíʔba tol ʔi- síhcow- mulido men híhkoʔʔ men bawiliʔʔ ʔihʔʰe ʔél pʰala sihcoba baʔo hoʔʰá·law ʔtʰin ma·cal- miʔána- mučehciw- ʔul duwe lébaʔʰe ciʔli- ná·qʰo šoʔkó- tol- ciʔli ʔul- heʔen lowáʔkʰe tʰin ciʔʔ mulido ʔul- ku šóʔko- tol- la·li ʔul kú ʔel pʰiʔʔan soh cʰoyiʔ miʔiyiʔ ne·duʔʔ mu qahsilí- muʔcéʔba- menší·li ku ʔém pʰala miqʰamáto- mu pʰala cʰoyíciw-

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1. This, too, is a true story that I am about to tell. My grandmother told this. Undersea youths were living there growing up. The Russians had landed a little earlier, and having lived there for ten years, the children had become big.

2. One time, when the winter rains were falling, [two youths] said that they would go hunting birds—what are named 'black birds' [= coot]. It was at Shohka. Among the piled up driftwood, they had been accustomed to gathering coots [killed in the storms]. They set out for that place, having heard that many were there. They traveled along towards there for a long time. Having done so, they camped.

3. The next day they went towards the place where they customarily gathered the birds. High water was flowing at Shohka. They found many birds and gathered them—all day long they gathered them. Their clothes got soaked all the way through. At first they didn't realize it, while they were wandering around in the wet. Suddenly, when dusk arrived, rain fell again—it rained heavily so that even their bodies were soaked.

4. "Let's climb up out," said one. "All right," said [the other]. When they had got themselves a little way up out from there, unexpectedly their bodies felt numb, they said. When they had gone on a little further, they sat down leaning against a rock. There they sat. After a while, it got so that they couldn't get up—their legs felt rather heavy. When it had become evening, the rains fell harder and harder.

5. They sat there like that at first. Many coots were lying there in the sacks they had been packing around. Then one said, "I wonder how it would be if we stuffed the feathers against our bodies." Perhaps if we did that, it would warm us up," said the older one. "Let's try it," he said. Taking the coots up out of the sack, they plucked them and stuffed them inside their clothes. They stuffed that way.

6. The rain pelted down steadily. There wasn't a dry spot on their bodies—they were all soaking wet. They sat there like that. They stuffed like that. The feathers having got wet, they never warmed up. They really began to freeze stiff when the middle of the night came. At the stroke of twelve it got so that they couldn't talk. Then, probably at one o'clock, one suddenly just died, fell over and lay there, having frozen stiff from the great cold. The other one must have died soon afterwards.

7. mulido ?ul- cila kúwa-ša?li "he?én šíše ma?u na?a yya
 ?dama-ćíc^hqatem" nihci? ?ahq^ha yów ?bak^he yac^hma- we?é. ?aca?
 nop^hotá?li mi hla- keša-ćíwa? ?i-ma- caduta? c^how^h da?faw ?t^hin^h
 "we?e- ?ašó ?bašide- kihla? ?i-" nihci? "keša-ćí?te- ya" nihci? ma?u
 ?ul-

8. mi-mé? ?o ma-ca? ?o kawa-yu ?ido- codot^hmu? ?ahq^ha yów ?bak^he
 yac^hma- mulido ?ul- duwé?li ?ul kawa-yu mihca wi- mi- codóhtaci?^h
 mihq^ha? šóh^ha wi tolh^ha? bahcil é- mi- tow^h mulido ?ul mi- codota?^h
 menšiba ?ul- we?é- ma-ca? ?i- li yala- da?faw šíhta duq^háya? li- menšiba
 "he?é- daćqaše-" nihcićba cila mi- cadutá-ćíwa? cila da?faw ?t^hin^h

9. mulido ku ya? p^hi?fan- ha?be?i q^ha?be híye? cadem "ha?u ?a ?iwám"
 ci? yalaw ?fo bahcilú- caćin šimún taćqabiw^h mulido mihq^ha?
 codóhtaga?li p^hi?fan c^hóy?ta? ba?iw^h qahsilí- mućehciw^h ?aha- mín citi?
 muhqaw-

10. mulido ma?u ?ul kawa-yu tol náhtaqaćba ?ul ?acal hq^há?
 c^hi?dic^hqaw^h ?aca? q^ho- ?i- men kawa-yu tol nem?ba- ma?u ?ul we?e-
 ?aca- new^h p^hi?fan na?a yya ?yowal c^hóy?ta? new^h miyá-?he yac^hma
 ?ana- ší-bat^hya- p^hi?faqa? ší-bat^hya- táćqaw- menší-li cila m^hi- ?iw^h

11. mul menin ma-ca? qahsilí ?ama- winato- nihci? ?aca? yac^hma ?o-
 ba?he- šát^hqaćinati kihla? ?aca? c^hoyí-ćedu- ?ihc^he wi sihcoci-dun^h mú
 ?do- "mu?šatá? men šice-du- ší?ba ?el bala- ?ihyumcime-dun-" nihci?
 ma-ca? ?aca? yac^hma- menšín ma-ca? ?o- bu?aqá ?ime ?el ?iyo-
 šát^hqaćba- he?én ma-cal ?fo qahsil- walá?k^he t^hin^h ?ihc^he ?nati
 siht^hólhma?k^he t^hin mul- bu?aqá ka?a ?o he- yahmó? ka?a- he- bihše ká?a
 ?e- ma-ca? yuhu mé? qan ?fo šát^hqa? menín ma-cal ?fo bute- men
 he?é- qahsili- šulam? t^hin ?ihc^he dibuhca-nati ?aca? yac^hma ya-col^h
 mulido men bahnata? he?én ín ma-cal ?fo menšicé-du t^hin. menší-li
 mul dićwa? ma-cal ?ahq^ha yów ?bak^he yac^hma ya-col^h

12. ma?ú ?e- ka-kan? to dići-duwá-du mu p^hala ?ihmi- ti- cadu. mu
 p^hala ti- dasá-la-li cadu- ?ama- yo- mulido- tiya? dasa-law ?wa-yi-
 we?é- ?aya-yóhca co?domaćba- ?ul mi- ?ul do?qó?dićba me? ?ul ?ama
 yo- dasa-law mul na?a yya q^ho- qawiya yya- ma?ú ?e- man? to ?ama-
 dići-du ti- cadu- t^hi?k^he hu?ú- li cadu mu p^hala ?ihmi- men é- man? to
 ?ama- dići-duwa-du- ba?he- ?a ?du-ci? to ?ama- ?ihmi dići-du- ma?u
 ?e- mé?p^hi-

7. When they didn't show up for a long time, the undersea people said, "I wonder why the boys haven't come back." They looked everywhere; even over where the Indians were living [apart from the Russian settlement]. There was nothing. They didn't find anything. "They must still be way off to the south," they said. "Let's go search."

8. At that time the undersea people rode around on horses. In the evening they rode off towards Shohka with four horses. It was far from there. They rode along. They found where [the youths] had been first—where they had collected coots. Saying, "Where could they have gone?" they looked around there for a long time. They didn't find them.

9. Then, suddenly, one person, on seeing them leaning against a rock, said, "There they are." He must have thought they were alive, seeing them at a distance at first. When they rode up towards there, suddenly they were lying there dead, frozen stiff from the bitter cold. They had become rigid like a stick.

10. Having put both of them up on horses, they led them off homewards. Then they set them down at home. Unexpectedly [to their mothers] they set down those dead youths. Their mothers looked pitiful—they felt sad. Subsequently they stayed there for a while.

11. Because of that, the Indians said that cold was a terrible thing. Even if he wore a lot of clothes, a person would die if he got drenched in the rain. "When the body's blood grows cold, one becomes numb," said the Indians. They [Indians] wore a bear skin underneath so that the cold could not get in. Even the rain couldn't penetrate that bear skin or panther skin—or the buckskin that they wore in summer time. That's why the Indians never sickened from the great cold, even when the rain beat against them. [The Russians] asked why it didn't happen to them [the Indians]. Then they told the undersea people.

12. This that my grandmother told me is also true; she saw it herself. She also saw when they buried them in the ground. Before they buried them, they had borne them into the church. Having prepared them, they set the two youths down into the ground. This is what she told me she herself saw—saw with her own eyes—this is also true. That's the way she told me the story. I know a lot of the true stories that she told me. This is the end.