IN HONOR OF EYAK
The Art of Anna Nelson Harry

Edited by Michael E. Krauss
IN HONOR OF

The Art of Hand Weaving from

[The text is not fully visible or legible due to the image quality.]
IN HONOR OF EYAK:
The Art of Anna Nelson Harry

Compiled and edited
with introduction and commentary
by Michael E. Krauss

ARLIS
Alaska Resources Library & Information Services
Library Building, Suite 111
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508-4614

Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska

1982
Published by the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Copyright © 1982 by the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska.

Selections from Glacier Bay Concerto (Alaska Pacific University Press, Anchorage, 1980) by Richard Dauenhauer are reprinted with permission of the author and the copyright holder, Alaska Pacific University Press.

Passages from The Eyak Indians of the Copper River Delta, Alaska (Levin and Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1938) by Kaj Birket-Smith and Frederica de Laguna are reprinted with permission of Frederica de Laguna. This book has been reprinted and is available from AMS Press, Inc., New York.

Much of the fieldwork during which these texts were collected was supported by the National Science Foundation, grants G-23994 and GS-733.

First Printing 500 copies 1982

The University of Alaska is an equal opportunity employer.
CONTENTS

For Anna .................................................. 4
Acknowledgments ...................................... 5
From Glacier Bay Concerto, by Richard Dauenhauer .................. 7
On Copper River Flats, by Frederica de Laguna ....................... 8
Introduction ........................................... 11
Photographs ............................................. 25
Part One:
On Greatness and Smallness ......................................... 35
   Introduction ......................................... 37
   Lake-Dwarves ........................................ 39
   Giant Rat ............................................ 47
   1933 Versions of Lake-Dwarves and Giant Rat .................... 59
Part Two:
On Good and Evil .......................................... 63
   Introduction ......................................... 65
   Two Sisters .......................................... 67
Part Three:
On Husband and Wife ........................................... 81
   Blind Man and Loon .................................... 85
   Raven and His Wife Quarrel ............................... 91
Part Four:
On Identity and Conflict ........................................ 95
   Introduction ......................................... 97
   Woman and Octopus .................................... 99
   Groundhog-Man ....................................... 109
   Wolf-Woman ........................................ 123
Part Five:
On the Beginning and End of Eyak History ......................... 143
   Introduction ......................................... 145
   Eyak History ........................................ 147
   Lament for Eyak ...................................... 155
A·nah, qa·k'ah sah·ż da·x sidagaleh siya· yik'a't, i'e' a't yan'łq' yik'a't. Alash-gahx k'udzu·dah xuda·yitch'a·q', ńyaya'u·t q'at q'a·l waż i·t'eh. I·ht xki·ńx.

Gadla·'awch'aht a·nda' ńxsi'anht, ilah laż tsin'da-xilehwaht, da'ú·daşxyi·ńkib da'í·daga' iyá· laż tsin'da·yileh, I·ya·qdalaghayu·ga' laž iyá· k'utsin' da·yilehwaht q'al.

Dik' da'ú·daşxyi·ńkib k'e·'shuh da'a·nt xuda·ładeh. I· awa: k'udzu·dahshgahx xuda·tideh. I· q'aw k'udat'u· sit dasa·řde'k, I·ya·qdalaghayu·ga' tsin'dale·l sit dasa·řde'k. Da'iq'ya' tsin'dalehch'iya' q'a·i' , tsahkt'ach'iya'lawdak q'a·i'.

Daga·'xk'a·t la'ditsi·n u·ch'aht ulel qa·nsa'yaht xu· ne·t'll'da·x a·nda' ńxsi'anht, I·ya·qdalaghayu·ya' tsin'daleh da·x tsahkt ńxa' ixdixa·k'waht, dilich' da·didehwaht. K'ulat'u· qañah ńxa' xsdixa·k' da·x q'i·dax ida' ixda'arńk'qach' uy·dañ a't xan'tq' uyá' q'e' xdlaxa·kk q'aw. Iyáxa·q' q'aw k'udat'u· I·ya·qdalaghayu·ya' tsahkt da·x wañah da·x tsin'daleh dílt'a·rqach' distilahí. Di'da· i' satsahkt, k'udzu·dahshgahx da'awga·daxu·ya·n' da·xíllt'ak', dílt'a·rqach'. Aw ditl'ak q'al q'a·l ich' qu'áltah, iyá· k'uch' qu'áltah, ikwu'na·gaway·ch' Tla'xa·lahgayu·ch'dik. Alshgahx a't k'a·di'dah ik'ah la·yitinhuní; iyáxa·q' q'uhnu· k'a·di'dah I·ya·qdalaghayu·k'ah la·yitah.

I· saññx dañxuṉh yifeh da·x waż k'úsatsinhí. I·ya·qdalaghayu· lagáda·'at. Di'du'x dañi'q' i·nsdí'ahliní· , datlí. De·lehnshduw ts'it i· awa· atsgadalení. Atsgadalení. Ashdhí. Dik' u·la'xílg'aqq. Q'a·l awa· i·gidik qa·k'ah k'a·dih. Ikwu'na·gayu·xa' , uya' q'e' waż idiñinhuní. Te' q'al a·nt xki·ńx. Xu· sítśi·ńkib sasínth, a' ulah qe'xlel da·x sasínth. Sidagalehyaq'dik u'íht gaxsi·ńda·x i· siya· ulah k'úsatsinhí, di'lah sidagaleh q'e' idí-lewaht. Waż q'aw sich'á·x saht. Iyáshghayu·dik sasínth, tuhgt'âní. Xu· awa· dik' iya· ulah k'uxstsinhiní. K'udax. I· a't i·nsatayát da·x k'ut'u'da·x sích'á·x saht da·x xu· awa· k'udex·dah ich'á·x axsahí. K'udex·dah iya· k'uxstsinhiní. I· stá'dah si'á· ga·nsata'ált da·x k'udex·dah awga' ixa' k'udzu'dah galaxsta'qí, di'waż gali·tah dawa'. Q'ral awa· i· sasínhl da·x xki·xí. Te' i·nsílgehqt. Ts'ít al awa', iya·a·q' shgahx k'a·di'da· I·ya·qdalaghayu·k'ah k'ula·yitah, uwahtshgahx ich'á·x ixyiah.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Anna Nelson Harry and to the Eyak nation I owe a debt far greater than I could repay. This book, largely by Anna, is entirely about, for, and dedicated to the memory of Anna and of Eyak.

This work would not have been possible without the contribution of the late Lena Saska Nacktan of Cordova, who gave me the initial help I needed in the hearing and interpretation of nearly all of Anna’s texts included in this volume.

I am deeply grateful to Frederica de Laguna for her immeasurable contribution both to Eyak and to this book, first in 1930 by recognizing Eyak, and then in 1933 by her ethnographic work with the Eyaks, which included the first writing of Eyak oral literature, largely from Anna; that work was published in *The Eyak Indians of the Copper River Delta, Alaska* by Kaj Birket-Smith and Frederica de Laguna (Copenhagen, 1938), to which this book owes much. Half a century later, Frederica de Laguna again contributed immeasurably to the present book by reading the manuscript of it, making many helpful comments and suggestions, allowing me to reprint the 1933 versions of Anna’s stories appearing here, furnishing and allowing me to copy several of the photographs appearing here, and by allowing me to include here her previously unpublished poem to the Eyaks.

To Richard Dauenhauer this book also owes much, for his thoughtful reading of the manuscript and comments on it, for furnishing and permission to reproduce a photograph of Anna, and for his permission to reproduce part of some stanzas inspired by Eyak in his volume of poetry, *Glacier Bay Concerto* (Alaska Pacific University Press, 1980).

To Ronald Scollon and John Bernet I am also grateful for their reading of the manuscript and many helpful comments.

*This book, long out of print, is now again available in reprint from AMS Press, 56 East 13th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003.*
I am also deeply indebted to Martha Nelson and Eva Sensmeier of Yakutat, who have cared much for Anna, and who sent me biographical information about Anna and photographs of her, some of which are reproduced here.

For errors and the many faults in this book, I alone am responsible.

I wish to thank also Elaine Abraham of Yakutat and Anchorage, Margaret Anderson of Cordova, Sophie Borodkin of Cordova, and Rita Gunderson of the Cordova Historical Society, who, in addition to Frederica de Laguna, Richard Dauenhauer, Martha Nelson, and Eva Sensmeier, sent me photographs of Anna, many of which are published in this book. I thank the University of Alaska Archives for help in the reproduction of the two engravings from the 1880s.

Jane McGary I thank and admire for her expert preparation of a difficult manuscript for the press, and for her many valuable editorial comments.

I am grateful to Randall Jones for the many hours he gave to the task of assembling, technical editing, and even electronic enhancement of the tape-recordings to accompany this book.

To the National Science Foundation goes the credit for the essential support of the basic work on Eyak, 1963-1969, of which this book is one of the results.

A large number of the printed copies of this book are to be given to the people of Yakutat in memory of Anna. Any proceeds from the sale of the rest will be used toward recovery of printing costs; any remainder thereof will be used toward the printing of the dictionary of the Eyak language, a further memorial to the Eyak nation.
The language
eternal
though the speech
extinct.

Richard Dauenhauer,
‘Rilke at Glacier Bay’

Eyak language
three speakers left
whose hearts have grown old,
whose speech will die forever
and the instance
of human voice
crystallize to text,
a lexicon, and grammar.

The trumpeter swans
linger to November.
Boating at Eyak lake
between the ice and waterfall.

They will build among no rushes.
We will wake
finding they have flown away.

Richard Dauenhauer,
‘Epiphany’
On Copper River flats
I smell the salty stench of drying seaweed.
My bare toes clutch cold wetness,
reluctant silt,
stretching the haze of miles.

My tracks dissolve in dimpled pools,
as the lines once gouged by your canoes,
dragged by brown arms,
returning potlatch-proud,
the rising tides effaced.

*Frederica de Laguna*
In the delta of Copper River in the early fall.

START FROM ALACÂNİK.

INTRODUCTION

Anna Nelson Harry was one of the very last of a whole nation, the Eyaks. Her death is full of meaning for all mankind. Her long, hard life spanned the unutterably tragic final chapter of the living history of her people. Anna had the gift of the Eyak language, to tell the stories of her people. The spirit of her language and people lives in her art. The Eyak nation, so far as we know, may never have numbered over five hundred souls; but, if we pause to listen, Anna’s art can teach us that the spirit of the Eyak nation was as great as any, and that we all have much to learn from the wisdom of even the smallest and most powerless of nations.

At least some small part of the beauty and wisdom of the Eyak spirit, and also of Anna’s, has been preserved. May both Eyak and Anna gain in this way at least some small share of whatever immortality is granted to us on this earth, that we may sense something of the true meaning of a person’s life and of a nation’s history.

It has been a great privilege in my life to know Anna, and to be able to help this way in the preservation Anna wished of the Eyak heritage she so honored. I can only hope that this book may be worthy as the beginning of a memorial to Anna and as an offering to her people.

In order that the reader may understand the real meaning of Anna’s stories here, I shall begin this book with a brief introduction on the history of the Eyak people and on Anna’s life.

Early Eyak History

The Eyak people of historic times lived along the Gulf of Alaska coast, approximately from modern Yakutat to modern Cordova. About two hundred years ago, however, as far as can be determined from the presence of Eyak place-names and from
oral tradition, Eyak territory extended somewhat southeast of Yakutat. At the same
time, it did not then extend at the other end quite so far northwest as present-day Cor-
dova, but only to the southeastern edge of the Copper River Delta. During the period
1700-1800 two shifts were taking place, both toward the northwest: the Eyaks were
extending their territory northwestward, across the Copper River Delta to Eyak
Lake, while at the southeastern end they were rapidly losing ground to the Tlingits,
who were expanding northwest to Yakutat and beyond, to Kaliakh and Bering River.
In their extension northwestward the Eyaks replaced the Chugach Eskimos, lo-
ically called ‘Aleuts,’ of a culture and language very different from the Eyak, and with
whom the Eyaks expectably at that time had generally unfriendly relations. Their re-
lationship with the Tlingits expanding into the other end of their territory was rather
different. The Tlingit language is related to Eyak, and similar in structure. Tlingit and
Eyak culture are also similar, sharing long and often friendly contact. In fact, the
Tlingits were not simply replacing the Eyaks, but co-existing with them and rapidly
assimilating them, to the point that, as the Eyaks adopted Tlingit speech in place of
their own, they became part of the Tlingit nation. By 1800 Yakutat was mostly
Tlingit-speaking, the Eyak language there already rapidly being replaced by Tlingit.
By 1900 Yakutat had already been for some time entirely Tlingit-speaking; the Tlingit
language was dominant at Kaliakh, rapidly replacing Eyak there; Bering River was
fully bilingual Eyak and Tlingit; and at the Copper River Delta many Eyaks also knew
Tlingit. Thus by 1900 only at the Cordova end of their territory, on ground gained a
century before from the Chugach, was there a community of people whose main lan-
guage was Eyak, some of whom spoke only Eyak and not Tlingit. These were Anna's
people.
Though clearly it is the English language and Anglo-American society that are
obliterating the last of Eyak, we must not lose sight of the strong probability that if
English-speaking people had not thus intruded into local history, the Eyak language
might then have disappeared almost as quickly, perhaps even more quickly, being re-
placed instead by Tlingit. The Tlingit people were already at the end of the 18th cen-
tury in direct contact and conflict with the Chugach Eskimos, across Eyak territory.
The Tlingits and Chugach Eskimos were both relatively powerful and aggressive
Alaskan nations, of very different origins, but both highly ocean-going (the Chugach
in skin boats and the Tlingit in wooden dugouts), while the Eyaks were a small nation,
cought between them, hardly even a buffer, but more allied with the Tlingits, surviv-
ing as best they could in that position.

Eyak Prehistory and Relations with Athabaskan

Unlike their coastal neighbors, the Eyaks were no naval power at all, and sea-
mammal hunting was not a major subsistence activity for them. They preferred
gathering clams and mussels from the tide-beaches, fishing salmon from the streams,
and hunting goats in the mountains. Further suggesting an interior origin of Eyak is the fact that the closest relative to the Eyak language is not Tlingit, but the Athabaskan language family of the interior of Alaska, interior northwestern Canada, and of the Navajos and Apaches. This great language family, thus with extensions as far as Arizona and New Mexico, consists of the descendants of a common ancestral language probably spoken somewhat over two thousand years ago in the Interior, perhaps somewhere directly north of historical Eyak territory, in the upper Yukon and Tanana drainages. The Eyak language is not a member of the Athabaskan language family itself, however; it is not one of the Athabaskan languages, descended from a common ancestor called 'Proto-Athabaskan.' Eyak is an earlier offshoot; it is the other branch, separate from Athabaskan, of what we may call the Athabaskan-Eyak language family. The Eyak language and the common ancestor of Athabaskan thus in turn had a common ancestor, about another thousand years before Proto-Athabaskan, thus something more than three thousand years ago. Accordingly, Eyak is fundamentally no more similar to its closest Athabaskan neighbor, the Ahtna Athabaskan language of the Copper River, than it is to Navajo in New Mexico. (In comparing Ahtna with Eyak, we find that about one-third of the basic vocabulary of Eyak is historically the same as that of Ahtna, but we get exactly the same proportion when we compare Eyak with Navajo.) The only explanation for such a situation is that the ancestors of the Eyaks must have been separated somehow all these thousands of years from the ancestors of the Athabaskans. It is difficult to understand from the map of modern Alaska how this could happen, especially since it was not unusual for Alaskans to travel on foot even across glaciers. Perhaps the ancestors of the Eyaks were pocketed for a long time on the coast by glaciers that were once far more formidable than are those of today. The prehistory of the Eyak people and the nature of their long isolation from all the Athabaskans remain a mystery, as does when and how they came to the coast, as they must at one time have come, from the interior. Perhaps a hint may be found in the puzzling name the Ahtnas have for the Eyaks, Dangane 'uplanders', and in the equally strange fact that the Eyak word for 'downriver', li', is the same as their word for 'into the closed end of something', its original meaning. Then there is Anna's own legend of the interior origin of the Eyaks, included in this volume. In any case, in the mystery of Eyak prehistory, there is also the lesson for us that we must not presume we really know more than fragments of the past.

Modern Eyak History: 1889, and Destruction

The final chapter in the history of the Eyak nation began in 1889 with the establishment of the first American cannery in Eyak territory. Until then, Eyaks had had relatively little contact with Europeans. They were not aggressive traders, and generally avoided contact with the Russians, although in the 1850s many of them became nominally Russian Orthodox, through missionary efforts; they also traded somewhat
the Russians at their post at Nuchek (established 1793) in Prince William Sound. There are a few Russian words borrowed into their language. Still, as of 1889, the Eyak were living in an Eyak culture very much intact yet in the Cordova-Copper River Delta area. They had two main villages, Eyak* at the outlet of Eyak Lake, the opposite end from modern Old Town and Cordova, and Alaganik*, about twenty miles to the east, on one of the many sloughs of the Copper River Delta. The people of the two villages were very closely related, and moved freely back and forth between them. The Eyaks of Bering River village (Chilkat, near Katala in Controller Bay) were also closely related, but somewhat separate, a much smaller group, by 1889 speaking both Eyak and Tlingit, as mentioned before. There was perhaps a total of 200 Eyaks in this general area in the 1880s, about 160 at Eyak-Alaganik and fewer than 40 at Bering River.

In 1889 four American salmon canneries were established in or very close to this Eyak country: two on the western end of Eyak Lake (one of which moved in 1895 to Orca on Prince William Sound, just north of present-day Cordova), and two on Wingham Island in Controller Bay, near Bering River (one of which moved in 1891 to Coquenhena Slough in the Copper River Delta). A trading post was established at Alaganik, probably also in 1889. These salmon canneries operated seasonally, every summer, each employing typically about 70 whites and again as many Chinese, all males. Their fishing practices were lawless and destructive, for example blocking whole channels and dynamiting, for a maximum fast profit; they were ruled only by greed, and severely interfered with Eyak food supplies. Worse still was the interference with Eyak life. The cannery crews brought with them uncontrolled vice: alcohol, opium, disease, violence, and tragic disruption and degradation of the Eyak community, outnumbered each summer by the all-male crews of these canneries, where everything but sustenance or employment awaited the Eyaks. By about 1892 already Alaganik had been practically wiped out by epidemics; the survivors joined those of Eyak, who were moving to a camp site of theirs that was becoming Old Town, around the canneries at the western end of Eyak Lake. By about 1900 Eyak Village itself was destroyed altogether. About 60 Eyaks survived in Old Town, Cordova, where some of the whites had also begun to settle the year round. A new stage of development, in addition to the canneries, and the final blow to Eyak society, was the construction of the city of Cordova, begun in 1906 as the terminus of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway, completed in 1911.

The Life of Anna Nelson Harry

Anna Nelson Harry was born January 6, 1906, the year Cordova began, into this last Eyak community, rapidly disintegrating at raw ‘frontier’ Old Town Cordova. She

*Both these names are of Chugach Eskimo origin, not Eyak, as might be expected in territory recently taken over from the Chugach. Eyak, pronounced I'ya'q in Eyak, is from Chugach igyaq (other Eskimo igyaraq) ‘throat’, here meaning throat of lake, where Eyak Lake has its outlet into the Eyak River. It is a common enough Yupik village name, reflected also in Igiugig on Iliamna Lake, for example. Likewise Alaganik (Eyak Anañanaq) is from Chugach alamaq ‘switchback turn in river’, also a common Yupik village name, reflected also in Alakanuk on the Yukon Delta, for example.
has told little directly of her early life. That as a little girl she witnessed the brutal murder of her pregnant mother is inkling enough. The Birket-Smith and de Laguna book on the Eyaks (1938, about which more below) mentions (p. 9) that as an orphan she was brought up by an Eyak family who neglected her shamefully. A disfiguring scar on her neck is said to be the result of some skin disease which went untended. The little girl had to sleep with the dogs beside the fire, and it is their tongues which are supposed to have cured her. After she was married she was kidnapped by the Oriental crew of a cannery and was kept imprisoned for some weeks before she was rescued. During her husband's illness she supported her little family by working in a cannery.

Anna was married in 1918, at age 12, to Galushia Nelson. Theirs was perhaps the last Eyak marriage to take place. Anna was born the year Cordova began; Galushia was born at Alaganik in 1889, the year the canneries began. Galushia was himself also a most remarkable and important person in the preservation of the Eyak heritage. At the age of 13, in 1902, he was taken to the United States by an American couple who were interested in him. He was educated there and had special training as a mechanic. His family, however, succeeded in inducing him to return to Alaska, offering him false hopes of earning a living at his trade. He had left his people living a more or less unspoiled and happy life at Alaganik. [This could no longer have been true, except in a relative sense, in 1902.] He returned to find them reduced in numbers by poverty and disease, leading a miserable existence on the outskirts of Cordova. The shock of disillusion was so great that the night he landed Galushia attempted to commit suicide. The wound in his breast was not fatal, but it may have been one reason why he later contracted tuberculosis of the lungs. In 1933 he was sick and unable to work (Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, pp. 8-9).

Anna had four sons with Galushia, all of whom preceded her in death, Johnny (1928-1974), Jerry (1934-1977), and twins James (1937-1940) and Joe (1937-1967). Anna's and Galushia's grandchildren are Sheri Henniger, Gayle Nelson, James Nelson, Joe Nelson, and Valerie Nelson (Jerry's children), and Loretta Nelson (Joe's daughter), all of Yakutat. Great-grandchildren are Scott Henniger and Angelique Henniger (Sheri's children), and Jason Nelson (Gayle's son).

Galushia Nelson was taken away (perhaps actually abducted) from Alaska at age 13 and sent away to boarding school, to Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon*

*This information comes from an account by the Danish leader of the 1933 expedition to Prince William Sound, Kaj Birket-Smith, entitled Guld og Grænne Skove (Gold and Green Forests), printed in Copenhagen in 1935 in Danish for the Danish public. In this book (pp. 89-94) Birket-Smith speaks his mind freely about the grim situation of the Eyaks in Cordova in 1933, and supplies additional and more personal information about the expedition itself. According to Birket-Smith in this book (p. 91), Galushia Nelson was in his mid-forties in 1933, sent as a "brilliantly gifted" boy of 13 to a large Indian school in Oregon which he attended for ten years. According to the 1938 book (p. 9), he was 54 in 1933 and sent away to school at age 10; but the Chemawa Indian School records list Galushia Nelson as a student there from 1902 to 1912, arriving at age 13, exactly confirming the 1935 account.
(This practice also contributed greatly to the destruction of the Eyak community; many other Eyak children were sent out to Chemawa, between 1902 and 1920, and many never returned.) By the time Galushia returned to Cordova, he had spent most of his young manhood away, was predominantly English-speaking, and never regained quite a full command of his native Eyak. The dominant language of the household, at least with the children, was English, although Anna’s first language and favorite language to the end of her life was Eyak.

Anna and the 1933 Expedition

The Russians did the Eyaks little or no harm, but were fairly well aware of them. They recognized that there were two languages at Yakutat, and had a name for the Eyaks, *Ugalakmiut* or *Ugalents*, from Chugach *Ungalarmiut* ‘easterners’. They had even collected significant vocabularies of their language, a long one in 1805 by Rezanov (published in 1857), and a shorter one published by Wrangell in 1839.

The Americans, however, both scholars and even most local settlers, never realized that the Eyaks were a separate people with their own identity and their own language, with their own history of thousands of years. The Eyaks were vaguely thought to be some kind of Chugach Eskimo or some kind of Tlingit, or rather a mixture of the two. To this day very few people, even among Alaskans, have heard of Eyak as a distinct Alaska Native group.

It was not until 1930, in fact, that the Eyaks were ‘discovered’ by anthropologists, and by that time they were already nearly extinct. In the summer of 1930, the anthropologist Frederica de Laguna came to Prince William Sound to investigate Chugach Eskimo prehistory, and met Galushia Nelson in Cordova, where she learned of the real identity of the Eyaks. Three years later she returned, on a joint Danish-American expedition together with the Danish anthropologist Kaj Birket-Smith, and a student, Norman Reynolds, mainly to continue archaeological investigations of Prince William Sound, but they began by spending 17 days in Cordova with the Eyaks, in April-May 1933. This was the only work ever done by anthropologists with Eyaks. The result was a fine book, published in Copenhagen by the Danish Royal Scientific Society in 1938, *The Eyak Indians of the Copper River Delta, Alaska*, 591 pages (reprinted 1976), now the source of nearly all the knowledge left of Eyak culture, aside from that in the Eyak language itself.

The largest part of the basic information in this crucial book is from Galushia and Anna Nelson. It was natural for Galushia, with his personality and innate gifts, and the education of his long exile, to take an active interest in his people and their culture, for which he was a perfect interpreter, especially with Anna at his side. Galushia was a very intelligent informant and was genuinely anxious to help us. He speaks good English and was always careful to explain what he knew and what he did not know. Annie, moreover, was often able to supplement her husband’s information. Most of the tales which we have recorded she had
learned from Old Chief Joe, now dead. She would tell them to her husband in Eyak, and he would translate them for us, usually verbally, sometimes in writing. Annie was also our chief source for kinship terms (pp. 9-10).

From this it is clear that Anna made a very important contribution to the account of Eyak culture in that book (pp. 17-242). She also made the largest contribution to the section on Eyak folklore (pp. 245-323), written in English only; for this Galushia was for the most part literally only the interpreter.

*Anna's Life at Yakutat and Eyak Language Work*

Galushia died in 1939, and soon after Anna moved from the situation at Cordova (as she put it in her Lament, 'fled' or 'saved herself') to Yakutat, where there remained a stable Indian community. There she married Sampson Harry (1906-1980) of the Yakutat Tlingits, and began a new life. She and Sampson had two sons, Sampson Jr. (1940-1974) and Ernest Michael (1944-), and two grandsons, Philip John Harry (son of Sampson Jr.) and Situk Sampson Harry (son of Michael).

At Yakutat Anna learned her third language, Tlingit, and participated fully in Yakutat culture. Yet she remained to the end of her life proudly Eyak, therewith enriching in her special way Yakutat culture, as a representative of the Eyak heritage which the Yakutat people still remembered was anciently part of their own. She gladly spoke Eyak to anyone who would listen, as there were still at Yakutat a few individuals originally from Bering River and Kaliakh, abandoned in 1912, who understood or remembered some Eyak from their youth.

Although no more anthropological work was ever done for Eyak culture after 1933, a great deal of linguistic work has been done on the Eyak language since then, and in that work Anna Nelson Harry again played a most important part.

On the 1933 expedition a few hundred Eyak words and some grammatical forms were written down by de Laguna and Reynolds from Galushia, Anna, and Old Man Dude. De Laguna showed these language materials to Professor Edward Sapir (then at Yale University). Sapir was a brilliant and most prominent linguist of his time in American Indian languages, and also a specialist in Athabaskan languages. He at once recognized the importance of Eyak, that it was not an Athabaskan language but instead a separate branch of the language family, related to Athabaskan as a whole, and of great potential significance for understanding the history of the Athabaskan languages and the somewhat more distantly related Tlingit as well. Eyak is therefore an important part of the heritage of all these peoples.

By the time of the 1933 expedition, the Cordova Eyak community had declined to thirty-some persons, of whom only about fifteen could speak Eyak. The need for Eyak language work was becoming very urgent, but no qualified person could be found to do it. Sapir himself was ill; he died in 1939. Then World War II intervened. John P. Harrington of the Smithsonian Institution did work for six weeks in 1940 at Yakutat with George Johnson, who had moved to Yakutat from Bering River in 1912,
and spoke both Eyak and Tlingit. However, it was not until 1952 that a qualified linguist with special training in Athabaskan grammar finally came to Alaska specifically to work on Eyak. This was Fang-Kuci Li, a Chinese linguist who had been a student of Sapir’s in the 1920s. By 1952, when Li worked on the language, there were only about seven people left who could speak Eyak well. Li worked especially with George Johnson and Anna at Yakutat (for four weeks), and then with Scar and Minnie Stevens at Cordova (for two weeks). His work included recording several short Eyak tales from George and one from Anna, the first Eyak oral literature ever written down in Eyak. Li made an important contribution and a good beginning, but could not continue the work, and there things stood for nine more years.

I came to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in fall of 1960, and immediately began to plan a general project for Alaska Native language work. I received the first federal support for such work from the National Science Foundation in summer of 1961, and made sure that Eyak was included as a high priority. By the summer of 1961 there were only about five persons left who could speak Eyak well. Scar Stevens had died in 1953 and Minnie died in the spring of 1961, but Minnie had kept speaking Eyak all her life to her daughters Marie and Sophie, who are in fact now the last speakers of Eyak. Minnie also spoke Eyak with Galushia Nelson’s niece Lena Saska Nacktan (1902-1971), who had moved back to Cordova in 1954 and very much refreshed her Eyak with Minnie until 1961. That summer Robert Austerlitz of Columbia University worked in Cordova with Lena and Marie, and then in Yakutat, mostly with Anna, and some also with George Johnson. Austerlitz too made an important contribution, but there was still no linguist who could make a long-term commitment to study the Eyak language.

The continuing support of the National Science Foundation enabled me to make that commitment myself. From 1963 through 1969 I spent on Eyak every moment available from my other duties at the University, and have spent a great deal of effort on it since as well. I worked mainly with Anna, Lena, and Marie, but also to some extent with all the others still alive whom I could find who could speak any Eyak (George Johnson, Sophie, and also Mike Sewock of Cordova, originally from Bering River, who remembered some Eyak from before 1912). Thanks to these people, it has been possible for me to put together at the eleventh hour what I consider a rather full record of the Eyak language, that is, a dictionary of just about all the vocabulary that survived into 20th-century living memory of Eyak, and a grammar of the way the sounds and words and sentences of the language are put together. All this will be published some day soon, at least before I die, I hope. In any case, the information is preserved for future generations.

Anna’s Tales

An important part of this work, in addition to dictionary and grammar, has also been the preservation of connected speech or texts in Eyak, that is, legends, stories,
INTRODUCTION

history, cultural and personal accounts, both for their value as samples of the language, and of course for their content as the literature, history, and culture of the Eyak nation. In this work Anna has made the greatest contribution of all. She was not only a fluent speaker of Eyak, but she was also a very creative speaker of Eyak, a true artist with the language, as we shall see. Of the speakers remaining in 1963 she was the most willing and able to tell connected stories in Eyak, not only by dictation for me to write by hand, but also, especially, by being able to enjoy telling stories with a tape-recorder going. This was a tremendous good fortune for the future of the Eyak heritage. There are now a few hundred pages of text in Eyak, about four-fifths of it from Anna, and also for most of that, nearly seven hours of tape-recorded original. Anna did the largest part of this dictation and recording during my visits to Yakutat in 1963 and 1965. I transcribed the tape-recordings in Cordova with the help of Lena Saska Nacktan, as I was just learning the language then, and Lena could repeat to me clearly what Anna said on the tape when I could not make it out myself, and help me also by explaining the meaning when I could not understand, so that I could also compose an English translation.

In 1965-1969 I worked hard on editing all the Eyak texts in Eyak, with translations and explanatory notes, and on compiling all the Eyak vocabulary into a large dictionary. In 1970, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I made microfilm and photocopies of the texts and dictionary in preliminary versions.

Since 1970 we have some more Eyak texts from Anna, mostly on tape from my visits to Yakutat 1971-1975, and some recorded by Jeff Leer and Karen McPherson from Anna in Anchorage, 1973. After Lena's death in 1971, I managed to transcribe and translate these later recordings by myself. Through the 1960s and 1970s then, I spent a great deal of time, besides what I spent actually with Anna, listening to her voice on tape, carefully studying her every word and syllable. I learned a great deal from that experience. I began to understand the several levels of her meaning and was rewarded with a deeper and deeper appreciation for her language, her wit, her art, and for Anna personally. That relationship and that appreciation I have for Anna is not like any other I have ever known, or ever am likely to know again.

This Book

This book contains only a sample of Anna's storytelling art. I have included here ten of the sixty texts we have from her (about a quarter of the whole quantity), selected for their superb artistic value and at the same time for their expression of Anna's personality. These texts are traditional tales and at the same time something much more than that, as is true of all great literature. They can therefore be directly compared with other great literature. The greatness of many of Shakespeare's plays is surely not in their plots or stories, which were in fact simply the popular stories of their day, hardly original with Shakespeare. Their greatness is what Shakespeare did with those well known stories, the beauty of the language he put them in, and the wisdom of his own
thought and the power of his own feelings which he gave to them. The same is true of Anna's traditional Eyak tales, which have much more meaning because of the particular way she herself tells them. Again, that is a basic reason why I have written here a background introduction to those stories, to give the reader some idea of Eyak, and of Anna’s life, which are so much a part of these stories.

Oral literature is in important ways much more personal than written literature. The hearer must be in personal contact with the teller, traditionally in an intimate gathering of people who are closely related (as opposed to reading a book by someone the reader has never even met). The listeners' interest and enjoyment are not only in the story itself, which most have already heard many times over, but rather in the way the particular storyteller, say this time Grandmother, is telling the story. Often too the listeners would already have heard Grandmother herself tell that story, perhaps several times before, so the interest and enjoyment in the repetition of the story could also be in the way Grandmother is telling the story this particular evening, because in some subtle way, perhaps by a tone of voice here, or by lingering over a detail there, this particular telling might reflect something we know happened yesterday, or her mood this evening. Anna's telling of these stories is full of personal meaning in this way.

For most of the tales recorded here other versions have been recorded, not only from speakers of Tlingit or 'Aleut' (Chugach Eskimo), but in several cases also from speakers of Eyak, including in some of these cases English versions from Galushia Nelson printed in Birket-Smith and de Laguna's 1938 book. However, as stated and quoted above, and again in their introduction (pp. 245-246) to the section on Eyak folklore, the stories from Galushia Nelson printed there are not so much his versions but Anna's: "Most of the stories were told us by Galushia, prompted by his wife, from whom he had originally learned them. A few he wrote out for us. The stories which Annie told were rendered in Eyak and were translated by her husband. She told us that she had learned them from Old Chief Joe." We are thus fortunate to have several of these tales told in only one version, but in two by Anna herself, an earlier version in 1933 when she was a young woman of 27, living where she was born and raised, and married to another Eyak, and a later version from Anna now thirty to forty years older, after living a long time in Yakutat, married to Sampson Harry. For the earlier versions we have only Galushia's English translations, and for the later we have Anna's Eyak originals; it is very interesting to compare the two versions, not for their language, of course, but for the difference in content of the story, which is often very great, and reflects very deeply the story of Anna's life and Eyak history. The version she told in her later life are now much fuller of personal meaning, wit, and wisdom that could only be Anna's, and Eyak.

I have presented these ten texts in the following five chapters, which I have entitled with the names of the issues they really treat at their deepest level: I. On Greatness and Smallness; II. On Goodness and Evil; III. On Husband and Wife; IV On Identity and Conflict; and V. On the Beginning and End of Eyak History. Yet in spite of their real significance, and in spite of all the misery, horror, and tragedy that Anna
lived through, her style is basically cheerful and warm-hearted. She is sometimes masterfully satiric, but her soul is not embittered by human foibles or inscrutable fate, no matter how cruel these have been to her. Her spirit is indomitable. She is a survivor.

Presentation of the Texts in This Book

This book is not meant as an authoritative or academic presentation of Anna’s tales from a point of view of ethnology, comparative folklore, or linguistics. It does not systematically offer comments or explanations on ethnographic or cultural points even where such information is available, nor does it include comparisons with similar or related tales told by speakers of other Alaska Native languages, or even by other Eyaks, where these are available, but includes only comparisons with earlier versions told essentially by Anna herself, in 1933. Certainly these texts and others by Anna could and should indeed be studied from those other points of view, with great reward. However, here I wish essentially to present them as a personal tribute to Anna and her people, and to show the value and meaning of Anna’s art in this type of literature as a personal expression.

My professional interest in Eyak is in fact that of a linguist, but I have also refrained from presenting these tales as of interest primarily to linguists. I could have expanded this book endlessly by explaining what I find interesting in the Eyak language Anna uses to tell these tales, but I have instead kept such explanations to the minimum necessary for a basic understanding of their content. Much more linguistic information is available in the edition of these tales in my 1970 Eyak Texts, and of course in my 1970 Eyak Dictionary, which includes a complete concordance to these texts. Here I shall only explain briefly the difference between the writing systems of the 1970 edition and this, and in the basic editorial method I have used.

The texts in this book are all transcribed from tape-recordings. In 1970 I edited the recordings in the transcription as follows. I wrote down very exactly what Anna said, not only every sentence and every word, but also every sentence fragment, even every word fragment, every false start, interruption, repetition, ‘er’ or ‘uh’, all unfinished or garbled pieces, which everyone’s unrehearsed speech is full of in actual performance, but which normally we hardly notice. I then put in parentheses everything which Lena and I felt the sentences sounded better without, and put in square brackets [ ] everything which was not on the tape but was needed in order to complete an otherwise good sentence, usually one that trailed off or got interrupted before the last syllable got pronounced. Thus, by reading the 1970 text including everything in parentheses but excluding everything in square brackets, one could read exactly what was on the tape, and by reading the text excluding everything in parentheses but including everything in square brackets, one could read the edited form of the text, which is what we (Lena and I) presumed Anna would consider the best representation of exactly what she said or meant to say. In the 1970 footnotes, much more extensive than the present ones, I explained all the details of the difference between Anna’s actual speech on the
tape and the edited text, including the probable intention of the word and sentence fragments. In this book, however, I have presented only the edited form of the text, omitting what was in the parentheses and including what was in the square brackets. These edited texts are thus slightly different, in some details, from what is on the tape; but the reader should have no difficulty whatever on that account in following in the text what is on the tape.

The footnotes of the 1970 edition also often included information on the spoken style (tone of voice and other dynamics) of a particular sentence or stretch, that it was whispered, or spoken very fast, for example. In the footnotes to this book, I have kept only a certain amount of such information, since I am making cassette duplicates of the original tape-recordings of Anna’s tales here available along with this book.

Where there is a footnote, I have signaled that by an asterisk (*) in the Eyak and corresponding English text. The number of the footnote is the number of the sentence in which the asterisk is found. If the footnote refers to the whole sentence, the asterisk is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

In the 1970 edition I numbered all the sentences and their corresponding translations. I have here followed that numbering exactly, but have started a new line for each sentence and each section of each sentence separated by a comma; that is, for every breath group or intonation contour there is a new line (ending in . or ,). The resulting appearance neither means that Anna’s tales here are in what we usually call poetry, nor that they are in some kind of abnormal or artificial language. Rather, this arrangement makes it much easier to see exactly what each such line (though not each Eyak word) means in the corresponding line of English, as each line is the basic translation-unit for the close translation. However, this arrangement also gives some impression of the rhythm and style of Anna’s storytelling, which is in fact a poetic art.

I have also provided free translations for most of these texts (the only exceptions being the short conversation-quarrel between Raven and his wife, and Anna’s Lament for Eyak). They correspond closely to the originals at least in content, as they are not summaries or revisions of the tales. However, I have omitted in these many of the repetitions or overlaps in sentences and phrases that are so natural to the spoken Eyak narrative style, and have often combined shorter sentences and phrases in the spoken Eyak style into longer sentences normal to English written style. I have here also made minor changes in the (remarkably few) instances where the original appears confused or out of order. These free translations give the reader some easy idea of what the stories might have been like if they had been told or written in English by a native speaker or writer of English. The whole point, however, is that they were not so told or written. One cannot get a good appreciation for these stories simply by reading the free translations; there is something unavoidably false about them. Still, I hope I may escape the famous Italian accusation ‘Traduttore, traditore’ (‘Translator, traitor’) because I have also provided Anna’s original Eyak, with translations and notes that help explain the Eyak, so that the Eyak is not lost.
I have made the paragraphing in the free translations correspond basically to the line spaces in the Eyak text (with a few minor departures) and have shown this by the number of the sentence at the beginning of each paragraph. The line spaces in the Eyak text define sections that are roughly like paragraphs, for subject matter; those divisions only sometimes reflect actual pauses in Anna's speech, or changes in her tone of voice. They sometimes begin with markers such as Aw q'aw 'so then', but this also is by no means consistent.

The English titles for each text I have simply provided myself for convenient reference; there are no titles for the original Eyak versions.

I include a brief account of the alphabetical symbols used to write the Eyak in the 1970 edition and this. The 1970 orthography was a more technical choice of symbols for linguistics; the present one corresponds very directly to that, but is designed to be easier to print, to give a generally more direct impression to the English- or Tlingit-speaking reader of Eyak sounds, and especially to be easier for those who know how to read Tlingit.

Here I shall present the obstruent consonants in a table showing the symbols used in the transcription of the Eyak in this book. These are followed (in parentheses) by the symbol used for each of those sounds in the more technical 1970 Eyak transcription, where that was different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plain</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>dl (λ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dz (ɔ)</td>
<td>j (ɔ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g</td>
<td>gw (ɔ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>g (G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aspirated</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>tl (τ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ts (c)</td>
<td>ch (ɔ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>k</td>
<td>k'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>q</td>
<td>q'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glottalized</td>
<td>t'</td>
<td>tl' (τ')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ch' (ɔ')</td>
<td>k'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>q'</td>
<td>xw(x')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fricative</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sh (ʃ)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The present Eyak symbols are very similar to those of the modern Tlingit orthography for the same sounds, except that the sound of Eyak l is written l in Tlingit, and Eyak g q q' x are the same as Tlingit underlined g k k' x, respectively. However, plain stops and affricates (the top row here), when not followed by a vowel (that is, when they are at the end of a word or before a consonant), are here written with the symbol used for the (aspirated) consonant on the line immediately below it in the table; thus for example, 1970 mahdg 'keeps cooking' is here written mahtk, which gives a clearer impression of the sound from the point of view of both Tlingit and English writing. Sonorant and glottal consonants are written basically unchanged from 1970, w m l n y h, and ' (for 1970 ?; except also that here word-initial ? is not written, omitted as redundant).

Eyak long vowels are written as in 1970, with raised dot, so that Eyak i e a u are similar to the sounds of ee, ei, aa, oo, respectively, in the Tlingit writing system. However, Yakutat Tlingit does not have vowels ending with h, as ah, or with glottal stop ('), as Eyak does, both long and short, as a' or a", for example. Eyak also has nasalized vowels (pronounced with air passing through the nose as well as the mouth), not present in Tlingit. These were written ah, a', a", ih, i', etc., in the 1970 tran-
scription. Here instead they are written with the letter n following the raised dot, but preceding the ' or h, thus anh, a·n, an', a·n', inh, in', etc., respectively, so that here n is to be read (somewhat as in French) as nasalization of the vowel unless itself immediately followed by a vowel. One other change is the replacement of the 1970 symbol ø (schwa), for an indistinct (mid central) vowel, always short, with the symbol a. Thus the symbol a here is to be read with open and distinct pronunciation, as in Tlingit, when it is followed immediately by a raised dot or by h or by ' (if the ' is in the same syllable, that is, at the end of the word or before another consonant). Otherwise, the a is pronounced less open and distinct, and written ø in 1970. Thus 1970 ya·n'da' ø1 'fingerring' here would be ya·n'da'a'ø1, with the middle a pronounced less open and distinctly, or 1970 dik' dagax·øa'ø1 'I'm not quieting down' would be here dik' dagax·øa'ø1, with only the last a pronounced like Tlingit ø. (The one exceptional word is 1970 da·wax 'still', here written da·wax.)

Hyphen is used to separate words in this transcription that may otherwise be interpreted as a unit, e.g. at-lah 'about himself', u'eh-t·ihx 'after his wife'.

Where the vowel a is pronounced as if it were the vowel e, under the influence of the vowel i- beginning the next word, that a is written å, both in 1970 and here.

There has been no attempt to standardize the spelling of freely varying u or ø(a) next to g(w), x(w), k'(w), w, or of certain freely varying i or ø(a) in stems.
'Galushia Nelson's Family and members of the Expedition,' Cordova, 1933. Left to right, clockwise: Galushia Nelson, Johnny Nelson, Anna Nelson, Norman Reynolds, Kaj Birket-Smith, Frederica de Laguna. (Photo courtesy of Frederica de Laguna.)
Anna Nelson and Lena Saska, Cordova, about 1937.
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Anderson, through Rita Gunderson, Cordova Historical Society.)
Anna and Sampson Harry, Yakutat, about 1940. (Photo courtesy of Sophie Borodkin.)
Yakutat, about 1940. (Photo courtesy of Sophie Borodkin.)
Yakutat, 1949. (Photo courtesy of Frederica de Laguna.)

Anna and Sampson Harry, Yakutat, 1952. (Photo courtesy of Frederica de Laguna.)
Yakutat, about 1974. (Photo courtesy of Elaine Abraham.)
Yakutat, about 1974. (Photo courtesy of Elaine Abraham.)

Anna’s 70th birthday, January 6, 1976. (Photo courtesy of Martha Nelson.)
Yakutat, about 1975. (Photo courtesy of Richard Dauenhauer.)
PART ONE

ON GREATNESS AND SMALLNESS
ON GREATNESS AND SMALLNESS

Anna told these two originally unrelated tales separately, on two days of May 1965. Yet it is impossible not to believe she had one in the back of her mind when she told the other. The two tales fit together perfectly, or rather, by the way Anna tells them here she makes them fit together perfectly, like the two pieces of a puzzle, to show exactly what she thinks about the Measure of Man, or the Greatness of Nations.

In the first story, a well known one, she tells of the man out bear-hunting who comes upon some tiny dwarves by a lake, perhaps really a puddle. He watches them struggling to butcher and haul home their kill, two mice, which for them are bears. For a closer look he picks up one of the tiny dwarves, who begs the hunter pitifully to let him go and offers him his miniature hunting-gear, for which the hunter releases him. The tiny dwarf scurries back to his people, warning that the terrible giant will be after them, but the giant is too busy to bother with such insignificant little creatures, since he is involved with something much more important, namely hunting bears!

This story is even more brilliantly ironic in connection with the other story, also well known, which Anna had in fact told first, the story of the Giant Rat. Here a man and his family are traveling along in a canoe and are overturned and captured by a monstrous Rat, so huge that ’its fur was longer than black-bear fur’! The man finally escapes back to his people. They manage to kill the Rat and, after some struggle to haul it ashore, to butcher it for its skin. The skin is of course a great prize, and a neighboring tribe goes to war with them over it. They massacre each other over that Golden Fleece, actually a rat-skin, and not a very good one at that, with the hair falling out in places.

One cannot help comparing this pair of stories with another pair of stories, justly among the most famous in literature, in Gulliver’s Travels, published in 1726, by the Irishman Jonathan Swift, specifically of course Gulliver’s Voyage to Lilliput and Voy-
age to Brobdingnag. I personally have enjoyed that tongue-in-cheek masterpiece perhaps the most of all the books I have read. Anna’s philosophical insight here is precisely that of Swift, with his biting satire in Gulliver’s account of his encounters with the tiny (six-inch), laughably despicable, insignificant yet warlike Lilliputians, and then with the formidably giant (72-foot) yet wise and peace-loving Brobdingnagians. A Frenchman, Englishman, or modern American could hardly have written such a book, but only someone with the viewpoint of a smaller nation, in Swift’s case Ireland, who has watched the larger nations warring with each other. It is no surprise, then, that in Alaska Anna, an Eyak, is the one to understand so insightfully the principle of relativity in size, power, and importance of nations. She has seen her own Eyak people struggling to survive beside larger nations, Tlingit and Aleut (Chugach Eskimo), and has seen those in turn now threatened by a still more giant one. Men are foolish to forget that power and importance are relative, and that our place in this world or this universe is not a simple matter. We must not take ourselves too seriously. To laugh is to survive.
LAKE–DWARVES*

1. Da'xunh q'aw, anh ya'x da'x.*
2. Da'-wax ya'x da'x* q'unhuw, ma'gadatl'alah saquhinu' a'n'* sah'T.
4. U't sadah'l, awch' dla-xt'inhinu', ahnu' ma'gadatl'alah saquhinu'.
5. Aw axaya' ya'x daqe-xinu'.
6. A'xakih,

A person it was, he was going around.*
Just going around* he was, he came upon those who live around lakes.
They’re dwarves*, around lakes. He stayed there, watching them, those lake-dwarves. They were boating around in canoes. Canoes,

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 28, 1965, and first transcribed, with the help of Lena Nacktan, Cordova, June 4, 1965.
1. Here and in 2, ya'x da'x literally 'is going around (on foot)', often meaning 'hunting'.
2. Ma'gadatl'alah saquhinu' literally 'they (who) stay/sit around (the upper end of) a lake', i.e., 'lake-dwarves', similar to the title in Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938.
3. -yaquh 'young (of animals)', used figuratively, 'miniature', here with comic effect used of humans.
ya’kuts’k,
q’e’-dah uya’ dagida’ di’yahlinu’.
7 Ya’x daqec’x,
la’-dih.

du’semwa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
8 Da’avdawa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
Aw lixah*,
lixah ixa’q’ uwa’h,
Aw qa’shinhu’.
Aw t’ik’-layu’ ixa’,
Aw qa’shinhu’.
Da’avdawa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
Aw qa’shinhu’.

Anh da’xunh awch’ dla’-xt’eh,
“De’—?”
Aw qa’shinhu’.
Aw ga’l’ih tu’ shasheht da’x q’uwhnu’,
Aw laq salth linhu’.
Da’avdawa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
9 Li’q’ yaq’ saxah* da’x,
Aw qa’shinhu’.

18 Ya’x daqec’x,
la’-dih.

du’semwa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
8 Da’avdawa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
Aw lixah*,
lixah ixa’q’ uwa’h,
Aw qa’shinhu’.
Aw t’ik’-layu’ ixa’,
Aw qa’shinhu’.
Da’avdawa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
Aw qa’shinhu’.

Anh da’xunh awch’ dla’-xt’eh,
“De’—?”
Aw qa’shinhu’.
Aw ga’l’ih tu’ shasheht da’x q’uwhnu’,
Aw laq salth linhu’.
Da’avdawa’q’ uwa’h su’talq’ sahlan.
9 Li’q’ yaq’ saxah* da’x,
Aw qa’shinhu’.

little ones,
were simply full inside of them.
They were boating around,
two (canoes).

At that point a mouse* it was,
it came out.
That was a brown bear*,
a brown bear for them,
a mouse.
They saw it.
They got in a hubbub over it,
that mouse.
They were going to kill it.
Their bows-and-arrows,
they shot it.
Finally they killed it,
that mouse.
A mouse
lo,
they saw another one,
again.
They were going to kill it too.

The man was watching that,
“What—?”
what is that?”
he was thinking about it,
people.

They killed that last one and then,
they all landed* and,
they dragged them up the shore,
those mice.
Their innards,
they were butchering them,

8. ‘Mouse’ or ‘rat’. I have arbitrarily translated it ‘mouse’ throughout this tale, while in the next tale I have arbitrarily translated it ‘rat’.
9. Note that Anna makes the same comparison between mouse/rat and bear in the next tale, but there we encounter a giant rat with hair “longer than a black bear’s fur.”
18. Literally ‘they came (in fleet of boats) to shore’.
aw shaxa'shít.

20 K'eduw,
lixahyu' daxa'sh,
awga' aw xa'sh.

21 Awtah,
awq'ak'ah sáltahlinu*.

22 Añyacha' ch' daya'*,
aw k'utse',
tündiyahstse'.

23 Dańx'nu'duw
qaxalah.*

24 L'a'nu' q'aw aw k'ut'an',
tündiyahsta'n' gátay*,
axaya'ch'.

25 Údla'sin't',
ugulaşade',
tündiyahsgalaşade'.

26 Awn'ikih idiyah tündiyahs,
yaküts'k',
ts'iyuh q'a'aw,
ts'iyuh uxa' q'a'aw.

27 Da-wax ahnu' awxà' adawi't idalih
da'x q'aw,
anh dañunh awa' k'usale'kt,
awa' k'usańku'n't,
ahn' daxunhyaqyur'.

28 Awa' k'usańku'n't. 

29 Aw tündiyahslah adawi't
idalih't'a'x*,
awa' k'usańku'n't. 

30 Aw q'unh al ta'sgalaht'a'x* anh yañ
sáltel.

31 Wàx utl' dalinhinh,

they butchered them.
How,
brown bears are butchered,
they were butchering them like that.
Its skin,
they took* it off.
It was being loaded into the boats,
the meat,
the mousemeat.

Quite a number of them were
struggling with loads of it.*
Two (were carrying) a hindquarter,
they were carrying a mouse-thigh,
into a boat.
Its ribs,
its spine,
a mouse-spine.
That lesser little mouse,
a small one,
that was a black bear,
it was a black bear for them.

They were still bustling about over
them and then,
that person took one of them,
he grabbed one of them,
the wee people.
He grabbed one of them.
While they were preoccupied* with
the mice,
he grabbed one of them.
Then he stuck him down in under*
his belt.

Thus he said to him,
he said thus to the person, "These, things I hunt with, I'll give them to you, if you let me go, if you release me,"
he said to him, to that person. "Let me go. You'll become a great hunter, if you let me go."
He was begging him quite pitifully, that little fellow. So then, he said to him, "I'll show you, this which we kill things with." Thus he gave it to him. It was the size of his thumb. It was a leaf*. Strawberry, it was like a strawberry-leaf. "This, you shall put it inside your rifle. When you're going to shoot anything,"
he said to him. He let him go.
They were already about to leave in their boats*. They were waiting for him, who had disappeared, who had been missing from among them there, they had missed him. He had disappeared from their midst. So then,

38. A magical plant, as Tlingit kayaan. 43. Literally 'already they are going to go (in fleet of boats)'.
he let him go and he was running back along down there. He ran back to amongst his kinfolk. He was asked, "Where are your weapons?" "I gave them away." That's how I managed to get back here.

* A huge fellow, big as a tree he was, grabbed me. * I paid him off. Forasmuch as I paid him with all my things, he released me. This is how I managed to get back here."

"Maybe it was tree-people," they said to him. "No, he was a person. He was the size of a tree though. A huge person. He was enormous. He had clothes on. He stuck me down in under his belt. Then* I kept trying to pay him off so he'd let me go. He made me go. This that I shoot with,

48. Literally 'those things which you'll kill something/hunt with', standard term for 'weapons', but inflected verbally, with possessor as subject.
49. Literally 'I gave them to someone'.
50. -yapa-'q literally 'on the strength of, thanks to, by virtue of, by (indirect) means of, dependent on'.
51. With awesome emphasis.
52. Agitated, partly breathless and distorted.
53. Cf. 50, 53a, 64.
54. In Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938.308-310, Tale 20, there is an account of these beings, who eat people.
55. Da'uch'aht literally both 'after that' and 'from there'.
I gave him my hunting-leaf.
For that* it was he let me go,"
he said thus to his kinfolk,
**“Quick, hurry up!
*He’ll come upon us again!”

They put out.
They got across the lake.
They boated home.

*Goodness, how those women came running down!
Their little husbands* had come boating home to them.
They had killed a brown bear,
and they had killed a black bear.
They had brought them ashore.
They hung them up in the curing-house.
They did that,
right away,
those women.
It was already evening,
nevertheless they hung them up.
Just as is they hung them up,
that meat.
The next day they would cut it into strips.
They went to bed.
It was expected at any time,
that that man would come.

64. Cf. 50, 53.
64. After dawa’t a quickly fading, urgently hushed whisper.
65. Said qa’a’n qu’wa- qa’dinhinh, deliberately garbled with agitation. -a’n’ 'encountering, coming upon',
then starting to say qu’wah 'will go/come', but finishing [q’e’] qa’ dininhinh ‘will go/come again/back’.
69. Spoken with high-pitched, resonant voice, only slightly dropping at end, as if very impressed or amazed, but here of course mockingly.
70. Here with two -ga- suffixes, used for certain nouns referring only to humans, this time making extra-certain that they are treated as humans in her language, but inconsistently; compare note 3.
They had boated clear across the lake.
*That man could not walk across the lake.
It was too deep, that lake.
It was deep.

He didn't go there.
He went home, he too.
Just looking around he was for black bears*,
he saw them, lake-dwarves.*

---

81. Anna starts by saying k'a:di'da 'never would' or 'it would be pointless to', but changes to k'ude:dah 'impossible to', here wavering between the man's point of view and the dwarves', since only from their point of view would the lake be too deep to step across.
86. More literally, 'he being one who was just/still going/walking around looking for black bear,...', i.e. 'strictly looking for black bear he was', or 'being strictly a black-bear-hunter'.
86. Fading out, -lah whispered, but saquhlinu whispered with practically no lung-air, barely audible, and, as I remember, with a slight smile and twinkle in her eye.
dwarves to carry the hindquarter, the mouse-thigh. They worked very hard until all the meat from the two mice was loaded into their boats—the ribs, the spine. They took the mouse-spine too. That lesser little mouse, for them, was a black bear.

27 While they were bustling about over their work, preoccupied with the mice, the man reached down and plucked up one of the wee people. He took him and tucked him under his belt.

31 The dwarf pleaded with the man. ‘Please, these things I hunt with, I’ll give them to you if you release me. They are yours if you let me go. You will become a great hunter if you free me.’ The little fellow was begging the man quite pitifully. ‘I will show you my weapon.’ He handed it to the man. It was the size of the man’s thumb, like a strawberry leaf. Then the dwarf said, ‘Put this inside your rifle whenever you are going to shoot anything.’ The man set him free.

43 The other lake-dwarves were at their boats and ready to leave, waiting for their comrade who was missing, who had disappeared from their midst. The hunter had freed him and he was running back to his people. When he arrived they asked him, ‘Where are your weapons?’

49 ‘I gave them away. That’s how I managed to get back here. A huge man, big as a tree he was, grabbed me. I got him to release me by giving him all my things.’

54 ‘Maybe it was a tree-man,’ they said to him.

55 ‘No, no. He was a person. He was the size of a tree, though. A huge person. He was enormous. He had clothes on and he stuck me under his belt. I offered him everything to pay him off. I finally gave him my lucky hunting leaf and for that he let me go.’

‘Quick! Hurry up! He’ll come upon us again!’

66 The dwarves put out their boats, paddled across the lake, and got home.

69 My, how their women came running down to meet them! Their little husbands had killed a brown bear and a black bear and had come boating home to them. The little people brought the meat ashore. Although it was already evening, the women hung the meat in the curing-house, right away, just as it was. The next day they would cut it into strips. Some went to bed, but it was expected that at any time the man would come.

80 They had boated clear across the lake. There was no way for the man to walk across, because it was such a deep lake.

88 He too went home. After all, he was out hunting for black bear when he came across these lake-dwarves.
GIANT RAT*

1 Çaqeq'ınu' q'uňnu',
    tinhgih ḥila' uxa',
la' maht-laxaxa' k'e'shuňnu' gaqeq.
2 Çaqeq'ı da'x q'unh anh qe'ň wax daleh,
    -aw atshi'yahiňalahsdax*
    gaqeq'ı-
    "Ulaqeqshghex da'ĩ igiře'," anh qe'ň wax dasaliň.
3 Anh ḥila'-wax daleh,
    "Yaşuhuň!**
4 Anh wax dasaliň da'x q'aw u'iht qa' saň,
    aw h'rndiyahs.*

They were boating along,
one man with her,
they were probably boating for
berries.

They were boating along and the
woman said thus,
-they were boating in front of that
monster's place*- 
"I wish we might see it,"
thus the woman said.
The man said thus,
"Don't ask for trouble!*"
He said thus and it emerged behind
them,
that rat*.

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 27, 1965, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan, Cordova, June 1, 1965.
1. atshi'yahi 'monster, giant', -lahsdax 'movement in front of', that is, offshore by where the monster reputedly had its hole. This apparently was in a cliff, with two entrances, one vertical at the top and one horizontal at the foot of the cliff.
2. Yaşuh- 'don't!', an urgent command not to violate a taboo, which would bring disaster.
4. I have here translated h'rndiyahs 'rat, mouse' as 'rat' arbitrarily throughout this tale, whereas I have arbitrarily translated it 'mouse' throughout the tale of the Lake-Dwarves.
5 Axakih utl’ yax dasa’yah.  
6 Qa’ aw saht da’x q’aw anh ilit’ anh saq’ts’akih,  
  saq’ts’akih q’uw anh saku’nt.  
7 Aw łu’ndiyahsluwq’ ya’ atsdilaqtinh.  
8 Ya’x dasa’yahlinh.  
9 Aw q’a’ahnu’,  
  anh qe’t awa’ k’a’dih salec’t.  

10 Aw q’aw adix q’aw aw utl’ sha’a’ch’il.  
11 Adix awtl’ sha’a’ch’il da’x q’unhuw,  
  awq’ak’ah saht.  
12 Dla’anh awtl’ sha’a’ch’il.  
13 Ugutl’ah xi’dax qa’ dasatsux’t.  
14 *Q’e’dah xi’t li’q’ ya’yu’ u’dax qañ’  
  i’tah.  
15 *Anh saq’ts’akih,  
  anh ga’lt’uxfinh.  
16 *Anh aw u’la’xlixa’sinh.  
17 *Da’awtl’ q’unh sahtx awxa’ wax  
  sat’u’tinh,  
  aw atsli’yahłxa’.  

18 Gàłxe’tl’ da’x q’aw anh a’q’ a’k’  
  k’uqa’šhe’k’*  
  k’uqa’šhe’lxan’.  
19 Ke’ta’kyu’ q’aw,  
  anh ahu’na’aw si’k’.  
20 Li’q’ al gąnuyu’,  
  aw si’k’.  
21 *Ya’x q’aw aw li’ łate’k’.  
22 Wąx q’aw aw łmah’t.  
23 Ahnu’na’aw łmah’t.  

The canoe capsized with it.  
It emerged and the man (grabbed)  
the child,  
he grabbed the child.  
He jumped onto the big rat.  
They had capsized.  
It was they,  
the woman of them had disappeared.  

Then it went inside with them.  
They went in with it and then,  
he got off it.  
They had gone into its hole with it.  
It stuck its tail out over there.  
*Simply everything was sticking  
out.  
*The child,  
he held her.  
*She was afraid of it.  
*Nevertheless he lived a long while  
with it,  
with that monster.  

When it got dark it would go out  
– it would go hunting*  
to hunt.  
Seals,  
it would kill them for them.  
All these sorts of ducks,  
it would kill them.  
*It would put them in under itself.  
Thus it cooked them.  
It cooked them for them.

14. Exact interpretation of this sentence not clear in general context. Anna apparently starts to mention  
ge’ts’ ‘spruce-roots’ (in anticipation; see below, sentence 27), changes to li’q’ ya’yu’ ‘everything, all sorts of  
things’.  
15-17. The subject of any of these sentences could be either the man or his little daughter.  
18. K’uqa’šhe’k’ ‘would (customarily) hunt/kill something’, an independent sentence, but followed by a  
form belonging to the first part of the previous sentence.  
21-26. Compare the tale of the Woman and the Octopus for the same method of cooking and providing for a  
captive.
It would lie down on top of them. When they cooked, it would give them to them. Then they would eat them. When it went out, that person would try it, those spruce-roots*, to climb out there. He had been living with it for quite some time and, he tried it. He climbed out there. It hadn’t come back here yet and he ran back there, again. He got back and then pretty soon it was coming in. Inside it would straightaway look for them. They were sitting right there. It cooked for them. It would lay it in under itself, what it had killed, it cooked it, it cooked it for them. Thus they ate it. His child, a girl-child, wasn’t big.

When it was pitch-dark it would go (out). As it started to get light it would come back in. Thus it did and then, he put her on his back, that girl,
and 
he climbed out there with her. 
There had come a little daylight and, 
he had climbed out there with her. 
Before he had gotten far, 
he was going along with her and the 
rat came back home. 
It missed them. 
It started banging its tail around. 
It knocked everything down.

He had gotten back there. 
He had gotten back home to among 
people. 
He got back with the child and 
then, 
said thus to people, 
"Those young crows, 
young ravens, 
snare them. 
Snare them, 
lots of them."
So they were snared, 
they were snared. 

He would look there and, 
the moon had become full and then, 
they went there. 
It wouldn't come out when the 
moon was full, 
that rat. 
It would stay right at home.

It would never go out. 
They packed them on their backs, 
those young ravens. 
Young ravens, 
they packed them there. 
They sharpened them. 
They sharpened them, 
those knives, 
axes.
They dumped them down, they dumped those young ravens down there, where there was a hole going down. **“Now then, throw the ravens down, (to see) will they quiet down.”** They clamored, they clamored. It just jerked it down, its tail. Not far. They chopped its tail off. They chopped its tail off. Thus they killed it, that big rat, monster rat.

Halfway forward (out of) there it moved. It moved halfway forward (out of) there. Then, they went back, those people. Then they killed it, that big rat. Then they went there by boat. They were going to tow it forward to the shore. *They couldn’t.* They left it right there. There was a big tide and it drifted forward out of there. It was taller than a very big whale, that monster rat.

The idea here is that the ravens would be quiet if the rat was absent, but if the rat was there, their noise would wake and stir up the rat.

Compare the Lake-Dwarves tale, sentence 23, where the dwarves’ great struggle to butcher and load the mouse-meat into their canoes is described.
Its teeth were long, that rat.
*The lower ones weren't, though.
*Its hair was longer than black-bear hair, that rat-hair.
It floated forward there.
It was washing around.
They towed it ashore.
They butchered it to get its skin.
They cut it open and then, all sorts of things were in its stomach.
These people's bones were in its stomach, people's bones. People who had been disappearing, they didn't know what had become of them.
They were the ones that big rat had been killing.
Some of them, their skulls were in its stomach, in the rat-stomach.
That's why they butchered it. Already its hair was going, some place(s).
Where it was good, that part they dried.
They did thus to it and so, then they called a potlatch. People called a potlatch. Then they exhibited it before people's eyes.

78. Barely intelligible, rapid, and distorted.
79. This is the only explicit comparison of the Giant Rat with a bear, definitely tying it together with the Lake-Dwarves tale, actually told the following day. Nevertheless, the fundamental comparison is unmistakable if not explicit throughout.
what had been killing their relatives. Not just anybody could use it, that rat-skin. Only a high-class person, a high-class person would sit on it, that rat-skin, monster rat-skin. They had a potlatch and, thus they said about it, all the people, “No cheapskate will sit on it. Only those who are high-class people are the ones who will sit on it. Too many people have fallen victim to this. These poor wretches, it has killed them. That’s why only high-class people will sit on it,” they kept saying.

Then a different tribe at a different place, they wanted it for themselves, that skin, that rat-skin. They went to fight with each other over it. They made war over it, a different tribe, inhabitants of a different land, they made war over it. It wasn’t taken from their hands. Many people died. But it wasn’t taken from their hands. That high-class person who used to sit on it, he was the first killed, in the quest for that rat-skin. Therefore there were some among
dik’ awk’ah* ale’kk’q.

Dik’ udagalehti’ aw idalehq
dayk’nu’duw uyaxa’ qa’yah,
qu’dasiyuh,
aw k’utaht’lalu’qa’.

Xa’n’ adawil’ idasaifi da’x
q’uhnu’,
anh uk’ahyakah ahnu’
daxunhyu’
qa’t,
aw qa’ saltchil.

Aw hu’ndiyahsgutl’ahyaq’ q’unhaw li’
siteh.

Ahnu’laq aw satl’iht,
da’x,
aw hu’ndiyahstahti’na’tl’ ahnu’ ya’x
xadla’salq’ahit.

(Dik’ ta’ts ihu’ ya’nuy’ch’
k’ufaya’k’q.

Ihu’ q’uhnu’ ya’x xadla’taq’a’kk’.

Dadu’t sasinh’l ahnu’ ya’x
xadli’taq’a’kk’.

Ahnu’ya’ da’t’u’c’h’k awa’ q’uhnu’,
le’t’ya’t aw ya’ alya’k’.

Al ahnu’t’salih,
le’t’ya’ch’ aw ita’ a’ alya’k’.

Ya’kuts’k le’t’ya’c’h’,
aw ita’ a’ lyak’.)

Wax q’uhnu’ aw sath.

U’dax q’unh ahnu’ k’ayi’ny
gu’wa’twahkyu’ awlah u’satahit,
uk’ahyakes’alih it’a’
shiyah,
aw te’t’ya’c’h’.

Aw ta’ sats’axdlinu’.

them who would not abandon it.
It didn’t concern them how many
would perish on account of it,
would be killed,
in the pursuit of that skin.

They had finished the battle and
then,
that high-class person’s corpse
from among the other (dead)
people,
they picked it up.
It was put inside the rat’s
tail.
They wrapped it around it,
and,
they burned it up with the
rat-skin.

(In the old days they didn’t use to
bury one another.
They used to cremate one another.
Whoever died they used to
cremate.
Their charred remains,
they used to gather them into a box.
Their bones,
they used to gather them into a box.
Into a little box,
they used to gather them.)

Thus they did to it.
Then that other tribe found out
about it,
that that high-class person’s bones
had been gathered together,
into that box.
They threw it in the water.

109. Ambiguous as translated; it may be either the quest or the rat-fleece they are unwilling to abandon.
"Xir itl'ana'q' awtl'
qa' saxchł
da'ł,
aw ta' sats'a'dł.

Aw q'aw uxa' k'ushiyah q'e'
k'usdile't,
gu'dik.

Uxa' q'e' qa'ni' sdi'yahł.

*Uk'ahyakihts'alih uxa' ta'
shitsinhtiñu',
ahnur insa'ahł.

*Ahnu' insa'ahhinu'.

Ts'itwa'x ahnu' que'lgayu',
que'lgayu' q'a'ahnu',
saq'egayu',
dik' ahnu' assuhłq,
da'x insa'yahhinu' håla'lgayu' dik'
ahnur assuhłq.

Ahnu' q'a'l håla'lgayu',
bi'q' ahnu' susuhł.

Ahnu' daxunhyu',
ahnur uk'ahyakihts'alih ta'
saltsinhtiñu',
ahnur wax daleł.*

Ahnu' q'unhnu' uk'ahnu' qalasaxwahñinu',
ahnur saq'egayu' k'u'luw qasale't.

Aw laxa'n' q'e' yagadale'x ilehe da'x,
dik' awlaxa'n' q'e' yasdaliginu'.

*Insdi'ahhinu',
ahnur uk'ahyakihts'alih uxa' ta'
shitsinhtiñu',
k'ayini' anhq' yirñhinu'.

*They packed it on their backs up onto yonder mountain with those (bones inside it) and, threw it in the water.

Then there arose more trouble over it, again.

There was another fight over it. Those whose high-class person's bones were thrown in the water, they wiped them out.

*They wiped them out. Only the women, women it was, children, they didn't kill them, and old men they didn't kill.

The men in their prime, they slaughtered them all. Those people, those who had thrown the high-class person's bones into the water, thus happened to them.*

Then they grew up, those children got big.

They wanted to get revenge for it but, they didn't get revenge for it.

*They got wiped out, those whose high-class person's bones got thrown into the water, those of another land.

123. A recurrent idea in Anna's tales. Compare, for example, the end of Groundhug-Man.
126-127. Ambiguous, as translated. Cf. notes 130 and 133.
130. Articulated in a barely audible whisper. This then clears up the ambiguity of 126-127. The tribe that had the skin in the first place and whose high-class person's bones were thrown in the water massacred the foreign tribe. But this is in partial contradiction to 133.
133. Internally and externally contradictory. Those whose high-class person's bones were thrown in the water were not the foreign tribe, nor, according to sentence 130, were they the ones who got massacred.
134 Da’ifga’ daxunhyu
q’a’ahnu’,
k’inhda’t awa’ salahhinu’,
k’ayi:ny anhq’ salahhinu’.
135 *A’nt Sitgahch’aht,
a’nt gayaq Ya’gada’t da’ wax i’t’ehga’
qu’uhnu’,
salahlah.
136 Wax q’uhnu’ aw hu’ndiyahstahti’la’xa’
adawi’i’ idahih.
137 Da’ifga’ daxunhyu’.
138 De’wahya’ hu’ndiyahstahdaw?*
139 Da’x,
aw xa’i n’ salah.*
140 I’ndsí’ahl’ da’x q’uhnu’,
k’ude’da’h q’e’ dale’q,
ahnu’ k’ula’gayu’.
141 K’ude’da’h,
k’udu’yu’tl’ adawi’i’ q’e’
idañalehq.
142 *I’ndsí’ahhinu’.
143 Daq’e’da’h q’uw.

They were people just like each
other,
though living at a different place,
living in a different land.
*From Sitka here,
as we live here at
Yakutat,
they live.
Thus they waged war over
a rat-skin.
People just like each other.
What good is a rat-skin?*
But,
they went through with that. *
They got wiped out and then,
nothing more could happen to them,
those others.
There was no way,
they couldn’t wage war with anyone
any more.
*They got wiped out.

That’s all.

GIANT RAT

A man and woman and their child were boating along, looking for berries, when
they came upon the cliff where the monster reputedly had its hole.
‘I wish we might see it,’ said the woman.
The man said, ‘Shhh! Don’t ask for trouble!’ And just as he spoke the rat emerged
behind them, capsizing their canoe. The woman was lost. The man grabbed the child
and jumped onto the back of the big rat.

135. That is, ‘There are people from Sitka living here at Yakutat just as we do,’ implying that ‘Though they
are foreigners they are like us, and we live together in peace.’
138. Anna chuckles.
139. xa’i n’ salah ‘finished doing it to it’, here something like ‘to the bitter end’, or ‘fought to the finish’
142. It matters not at all, of course, which side annihilated which in this bloody war over a rat-skin.
It took them into its hole, where they jumped off. The man held the child. She was afraid of the monster. Nevertheless, they lived a long time with this giant monster rat.

When it got dark the rat would go out hunting. It would bring home seals and ducks for the man and his child. Then it would lie down on top of them to cook them. When the food was cooked, the rat gave it to the man and his child and they ate it. They were living this way for some time. The man would try climbing the spruce-roots which hung from above, while the rat was gone. He got out. But he knew the rat would look for them as soon as it came back, so he hurried back in. When the rat returned, they were sitting there. It lay in under itself what it had killed and gave it to the man and his child to eat.

His child was a little girl.

When it was pitch-dark the rat would leave, returning as it began to get light out. One day just before it got light the man put the girl on his back and climbed out of the rat-hole. He was going along, and had not yet gotten very far, when the rat returned. It immediately missed them and started banging its tail around, knocking everything down.

The man and his daughter returned to their people safely. He told them, ‘Go get some young ravens. Snare them. Snare lots of them.’ They did as he asked.

When the moon was full, they went there. (The rat would stay in and never go out when the moon was full.)

They sharpened their knives and axes, packed the young ravens on their backs, and headed for the rat-hole. ‘Now dump the ravens down into the rat-hole to see if they’ll be quiet.’ (If the birds remained quiet, that would mean the hole was empty.) Immediately they clamored. The rat jerked his tail partway down but the people chopped it off, thus killing the monster.

The rat moved forward as it died, but only about halfway out. They were going to tow it down to shore but it was too big. They had to leave it there, until a big tide came and carried it down to the shore.

The monster rat was more massive than a very big whale, and had enormously long upper teeth. Its hair was longer than a black bear’s fur.

The corpse of the giant rat floated out and as it washed around, they towed it ashore. They butchered it to get the skin. When they cut it open, they found all sorts of things in its stomach. People who had been disappearing mysteriously, they now found, had been killed and eaten by this big rat. They found people’s skulls in its stomach. The people butchered it for its skin. The hair was already going in some places, but where it was good they dried it.

After this, they called a potlatch and exhibited before the people’s eyes what had been killing their relatives. Now, not just anyone could use that rat-skin, only a chief could sit on the monster rat-skin. At the potlatch the people kept saying, ‘No cheapskate will sit on it. Only chiefs. Too many people have fallen victim to this rat. Those poor wretches, all killed. That’s why only chiefs will sit on it.’
Word spread of the giant rat-skin and a tribe from some distant land wanted it for themselves. These people from another land came and made war over it. Many people died, but the rat-skin was not wrested from them. The chief who used to sit on it was the first to be killed in the war for that rat-skin. Therefore it could not be abandoned. It was of no concern to them how many would perish on its account, or how many would die in the pursuit of that skin. They fought to a finish.

When the battle ended, they took the chief’s corpse from among the other dead people and put it inside the rat’s tail. Then they wrapped it in the rat-skin and burned it.

(In the old days people didn’t bury one another. Whoever died was cremated and his charred remains were gathered in a box.)

Thus they did to their chief’s bones. But then the other tribe found out about the box and stole it and packed it up the mountain and threw it in the water.

Then there was another battle, between that other tribe and those whose chief’s bones had been thrown into the water. They were all wiped out, except for old men and women and children. They killed all the young men. That’s what happened to those whose chief’s bones were thrown in the water.

Their children grew up and wanted revenge, but never got revenge. They got wiped out, those whose chief’s bones were thrown in the water.

These people were just like each other, though living in a different land. There are people from Sitka living here at Yakutat just like we do. Though they are foreigners, they live harmoniously with us. But these people waged war over that rat-skin, people just like each other. What good is a rat-skin? They did that, though, and nothing more could happen to them, no more wars with anyone. They were wiped out completely.

That’s all.
1933 VERSIONS OF ‘LAKE-DWARVES’
AND ‘GIANT RAT’

Both of these tales are very widely told, in many versions, in this part of the world. The way Anna has told them here, however, is very special to her in 1965. In fact, we can see exactly how she has used these two tales to say something much more at age 61 than she did when she was 27. We are fortunate to have 1933 versions by her of both of these tales, as translated by Galushia, and published by Birket-Smith and de Laguna, 1938, ‘Around-the-Lake-People’ (pp. 304-306) and ‘The Big Mouse’ (pp. 289-291).

In her earlier version of the Lake-Dwarves, she deals only very briefly (first quarter of that version) with the encounter between the hunter and the dwarves, which in her later version is the whole story, told very vividly. The earlier version goes on to tell much more about the individual dwarves, in their own existence after (and unrelated to) the encounter with the man, as these dwarves are indeed serious and important beings in Alaska Native legends, especially Eskimo. All this is left out of the later version.

Anna’s later version of the Giant Rat, on the other hand, adds a long section onto the story, not present in the earlier version. The earlier version is quite similar, as far as it goes, to the later one, but it only goes as far as the killing of the Rat. The part about the rat-skin and the war over it, added only in this later version, I have not otherwise noticed in what I have seen of the literature of Native Alaska. Whether Anna made it up to add onto the legend or not, her inspiration here is certainly to remind us, with a laugh, of the pettiness of mankind that leads to so many of man’s troubles, including sometimes war.

‘Around-the-Lake-People’ ma’gudatl’alahdaxunhyu'

Dwarfs as big as a thumb used to hunt and fish around the country. They were found around Strawberry Point (on Hinchinbrook Island, near Boswell Bay) at the small lake there. The little women row; the little
men hunt and fish. A human captured a little man who had become tangled in some roots. The dwarf gave the man all his hunting outfit—spears and bow and arrows—to let him go. One spear with an agate point he hated to part with.

When he was turned loose he returned home, but his people had gone outside the breakers. He called for them to come back and get him. One of his relatives came through the breakers for him. They all started home in canoes and on the way they saw a mouse, which was a brown bear to them. They all landed to try and kill him.

The little man without hunting implements was killed by the bear, for he had no way to defend himself. The other people killed the bear. The bear was cut up in small pieces and left there because he had killed one of their people.

They put the body of the dead man in a canoe without examining it at all. His relatives took the body home. The wife ran down to meet her husband; she didn’t know he was dead. The skin of his head had been pulled off. The wife and children ran down to meet him. They were happy that their man was coming home.

The wife, when she saw her husband’s head, tore a piece from the bottom of her skirt and bandaged his head. They took the body and placed it in front of the left-hand house-post. They left the body outside for eight days. On the eighth day they took the body inside.

Towards noon the body began to move. Only the wife was there. Right at noon he moved more and more until he lifted his head. He sat up and scratched his head. He asked his wife what had happened and she told him that a bear had killed him. He asked what they had done with the bear. She said they had killed it, cut it in bits, and left it there. He asked who had brought his body home.

He told his wife not to worry about him, and left, taking two men with him. They went to Yakutlanik[5]. They were gone about a year. They came back at the time when the birds start to lay eggs. When the people saw them coming they were excited. Each man was coming in a separate canoe and all three were full of brown-bear skins. When they landed the people lifted them up and carried them to the house. The man was made chief of the tribe.

When they had finished eating, he said to his wife, ‘I guess I got even with those bears.’

He gave his oldest daughter to a man. She knew everything—all about making baskets and keeping house. She had already promised to marry another man, but she had to obey her father and left the first man. The first man asked her husband to dig clams with him. They were digging as the tide was coming in. He made the husband stay on a sand spit. He was drowned there and they never found the body. He turned into a shrimp (or sand-hopper?).

The other man went home and told several different stories about what had happened. The drowned man’s wife had a dream that the man had caused her husband to be drowned and in the dream her husband told her he had become a sand-hopper. People asked the man if that was true. He said yes. But they did nothing to him.

That’s all. *Daq ’e dah q ’a t aw*.

[These dwarfs had many different tribes around the lake, like the different tribes of Indians.]

### ‘The Big Mouse’ Ḥundiyahsluw

Big mouse living under a cliff. He comes out every time someone pass in a canoe. Kill them and eat them. He killed several people like that. There was one old man taking three women to pick berries. Old man knew the mouse’s song. If you knew it he wouldn’t bother you. Sing it when passing. Old man was singing.

The youngest woman said, ‘I wish we see this mouse.’

Old man said, ‘Don’t! What you say that for?’

Just a few minutes later, the water turned red under the cliff and spread out to the canoe. The old man was still singing the mouse’s song. Mouse come out backwards—halfway out. He put his tail out of water and dropped it on the canoe. The old man, when he dropped his tail, jumped on the mouse’s tail. He hung onto the tail. The woman were all killed.

Mouse went back under the cliff with the old man. He was saved. The mouse came into a big room under the cliff. The man went to the other side of the cave from the mouse. The man sang the mouse’s song so the mouse didn’t bother him. He got some feed for the man. The mouse only went hunting at time of no
moon, when it’s dark. When the mouse goes hunting—there was a root of a tree sticking down from the roof of the cave—he [the man] tried the strength of the root. Later he climbed to the roof. The mouse had a hole clear to the top of the ground where he stuck his tail out. Man climbed clear out but came down before mouse came back from hunting and sat down where he was before. When mouse comes back sometimes he brings back big seal or halibut. He puts it under himself to cook them. When it gets cooked, he bring it out and give it to the man. The man eats it.

At one time the mouse went out towards morning. The mouse was supposed to be home before the raven starts to make a noise. When the mouse left, the man climbed the root and got out. Before he got very far, the mouse came back. The mouse was making all kinds of noise in the cave because he missed the man. He stuck his tail out of the hole and swung it around. The man got home.

At full moon the mouse sleeps sound. When old man got home he told the young man to try to snare a crow. If they snare a crow in full moon time they’re going back to mouse’s den.

‘Sharpen all that you use for your old knives, and sharpen all that you use for your old axe,’ the old man said.

When they caught the raven they have all knives and axes sharp. They go to where the mouse sticks out his tail. Mouse had his tail sticking out the hole when he’s sleeping. (Tail was like a watchman.) The old man sneaked up on him with an axe. He chopped the mouse’s tail twice before he cut it off. The mouse pulled the rest of his tail down.

The young man said, ‘Throw the crow down that hole!’

So the crow started to make all kinds of noise down there. The mouse started to go out under the cliff. He got halfway out before he died. After the mouse died, the old man went down on the root and looked at the mouse. When he found the mouse was dead, he came back up and told the other man. This young man would like to see it. So they went down and looked at it. When they came out, the mouse turned into a rock. The crow came back out of the hole, too.

[The hunter must rise before the crow makes a noise in the morning, or he will not get any game. All the animals are up before the crow. If the crow gets up before an animal does, the animal will die.]
PART TWO

ON GOOD AND EVIL
ON GOOD AND EVIL

Anna’s story which I have called ‘Two Sisters’ is really about Good and Evil, or Virtue and Vice, and the rewards for virtue and punishment for vice. But in Anna’s topsy-turvy world it seems that virtue is punished and vice is rewarded. Anna here again takes two separate stories traditionally told by Eyaks, and uses them in her own way to tell us that at least in this world it does indeed often at least appear that thoughtful, responsible people suffer, while thoughtless, irresponsible people prosper. This time, however, Anna takes two very different types of story and ties them closely together into one, by making the main figure in one story the sister of the main figure in the other, one seemingly good and one seemingly bad.

The first part of the tale, about the good sister, is from a type of tale called in Eyak wåxåh ‘story’, more or less historical, as opposed to tsahkl ‘legend’, a much more literary type, myth, a type to which the second part of her tale belongs, about the bad sister. The first part is one of the many stories the Eyaks have of their wars with the ‘Aleuts’ (Chugach Eskimos). In this one an Eyak woman’s children are cruelly murdered by these Aleuts, and she takes revenge. The second part is a fine version of one of the most popular and widespread Alaska Native legends, of the Woman who Married a Dog. But here, by the way Anna ties the stories together, she makes a very sharp contrast between at least the respectability of the different sisters. The first sister is married, thoroughly respectable and virtuous. But what is her reward? To begin with, her husband has died. She is so responsible and thoughtful, though, that she will not consider remarrying for fear that her new husband might beat his stepchildren. Her reward is to see her children brutally murdered by the Aleuts. That she does manage to get revenge on the murderers is still in the story, but that is certainly only one side of the story for Anna.

The good sister returns home from her misfortunes to find her wild, unmarried sister carrying on in her usual disgraceful way, bawls her out for it, and gets the family to abandon her cruelly, tied to a dog. In fact, there is a standard Eyak phrase, xawa’yaχax’ qaɁat’uxi ‘clutching to the underside of a dog,’ for a promiscuous
woman. I do not know if there is originally any connection between that phrase and this story, but Anna certainly connects them, having the good sister use a very strong version of that phrase on the bad sister, ḥawa‘legahyaxach’ li‘ ifit’uxt ‘clutched (permanently or tightly) to the underside of a dead dog’ (sentence 70). Thus the girl’s punishment is supposed to be quite fitting for her bad behavior, perfect poetic justice, it would seem. However, the rest of the story, nicely told in the traditional way, dramatically reverses the justice, for the dog-husband turns out to be an excellent provider, and the ‘bad’ promiscuous sister is living luxuriously while her cruelly righteous sister and family who abandoned her to die are themselves starving. When they find out, they go after her, but she escapes, turning into an owl.

Anna has certainly seen much in her life which would cause anyone to wonder whether it is virtue or vice that is rewarded in this world. By the way she combines these two stories into a tale of these two sisters with the seemingly outrageous moral, the good sister the loser, the bad sister the winner, she is showing us that real life challenges our moral understanding, and that real morality often lies deeper than the surface we most easily see.

This tale too invites comparison with certain classics of European literature, particularly by two 18th-century Frenchmen—Voltaire, who especially in his tales of Zadig (1747) and Candide (1759), deals brilliantly with the absurdity of fortune; and the Marquis de Sade, one of the most outrageous writers who ever lived, whose two novels Justine, or the Misfortunes of Virtue and Juliette (about the rewards of vice) ask in 1797 the same age-old question Anna asks here. Incidentally, both those writers were about the same age when they wrote these classics as Anna was when she told this tale in 1963.
TWO SISTERS*

One time it was,
a woman,
sisters,
two of them.*

One of them, however,
had no sense.
Nothing mattered to her.
The other one however was good.
She was a nice person.
A man liked her.
A man liked her,
because she was a nice person.
As for the other one though,
she wasn’t thus.
She was a bad person.

She got married,
that girl,
that little* sister,
she got married.

---

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, about August 16, 1962, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan, Anchorage, about August 19, 1963.
1. Literally ‘woman (or girl), siblings, two (people) (or twins)’.
2. *uxá’leh a rapidly fading whisper, the -leh not audible.
3. daxunh yîtinhinh a rapidly fading whisper.
4. Literally ‘little sibling’, but not necessarily the younger.
11 Yahtda'luwdat'a'xach'a' sli'ehľ.
12 Shi'ehľ da'x q'unhaw uta'
   da'x uma',
   yaht xa'n' dasatiľ.
13 Yaht xa'n' dasatiľ.
14 Yaht q'unhaw xa'n' dasatiľ.

15 Anh tinhgih awa' adax dik'.
16 Dlag'a'a' wax i't'inhinh.
17 *Uta' da'x uma yaht xa'n' dasatiľ
   da'x q'unh,
   ahnu'xaht salahľ.
18 Sahlahľinu'.
19 Q'e' sdilahľinu'.
20 K'inhd'a't yaht uxa'
   gu'dik.
21 Anhdi'-nuw da'li'txinhinh,
   da'satlxa'linh.

22 Anh la'tnu' da'satlxa'ľ da'x q'unh,ua,
   saq'e'gayu' q'aw da'lasatlxa'ľ.
23 Saq'e'gayu',
   ts'nu' saq'e'gayu' da'satlxa'linh,
   ahnu uqa'ch'ahl.
24 Da'uqa' uxa' sasinh dah da'x q'unh,
   dik' q'e' la'ek'ginh.
25 Dik' anahshakih awxa'le'q,
   q'e' ili'eh.
26 K'a'di' da' q'e' ili'eh,
   ahnu' saq'e'gayu'leht uxa'.
27 Saq'e'gayu' uxa',
   dik' anahshakih awxa'le'q,
   du'dunh qala'
   la'yilts'in'tl'k*,
   du'dunh qal'a' i'lih,
those children of hers. She didn’t beat any of them up, nobody.*

Then they got somewhat big*. They had gotten somewhat big and then, their mother moved with them. Their mother moved with them and then—where at?—

Aleuts came upon them.* An Aleut killed some of them. Those Aleuts, one boy and one girl, they killed that woman’s children. They killed them and then, a paddle, they wrapped it around her hair*, they wrapped it around her hair, that girl. They thrust it under with her (tied to to it) over there, they thrust it under water. Simply way under water. By the hair they held her down. They had tied her down to a paddle.

As for the boy however, him they put in under a tree.

28. dik’ dade-ya’n dunhq, literally ‘not anything (pl.) (involving one human)’. This should probably be as corrected and translated, dik’ dada-ya’n dunhq ‘not anybody (pl.) (involving one human)’.

29, 30, k’u’lukwih ‘big (diminutive)’. Note than in smooth narrative style it is not uncommon at some points to repeat the last part of the sentence as the beginning of the next, as Anna does twice in a row here. *u’a’n ‘coming upon, encountering’, saqen ‘they traveled by (one) boat’. This might also be interpreted here that they came upon the Aleuts. da’chduhn’ may be interpreted either as ‘where (did) they (move to)’ or ‘where (did) their (encounter take place) at?’.

33. This sentence says that they wrapped a paddle around her hair, where it is surely meant that they wrapped her hair around a paddle. With the minimum of changes in the text, this should be aw le’l awlah aw sat’ilih, kawusu’ilal le’l anhixa’ sat’ilih.
39 Ahnu'yaq'li' k'usałdu'łinh.
40 K'uhtl ahnu'yaq' li' sałdu'l,
K'udi'q'ayu'.

41 Awłah u'satah̓t da'x q'aw
an̓h k'ama',
q'adits'i'n xada' gah*,
dik' dade-dun̓h xasałt̓ginh.
42 Q'adits'i'n xada' gah dik' k'u̱xahginh.
43 K'u̱q'a̱'tsał̓xinh.
44 K'u̱q'a̱'tsał̓xinh,
awleht.
45 Sahtx ga'̱t da'x q'unhuw al q'adits'i'n
ya' gah q'unh
ga'lt.
46 Li'dawa-
gə̱t̓xinh,
an̓h k'uma'.
47 Uy̱a̱x̱shgayuv',
ahn̓u̱ adîx dla'sał̓e̱ł̓t̓h̓l̓inh.

48 U̱dax q'unhuw̱̱ aw gå̱ts'guał̓x̱aq' q'aw
aw'a'n' sał̓t.
49 Ya'x dasalu̱k'a't̓t̓l.
50 Dik' awx̱a'x qe'le'q̓g̓inh.

51 Aw q'unhuw,
yə' q'unhuw shas̓he̱łt.
52 Aw sał̓tsał̓t̓xinh.
53 Aw sał̓tsał̓t̓xinh,
ad̓gał̓t̓sał̓t̓l',
sał̓tsał̓t̓xinh.
54 Gał̓t̓sał̓tl' sał̓tsał̓t̓xinh.
55 Áw sał̓tsał̓t̓ da'x q'unhuw,
aw q'unhuw,

They stuffed something in him.
They stuffed moss in his mouth,
Aleuts.

She found out about it and then
the mother,
for eight days*,
she didn't eat anything.
For eight days she didn't eat.
She was going to cut something.
She was going to cut something,
because of that.
She was going along a long time and
then on this eighth day she was
going along.
She was going along early in the
morning,
the mother.
Her children,
she hid them inside.

Then it was a magpie she
came upon.
It flew off.
She didn't pay attention to it.

Then,
she killed something.
She cut it.
She cut it,
that land-otter,
she cut it.
She cut a land-otter.
She cut it and then,
then it was,

41. For a description of the Eyak shaman's vision-quest, see Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, pp. 206-209,
and for a still more detailed description of the Yakutat shaman's vision-quest see Frederica de Laguna's Under
Mount St. Elias: The History and Culture of the Yakutat Tlingit, 1972, pp. 676-680. This quest for shaman's
power generally involved fasting in the woods for eight days, and cutting the tongue of an animal,
especially of a land-otter. The meaning of the encounter with the magpie in the quest in this story (48-50) is
not clear to me, however.
her mind became like a man’s. Already ten days have passed for her. Her mind became like a man’s and then she boated off. (For revenge) on them she had cut something. (For revenge) on those Aleuts she had cut something.

She boated off. She came upon them. A woman she was. She killed them. Eight – seven Aleuts, she slaughtered them. She dashed their brains out. * That woman it was did thus. * For that (revenge) it was she had cut something so, because of that she became thus.

She killed them and then, she went back. Then she said thus, to her younger sister, “You should be married already. You’re just clutched onto the underside of dead dogs*, for your senselessness. You lie* with men on housetops, you lie thus.”

66. Or, ‘on that (here ‘for revenge on/for that’) she had done such cutting’ or ‘something that because of it she became thus (strong like a man)’. 70. Very strong version of standard Eyak expression for a promiscuous woman. See introduction to this tale.
71. Very unusual, colorful and powerfully effective grammar here, ‘you are in a constant state of lying repeatedly many times with men’ (neuter, repetitive, with lengthened vowel in stem). The second instance of the verb here ‘to lie down with someone’ is much more ordinary, active customary, with switch of subject from ‘you (singular)’ to ‘you (plural)’.
That’s why that woman, that sister—
people went.
They were boating along.
They were going to move.
They were going to dry things.
Her old mother was still alive.
Her old father however had died.
Her old mother was alive
and so,
her mother too went away.
They were drying fish.

The sister,
the one who didn’t have any sense,
her child too,
went away.
They were going to move back from
there and then she said thus to her,
"Abandon her right here.
She’s too senseless."
A slave they had,
those who were going to dry fish.
She had an old slave.
Then,
They were going to boat back.
*With a dog it was they tied them
together.
*A dog,
with a dog,
they tied them together.
They tied them together and then,
that old slave however said thus,
"Already they’re about to put out!"
My heavens,

72-81. Anna breaks the sentence to go into how the whole family moved to summer fish-camp, then abandoned the ‘bad’ daughter there when leaving.
86, 87. The structure of these two sentences is evidently good Eyak, though not good English. Cf. also 95.
96. 88. yaht ‘out to sea’, qa’qeh ‘they’re about to go (by boat)’, spoken with great urgency.
I forgot it, my old ulu. I’ll go back for a moment to get it.” She ran back there. Just to lie it was she said thus. *With the dog as they were, she cut them apart from each other, that woman. With the dog their heads had been tied together, so that they’d die. Then the slave cut them separate*, with the dog. *She lived there with it and then the dog it was, it came out of its skin. She ran back down to shore. She immediately boated off. They abandoned her there. They boated off leaving them right there.

Then that old dog, the dog it was said thus, I’ll marry you. I’ll marry you. I’ll take good care of you. I’ll marry you. I’ll go around (hunting game) for you*. So then the woman in turn,

---

93. Literally ‘with the dog it was’ (involving more than one human), she cut them away from each other, that woman; again, good Eyak but not good English. Cf. 86, 87, 95.
95. *Iq’ast* ‘inverted with respect to each other, averted from each other, end-to-end, at both/opposite ends’, as a pair together, and cut apart from being tied in such a position. Cf. 86, 87, 93.
96. This sentence belongs after the next four sentences, between sentences 100 and 101. Anna starts to go on to say how they lived together, then interrupts, remembering how the slave hurriedly rejoined the family that was abandoning the girl and the dog.
105. Literally ‘going around on foot’, often meaning ‘hunting’.
"K'adzu'dah sixa'x qe'qe'ylie' da'x, ixa' wax qu'xt'uh.
107 *Dlagayaq q'al a'nt da' wax qa't'uh."

"If you'll take good care of me, I'll live with you.
*Alone this'll be we'll live here."

So then a person it was it turned into with her, that old dog.
*Then the dog it was, it would go onto the mountains, to get mountain-goats. Any of these things, fish, all kinds of things, It would bring in hauls of them. All kinds of things, it would drag them to her. It would pack them to her. So then the woman would prepare it nicely. She dried it, she dried it.

*Winter had half passed and then, to the old slave-summer was coming. She boated there. She was going to boat back there. She boated back there. "Shovel them out, those bones, shovel them out." She boated there, to shovel them out.

107. Very rapid and fading, wax qa't'uh whispered.
109-112. Voice style suddenly slow, deliberate, resonant, characteristic when Anna describes the abundant take of a good provider.
115. This was probably late winter or early spring, a lean time of the year, and the people probably very short of food. Someone is going to give the slave the command to shovel out the bones, finally given in sentence 119 later.
She knew it, that nothing had happened to her, that woman. The dog also nothing had happened to it.

She boated there and then, all sorts of things, mountain-goat meat, black-bear meat, fish she had dried, in seal-oil. Mountain-goat fat, she had dried it. *Then, she boated back home and then, she boated back. “I’m going to boat back,” thus she said to her. That woman (said), “Don’t tell it to my mother, that I’m alive. That I’m alive, you won’t tell her. Be sure not to tell her that.”*

She went back, she boated back, and then she said thus, thus she said, “I already shoveled them out.”

They went to bed and then, a bit of fat apparently, she had jammed it in her pocket for her kid*. So then she lay down and then she gave it to him.

---

121. Aw u’li:’ginhinh, dik’ k’e’dunh asliltq, anh qe’:t.
122. Aw xawa’dak dik’ dak’e’duw asliltq.
123. U’da’ saqehl da’x q’aw, li’q ya’yur, dlaq’aya’tse’, ts’iyuhstse’, te’ya’yur dasal’ehtktl, xe’ya’ch’.
124. Dlaq’aya’aq’ax, dasal’ehtktl.
125. *Aw q’unhaw, q’e’ anh sdfiqehl da’x, q’e’ sdfiqehlinh.
126. “Q’e’ qu’xdaqeq,” wax utl’ dalinhinh.
128. Galaxtah, dik’ anhntl’ qu’yiixahuq.
129. A’t ya’xu’ aw utl’ qi’yixinhinh.”
130. Q’e’ sdiyahl, q’e’ sdfiqehlinh, da’x q’aw wax dasalilinh, wax dasalilinh, “Datli’aq’sixuhtlklnu.”
131. Ya’n’ k’ushatu’ch’l da’x q’unhaw, k’uq’axki:shuh q’unhuw, uyahshashiyah’a-’* aw t’a’ sdits’axl.
132. Aw q’unhuw ya’n’ sateh’l da’x q’unh anhch’ aw saltah’t.

---

125. This sentence belongs after the next four sentences, between 129 and 130.
Then that kid, though, cried again for some more, for fat, that mountain-goat fat be given to him.

*Then she said, “Quiet down, quiet down! Where would I get any from to give you?”*

Then someone said thus to her, “What is it, that he’s crying for, what?” “It’s those whom you tied together, their house is simply bursting open, from abundance of food. It’s fairly bursting open.” So then the mother said thus, “Hurry, hurry, hurry! We’ll boat there.”

They boated there and then, the slave, she jumped out. She jumped out of the canoe, and she ran up from shore. She grabbed her kid and ran up from the shore.

*They were coming up from shore and that fat was hanging up. She cut it down from there. She threw it out. A big glacier immediately, that fat, it expanded by there.*

---

133. Aw qu'n̓un ah k'uyahshashiyah awa' gu'dık k'u'ẽ' q'e' daki'nx, k'ux'ax'ala'e', dla'q'aya'q'ax uch' iditàh.
134. *Aw qu'n̓un ah dasališt, “Adi'łaga', adi'łaga'.
135. Da'ch'aht ich' k'uqu'xtah?”
136. Aw qu'n̓unhuw wax utl' k'udasališt, “De'dunh, aw'e' ki'nx, de't?”
137. "Ahn̓u' itch' laxsatl'ihši'n̓u' q'ahnu', q'e'dah yaht ux̣a' tl'eh til kukkan*, giyahaq'ách'ahit.
138. Q'e'dah tl'eh til kukkan.”
139. Aw q'aw anh k'uma' wax daleh, “Dawa't, dawa't, dawa't.
140. U'ch' da' qa'qeh.”
141. U'da' saqeḥl da'x q'aw, anh fa'ah, ya't shi'atsin̓h.
142. Aχ̣a'k'ah shi'atsił, da'x laq xadla'sa'yahi'n̓h.
143. Anh uyahshashiyah sałk'un̓ṭl da'x laq xadla'sa'yahi.
144. *Laq ga'a'cḥl da'x q'aw aw k'uq'ax̣ dala' ṭəlṭ.
145. U'ch'aht aw qit sałtsax̣l.
146. Aw a'q' sats'ax̣l.
147. La'da'ḷuíw q'aw q'e'dah aw k'uq'ax, u'da'x ash sawusł.

134-136. Very rapidly articulated, to express impatience and irritation, with some distortion, up to de dunh: da'ch'aht 'where from?', ich' 'to you', k'uqu'xtah 'I'll give/handle something'.
137. tl'eh til kukkan 'it breaks open (repeatedly)', giyahaq'ách'ahit 'from on top of food'.
144. The rest were in pursuit. The slave is ahead of them, sees the fat, and transforms it into a huge obstacle.
There were once two sisters. One of them had no sense, didn't care about anything. The other one was good. A man fell in love with her because she was nice and married her. Her husband's parents built a big house for them. But the bad sister lived alone, unmarried.

The married sister moved with her family to another place, where she established another large household.

---

150. *k'uqa' q'unh saht, spoken in a rapidly fading voice.
153-156. The exact outcome is not certain. The girl who married the dog is not mentioned explicitly at all, but she is certainly one of those who ran away and became owls. Her dog-husband apparently perished in following her. The slave makes the second owl, and the third is the male child, apparently of the slave, already mentioned, there being no mention of any children from the marriage of the girl and dog. The horned owl is a sinister bird for both the Eyaks and the Yakutat Tlingits.
22 She had six children with her husband. Then her husband died. She would never remarry, however, because of her children. She didn’t want any new husband to slap her children or beat them up, as she never beat them herself.

29 Her children were growing, and as their mother was moving to a new place with them, Aleuts fell upon them. Those Aleuts killed one son and one daughter of hers. They wrapped the little girl’s hair around a canoe paddle and thrust her under the water and held her down until she drowned.

38 As for the boy, they stuffed his mouth with moss and buried him under a tree stump.

41 For eight days the mother ate nothing, traveling along. She found a place to hide her children.

48 She saw a magpie, which flew away. She paid no attention to it.

51 She cut something off a land-otter and her mind became like a man’s. On the tenth day her mind became like a man’s. She had cut the land-otter for revenge on the Aleuts.

60 She set off and found them. She killed seven Aleuts, dashing their brains out. She was a woman, but to get revenge on the Aleuts, she cut that thing off a land-otter to become like a man.

68 After she killed the Aleuts, she went home. Then she told her younger sister, ‘You should be married by now. You’re so wanton you clutch to the underside of dead dogs. You lie with men on housetops, anywhere.’

72 They were going to move. They were setting up a camp for drying fish. Their old mother was still alive, but their father had died. They had all moved to this camp for drying fish.

80 As they were preparing to move back from there, the first sister said, ‘Let’s abandon her right here. She’s too senseless.’ They tied the sister together with a dog. As they were about to abandon her, thus tied together with a dog there, an old slave they had said, ‘Heavens, we’re about to leave and I forgot my old knife! Let me go back for a moment and get it.’ She ran back. She lied. She cut the dog and the woman apart. Their heads had been tied together so they would die, but the slave separated them and ran back to the shore. The people left the woman and the dog behind.

96 The second sister stayed with the dog. The dog came out of its skin, changing into a man. Then that dog said to her, ‘I’ll marry you. I’ll take good care of you. I’ll go hunting for you.’ She said, ‘If you will take good care of me, I’ll marry you. We’ll live alone here.’

108 Then that old dog lived as a man with her. The dog would go hunting goats in the mountains. Fish, all sorts of good things, he would bring back to her. He packed in all kinds of good things for her. She would prepare it nicely and dry it, putting up lots in storage for winter.

115 The people had passed through most of the winter. Spring was about to come. [This is the time of year people have the least to eat.] The old slave was told to go back and shovel out the bones. She went back there knowing that nothing had happened to
the woman and the dog. In fact, she found them well stocked with all sorts of food—mountain-goat meat, black-bear meat, fish that had been dried in seal oil, mountain-goat fat that she had dried. When the slave told the sister that she was about to leave, the sister said, ‘Don’t tell my mother I’m alive. Be sure not to tell her that.’

138 The slave went home and said, ‘I shoveled out their bones.’

139 They went to bed. She had put a piece of mountain-goat fat in her pocket for her child. As they went to bed she gave it to him. Then the child cried for more of that mountain-goat fat. She said, ‘Quiet, quiet down! Where will I get any more to give you?’ Then someone said, ‘What’s that? What is it that child’s crying for?’ So the slave admitted, ‘Those two you tied together, their house is practically bursting open, it is so crammed with food. It’s fairly bursting open.’ The old mother said, ‘Hurry, let’s hurry, let’s get in our boats and go there.’

140 They landed there and the slave jumped out. She jumped out of the canoe and ran up the shore. She grabbed her child and ran to where that fat was hanging. The others were behind. She cut a piece of the fat down and threw it behind her, in front of the others. That piece of fat turned into a big glacier, expanding right there. She was gone.

150 The people never caught up with them. Her husband climbed up on the glacier after her but fell down in and died. The slave and the woman and the dog and the son all turned into owls and flew away. Owls.

158 Since then nothing more is said about them.

1933: THE GIRL AND THE DOG

We have a version of part of this story from Anna, 30 years younger, ‘The Girl and the Dog,’ as told by her and translated by Galushia in 1933 (Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, pp. 314–316). It is practically the same as the second part of the tale here, but with one important difference (aside from the fact that it is not tied to the first part of this tale of two sisters), namely, that it is not about a promiscuous woman at all, but about a little girl who was abandoned by her parents because she played with a dog. This is Anna too, telling the same story with another personal meaning from when she was a little orphan girl ‘who had to sleep with the dogs beside the fire.’

At the end of this version, well told even in the English, we feel how powerfully Anna makes the final point here, as her unloving but hungry mother and father ran after her crying ‘My poor daughter! My poor daughter!’ and the girl answers, ‘You didn’t think I was your daughter when you tied me to a dog!’ Here we also most clearly see another layer of personal meaning in the way Anna tells the story in both versions, by exposing the selfishness and hypocrisy of so many self-righteous people who presume too much to be the moral judges of others.
There was a man and his wife. They had a daughter who was always playing around with the dog. Her mother told her: 'Don't play around with that bitch. Leave her alone.'

They were going to move to another place. When they were ready to move, she was playing with the dog. So they left her playing with it. Before they left they tied the girl's head and the bitch's head together and left them like that.

They had a female slave, too.

The slave said, 'Wait a while. I forgotten my we-kshk (woman's knife).' It was just an excuse to go back and cut the girl and dog apart. She told the girl, 'Don't show yourself. I'm going to get a licking if they find I cut you loose.'

The slave went back to the boat and they left. The girl was still crying. They went home to where they were before.

After a year, the girl's mother told the slave, 'Go to our camp, and throw their bones out. Shovel them out.'

So the slave went over there. The slave find the girl and dog. They were still alive. The house was almost full of things to eat. The dog was a good hunter. When the slave went over there, they fed her and gave her all she want to eat. She sneaked a piece of fat under her shirt for her son.

The slave says, 'I'm going home now. I'm staying too long. They're going to get after me for it.'

The girl said, 'If they come back with you, -when they land, you run in first. We're not going to let my father and mother in.'

The slave got home.
The mother asked her, 'Did you shovel the bones out?'
The slave said, 'Yes.'

That evening when they went to bed, the slave went to bed with her son and gave the fat to her son. After the son ate up the fat, he started to cry for some more, and called for fat, 'K'uq'axde.'

The woman asked the slave, 'What's wrong with your son? He never cried like that before.'

'I tried to feed him with the breast, but it slipped out of his mouth. That's why he cried.'

The boy still kept crying. The woman asked the same question.

The slave got mad, and said, 'That daughter of yours that you tied to your dog got a house full of meat and gave me all I could eat. I hid a piece of fat for my son. After he ate it up he wanted more.'

'You want to get up early in the morning. We got to go there early in the morning. Try to stop your son from crying.'

So next morning they started before daylight. When they land where the girl and dog were living, the slave grab her son, jump out and run.

The girl asked the slave, 'Is that my mother and father?'
The slave said, 'Yes.'

The girl's mother started to run up, too.

She and her father said, 'My poor daughter! My poor daughter!'

The girl pulled down a piece of fat that was hanging and threw it towards her father and mother, and said, 'You didn't think I was your daughter when you tied me to a dog.' She said to the fat, 'Turn into glacier!'

It did—between her and her mother and father. The glacier got long, and the father and mother made a bird noise, 'Gak gak.' It sounded farther and farther away.
PART THREE

ON HUSBAND AND WIFE
HUSBAND AND WIFE

The following two selections reflect some of Anna’s amusement over the relationship (in certain cases!) between husband and wife, here too from a moral point of view. The first is her version of the famous tale of the Blind Man and the Loon, told in the usual way, but with some graphic detail and excellent language at the end. A selfish wife abandons her blind husband, who has just shot an animal, to cook all the meat for herself. His sight restored by the Loon, the husband catches the wife at her game. Her quick reaction, ‘Anh, siq’a’kiih, iya’ k’uxlqa’t’k’ (‘Oh, hubby dear, I was just cooking something for you’), really the punch-line of the story, reminds us very much of ‘My poor daughter! My poor daughter!’ in the 1933 version of ‘Dog-Husband’. Here Anna again puts the finger directly on some of mankind’s less admirable traits.

The second selection here is merely a short excerpt from the many tales told about Raven in Alaska Native literature. We also have a good number of these told by Anna. This short excerpt is not even an episode in the Raven Cycle; it is just a lively conversation between Raven and his wife, in which Anna deftly pictures in a few hilarious lines Raven’s character and his marriage. Much of Anna’s humor here is in the masterful way she uses the grammar of the Eyak language, in a way that cannot possibly be translated into English, so that that part has to be explained.
BLIND MAN AND LOON*

1 K'uga'a'ñginh,
anh uqa' uxa' k'uga'a'ñginh.
2 Aw q'unhaw,
u'cht q'unh wax utl' dasalił,
"Dānig'ihi' u'dax ga't.'
3 'Alax,
aw t'ik't sixa',
shich' ał'a',
anhtl' dalinhin,
u'chtl' wax dasalił.
4 Anhch' aw sałahl.
5 "I'edh dah k'a' a'nt uch'a'xałya'xt aw ya' xada'yitah,
da'x anh gált'uxł.*
6 "Idahshuw.'
7 "A'n,
a'nt uch'a'xałya'xt.'
8 Aw sał't'ik'tinh.
9 *Lahts sa'yalh.
10 Anh uch'a'xałya'xdał aw sałt'ak't.
11 Q'e'dah distiqaqht.

He was blind,
his husband was blind.
Then,
his wife said thus to him,
"A moose* is going by there."
"Give them here,
my bow-and-arrow,
give them to me,"
said he to her,
said thus to his wife.
She gave them to him.
"Point it right at its underarm here,'" and she was holding him.*
"Is that right?"
"Yes,
its underarm here."
He shot it.
*It bolted forward.
He shot it through its underarm.
Right away it fell.

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 27, 1965, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan in Cordova, June 1, 1965.
1. dani'gh is a Copper River Athabaskan word. Moose in the Eyak area, at least in modern times, are a recent introduction from the interior.
2. Might also be interpreted 'he drew it (bow)'.
3. Very rapidly pronounced. Perhaps hearable also as lahts dasa'yalh 'it (arrow) shot forward'.
12 *U·dax q'unh wax anhtl dasalił, “Shich’ q’e’ afa’.”
13 **“Da’-wax ga’.”
14 Lingih aw q’e’ sałt’ik’l da’x q’aw aw shasheł.
15 La’dax aw sałt’ik’t.
16 Ya’n’ disliqahq’il da’x q’unh wax anhtl’ dale, “Dik’ aslt’ak’lq, anh k’u’eht wax anhtl’ daleh, “Dik’ aslt’ak’tq, dik’ aslt’ik’tq.”
17 U’ch’ sałt, aw t’ik’dlalu’qa’.
18 U’t ts’a’yaq’ q’aw aw yax dasatsu’xt da’x anhda’ aw saltahłinh.
19 Aw q’unh aw ichinhinh.
20 “Dałga’ dałachanh.”
21 “Dik’, ts’a’ q’aw dasalt’ik’t, wax anhtl’ dalinhinh.

22 Aw q’unhuw, sałtinh.
23 Anhxat a’k’inh, uqa’xaht a’k’.
24 Dik’ k’uga’a’nqgih.
25 Anhxat a’k’inh.
26 Q’ahsh aw dani gihshunh q’aw, aw łqa’t’k.
27 U’ch’ q’unh a’k’.

28 Aw q’unhuw, x’it tse’x q’unh wax anhtl’ k’udasalił, “A’nch’ iya’.”
29 “Dik’ gaxw’a’nq.”

*Then he said to her, “Give them back to me.”
*“It’s still going.”
He shot it once more and killed it.
Twice he shot it.
It had fallen down but she said this to him,
“You didn’t get it,”
that wife said thus to him.
“You didn’t hit it, you didn’t hit it.”
She went over there, to get that arrow.
There she thrust it down into the mud and brought it to him.
He then smelled it.
“It smells like blood.”
“No, you hit the mud,” thus she said to him.

Then, she went off.
She kept going away without him, she kept going away from her husband.
She’s not blind.
She kept going off without him.
By now that moose, no doubt, she’s boiling it.
She keeps going over there.

Then, down at the shore yonder something said thus to him,
“Come here.”
“I can’t see.”

12-13. The order of these two sentences should be reversed, she misinforming him that the moose is still moving, and he then requesting his weapons again.
“Come, come here. Just grope. Down here by the shore, come.”
It was a loon speaking to him. “On my back, lie down flat onto my back. Just bury your head in my feathers.” He went under with him. Around the lake he swam* with him. Four times, no, twice he swam around it with him. He came up with him. “Now then, look yonder.” “I can see a little,” he said to it. “Put your head back down.” Then he put his head back down. It went back under. Again twice, he swam around it with him. It was a big lake. He came back up with him. He came back up with him and then, he could see fine. Then it said thus to him, “You’ll go yonder right by here.”

She was boiling something there, that wife.
He went over to her. He got to her and she said thus to him, “Ah,

37. Anna here starts to say gaw-e:' is swimming', which refers to the swimming of humans or mammals, but not birds or fish, but decides on gala-e, which refers to the underwater swimming of a duck or fish. Her hesitation is understandable in this special case of a bird swimming underwater with a man on its back. In the next sentence Anna uses -la- again, but in sentence 45 uses -we-.
iya' k'uxłqa't'k
siqa'kih,**
wax anhtl' dalc.
53 *Anhch' k'ushiyah ula'x
dasa'yah1hleht q'unh,
aw q'atlya'x anh yax
i nsaa'kinhł.
54 *Q'e-dah yâ'i' i'nsa'mahtl.
55 Da-'wax ida'ya'lał x ya' sa'mahtlleht
q'unh,
awayaxa' sa'yahł,
anh qe't.
56 *Aw q'unhaw,
q'e' sdiyaht,
anh Hl'a'.
57 Aw yehs q'aw uch'aht
i-lihsa'yahł.
58 Wax q'unhulw k'ulał x q'e' ishi'anht.*
59 Daq'e-dah q'aw.

I'm boiling something for you, my
dear husband,**
thus she said to him.
Because he'd become furious
at her,
he jammed her head down into the
cooking-pot.
Her head immediately cooked.
Because it had just too completely
cooked,
she died of it,
that woman.

*Then,
he went back,
that man.
The loon it was he had gotten good
fortune from.
Thus it was that he saw again.*
That's all.

**BLIND MAN AND LOON**

1 A woman had a blind husband. She said to him, 'A moose is going by!'
2 'Hand me my bow and arrow,' he said to his wife. She gave them to him. 'Aim it
right at the place under its shoulder,' and she held him that way. 'Is that right?'

52. The climactic line of the story, masterfully delivered. Anh is an exclamation of embarrassed surprise,
compare Wolf-Woman, sentence 104. siqa' - 'my husband', -kih 'nice, little', sounding ridiculously affected,
especially here. Even siqa' alone is a loaded word, not used freely in normal conversation. In the Athabaskan
version of this story the wife uses the same term here, with the same effect. Anna's language here also
reminds us of "My poor daughter!" at the end of her 1933 version of the Girl and the Dog.
53-55. Details here may well be Anna's invention. Her style is in this passage very gleeful and also inventive,
for example in the way she uses the prefix that refers to a head (here i' n-) with the verbs (yax) -salkinhł
'moved it (downward) violently/quickly by hand' and (ya') -sa'mahtl 'it (completely) cooked'. The
combined effect of the graphic details and matter-of-fact language, and intense tone of voice is very striking
and funny.
56-59. Anna suddenly drops the dynamic level of her voice from highly animated to very subdued, low-key
style for these last four sentences.
58. Mostly muttered, barely intelligible.
'Yes, it's aimed right at that spot.' He shot. The animal bolted forward, shot right under the shoulder, and fell. She said, 'It's still going.'

12 Then he said, 'Hand them to me again.' He shot it a second time and killed it.
16 It had fallen but she told him, 'You missed.' That wife said to him, 'You didn't get it, you didn't hit it.' She went over to get the arrow. She poked it down into the mud and brought it back to him.
19 He smelled it. 'It smells like blood.'
21 'No, you hit only the mud,' she told him.
22 Then she went off. She would leave her husband. He was blind, but she was not. She would leave him, to go over to that moose, which she soon had no doubt gotten ready to boil.
28 Then down at the shore of the lake something called to the husband, 'Come here.'
29 'I can't, I'm blind.'
30 'Come, just grope your way down, by the shore here, come.' It was a loon speaking to him. 'Lie down flat on my back. Bury your head in my feathers.' He dove under with him and swam around the lake. Twice he swam around the lake with him. When they came up, the loon said, 'Now then, look over there.'
41 'I can see a little,' the man said.
42 'Put your head back down.' He put his head back down and it dove back under. Twice again it swam around the lake with him. A big lake it was. When he came back up this time he could see perfectly. Then the loon told him, 'You should go over there.'
50 That wife of his was cooking something there. He came over to her and she said, 'Ah! I was just cooking something for you, my dear,' she said. He was furious at her. He jammed her head down into the cooking pot. Her head immediately cooked. Because it cooked just too completely, that woman died.
56 Then that man went home. He had good fortune from the loon. That is how he got his sight back. That's all.
RAVEN AND HIS WIFE QUARREL*

This text is so short and clear, yet difficult to translate, that there is very little point in presenting a free translation of it. On the contrary, it is very important to explain the grammatical composition of one word, on which much of the humor of this conversation is based. This is done in the long footnote below.

1 Da'uch'aht q'unhaw q'e' qada'1
da'x
u'e'dashiyah'a'n' q'e' sdiyah,t,
u'e'dashiyah,
anh'a'n' q'e' sdiyah,t.
2 *Da'x wax ahntl' dalinhinh,
"K'u't'u'yu' wax ida'liixi'xah,
da'x k'ude'dah dlagaxu' a'nda' axiya'q."
3 Da'x wax k'udzu'dah anhtl'
ts' dalinhinh,
u'eht.
4 Anh k'u'eht awa' ada'x,
anhli' id'i'xah.
5 Anhch' k'ushiyah ula'x di'yah.t.
6 Anh'axa' uqa'shiyah uxaht
ak'inh.

After that he was going along some
more and,
he came back upon his old wife,
his old lady,
he came back upon her again.
*And he said thus to her,
"I've got a lot of stuff,
but I can't bring it all here by
myself."
Just nicely he speaks
to her,
his wife.

His wife for her part however,
she detests him.
She is infuriated with him.
That old husband of hers keeps
leaving her.

0. This is a section, sentences 43-61, of Raven Cycle II, recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 31, 1965, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan, Cordova, June 7-8, 1965.
2. The direct quotation is delivered in a very gentle, soft-spoken manner, which carries over into the following sentences through 5.
7 K'ula'gayu,
  k'uyi-ny gandich'ich'kwalah
  qe'igayu' udagalehyc' ale'k'inh,
  anh Ch'i'leh.
8 Aowlht ahu'eh,
  ule' iditinhinh,
  anh uqa'shiyahli' iditinhinh.
9 Anh ahxah a'q' q'e' sdiyahfi.
10 U'ch'aht q'unh gu'dak ahxah
   qa'dah.
11 "Ya'xu' q'e' qi'yida',"
   anht' dalinhinh,
   "Daga' q'aw xax isax.x."
12 "Dade'chi't da' da'qe'li'lxax' adixt ya'
   axdah da'x?"
13 "Daxunhyu' q'aw qadli't'eh,
   daxunhyu' q'aw qadli't'eh."
14 U'ehq q'unh wax utl' daleh,
   "Daxunhyu' q'aw datich'a'
   qadli't'eh.
15 Awxax q'aw xaz
   i' da'k',
   da'x qe'lgayu' idagalehyc' le'k'
   da'x,
   ada'fa'e'k*,
   ada'fa'e'k'.
16 Ada'fa'e'k'inh.

Others,
different bird-people women keep
capturing his fancy,
that Raven.
Therefore that wife of his,
she hates him,
she hates that old husband of hers.
He went out and left her again.
Then he was going to leave her
again.
"Don't go any more,"
she said to him,
"Enough of that going around."
"Whatever shall we have if I start
staying put indoors?"
"You keep fooling people,
you keep fooling people."
His wife it was said thus to him,
"You're always fooling
people.
That's what you keep going around
for,
and women keep capturing your
fancy and,
you keep taking wives*,
you keep taking wives."
He keeps taking wives.

15-19. The basic and normal form of the verb (sentences 15-19) here is '-eh 'to take a wife', but Anna uses it here with two grammatical modifications: first, the prefixes ad-la- which mean 'to make oneself do' or more commonly 'to pretend to do', or 'to do for hidden selfish reasons, with ulterior motive', which, added to '-eh, thus ad-la-eh, gives a meaning here something like 'to take a mistress, have an affair, take advantage of a woman', but impossible to translate precisely in English; second, she further modifies this with the suffix -k', for the 'customary' tense, changing '-eh to '-e'k', adding to the meaning that Raven does this on a regular basis. Through Anna's imaginative use of the grammatical devices of the Eyak language, so that both Raven's deviousness and his lechery are handled in the grammatical affixes, Raven's wife accuses her husband in a single word, ada'fa'e'k', of cheating on her and regularly taking advantage of women. This already somewhat funny concoction of a word Anna then repeats in the conversation in a way that is in itself comic. First Raven's wife reproaches him bitterly with it; then, at the end of 15, with a chuckle, no longer able to keep a straight face, Anna herself joins in; the word is so catchy that Raven himself starts to agree, then stops himself. This section is marvelously funny in Eyak. and Anna is entitled to her chuckle.
17 ‘Atxda’c’k’.
18 Hx’e’k’.
19 Dik’,
   dik’atxha’c’k’q.
20 U’dax q’aw hi’q’ ya’yu’ uха’ awa’
   lagax’ah da’x,
   uk’ah q’e’ xda’k’. *
21 Daq’e’dah.”

“I keep taking wives.
I keep marrying.
No,
I do not keep taking wives.
So then when I make off with all
their things for them,
I go back away from them.*
That’s all.”

20-21. uk’ah q’e’ xda’k’. Daq’e’dah, all delivered in a barely audible, weak, apologetic whisper. The double irony is that Raven’s excuse is that he only “marries” them to cheat them, not to cheat on his real wife.
PART FOUR

ON IDENTITY AND CONFLICT
IDENTITY AND CONFLICT

The following three tales all deal with a human who lives with another kind. In the first a woman is captured by an octopus and becomes his wife; in the second a hunter falls in love with and marries a groundhog; in the third a woman is captured by wolves and lives with them for a while.

In all three tales the human returns to humankind. In that way these tales also resemble the Giant Rat tale, but there the resemblance ends. In all three of these a strong bond is formed between the humans and the animals. The woman who marries the octopus bears his children, the whole family joins humans for a while, but the octopus-father is killed by a whale and the widow goes back to the octopuses; the children kill the whale, avenging their father, and remain octopuses. The hunter who married the groundhog-girl comes back to people because they capture his wife to get him back; she escapes back to the groundhogs and he follows her again, to remain part groundhog. The woman captured by wolves eventually escapes back to humans, but never fully readjusts, and maintains contact with the wolves.

We are fortunate to have the 1933 versions of the last two of these tales, but both those contain only the first parts of the later tales: the groundhog-man tale ends where the man who married the groundhog finds himself turning into a groundhog, the traditional climax of the tale, and the tale of the woman captured by wolves ends when she escapes from the wolves.

Just as Anna later includes a great deal more than in the earlier version of the Giant Rat story, she also includes a great deal more in these tales, to make them profoundly different in meaning. Here the tales do not end with the capture or marriage of the human to another animal, or even with the return to humankind. As noted, the octopus-widow and mother returns to the octopuses (perhaps dies among them), the groundhog-husband and father returns to the groundhogs (and dies among them), and even the woman who escaped from the wolves never becomes fully human again, though she remains among humans, never remarries, and actively maintains contact with the wolves as long as she lives. The earlier parts of these tales about the captures,
escapes, or transformations, are vividly told, as they were in 1933, but they are now
the shorter parts of them, and the situation of the octopus-wife, groundhog-husband,
or wolf-woman now seems more important. In fact, these later parts of the tales are
full of rich feeling, poignancy, and deep emotional resonance for Anna. Her speaking
style is often very subdued, quiet, even whispered, but very intense and evocative. She
hardly comes out with direct statements of the feelings of the persons whose fate it is
to be both human and another kind, but she makes very clear the conflict and divided
allegiance they live in, with haunting intensity, and with a deep sympathy that must
surely have come out of the second half of her own life.

The most special quality of these three tales is the emotional richness Anna infuses
them with, but there is a certain amount of moral to them, also. In this respect, the
groundhog-husband story is very different from the other two; a thoughtless hunter
who fails to observe taboos is purged and given another chance, but then falls in love
with the forbidden groundhog-girl, with resulting conflict and sad end, a tragic love-
affair. The other two stories begin with the capture, through no fault of her own, of a
married woman, by an octopus in one case and by wolves in the other. In both of these
tales the woman becomes a link in friendship between her people and the animals,
with the story's clear message that the two kinds should live together in mutual help,
mutual respect, and peace.
WOMAN AND OCTOPUS*

*One time,
a woman it was,
her child,
went after blueberries.
*They were picking blueberries,
(she) with her child.

Then,
she was still berrypicking and,
standing here and there*,
she was berrypicking.
Something interfered with her.
Something interfered with her lower
leg.
Something interfered with her lower
leg and then,
"Wha—,
what’s this interfering with me?"
She looked at it.
It was an octopus sitting there.
It was sitting still.
“What are you doing?”

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, about August 16, 1963, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan,
Cordova, about August 18, 1963.
1-2. These sentences are loosely constructed. -yahsh ‘(woman’s) child’ is here arbitrarily assumed to be a
daughter; uyahshakihtl’ might belong between lines 3 and 4, sentence 1, but cf. Two Sisters, 86, 87, 93, 98.
daughter; uyahshakihtl’ might belong between lines 3 and 4, sentence 1, but cf. Two Sisters, 86, 87, 93, 98.
3. yâš gula’n’iš ‘moves about in a standing position’.
aw q’unh awtl’ daleh.
11 “Ya’tsaq’skt’a’w.”*
aw waχ awtl’ daleh da’ x q’unhaw,
q’e’dah ulah aw
atsditl’ih tł.
12 Ulah aw atsditl’ih tł da’ x q’unh,
q’e’dah tse’x aw
gaixtétait.
13 Łaqi’n’inh.
14 Du’chi’duñh udah qu’li’ tah?
15 Dik’ daχunh udah ut’lata’k’ginh.
16 Dlaq’a’r q’unh uyahshtl’.
17 Anh k’uyahshakih dada’at’,
uma’e’.
18 *Aw q’unh waχ anhtl’ daleh,
“Giyahgalada’ anh sitl’ ‘a’-…”
19 *Giyahgalada’ anh sařlahl’ da’ x waχ
anhtl’ daleh,
“Q’e’ ida’.
20 Xu’lixtah,
q’al tse’le’xquh q’al silah
atsditl’ih tł.
21 Siga’k’gayurtl’ xu’lixtah.
22 Çal’ih tł ya’ sida’u’q q’al datlį:.”

23 Dik’ aslišginh,
anh qe’lt.
24 Aw tse’le’xquh anh sařlahḻ,
anh qe’lt sařlahḻ.
25 Ta’ anhtl’ sha’a’ch’t da’ x q’unh,
daχunh anhtl’ adu’sťișa’tł,
anh qe’ttl’.
26 Yahtdat’ a’x anhtl’ li’ sha’ a’ch’t,
yahtda’luwdat’ a’x.

she said to it.
“Long-fingers,”*
thus she said to it and then,
straightaway it wrapped itself around
her.
It wrapped itself around her and then,
straightaway it started dragging her
down toward the shore.
She cried out.
Who ever would hear her?
No person could hear her.
She was alone with her child.
The child wailed,
for her mother
Then she said thus to her,
**“He’s taking me to the water!”
*He abducted her to the water and
she said thus to her,
“Go home!
Tell of me,
this octopus has wrapped itself
around me.
Tell my uncles of me.
This is already my last breath.”

Nothing happened to her,
that woman.
The octopus abducted her,
it abducted that woman.
It went into the water with her and,
it turned into a person with her,
with that woman.
It went way into a house with her,
into a big house.

---

11. A typical kind of curse or insult (epithet), as also, for example, where woman curses bear by calling him
“big-face”.
18-19. Very agitated, and, up to q’e’ ida’, very rapid, partly distorted and unintelligible. General meaning,
however, is quite clear.
Probably a chamber under a rock*, in her eyes it was a house. Then, she lived with him. That octopus married her. The octopus married her. It married her.

*Then all kinds of things, he kept going around for them, fish, anything, she always eats. *These seals, he lies down over them. He lies down over them. That’s how he cooks them. The octopus lies down on top of them. Thus he cooks them, the octopus. Seals too, when he kills them, he lies down covering them, they cook right away, when he lies down on top of them, then they cook. Thus she eats them. He cooks them. Cockles, all these things, that same way he cooks them,

---

27. tsa ‘rock, skerry’, -dla- dl-class-mark for tsa’, -t’a- ‘in, in the shelter of - (normally a building). Note that the word for ‘octopus’, tse-le’xquh (also tsa’le’xquh), is still analyzable into ‘rock’, -la- (older) l-class-mark for tsa’, -ya’- under –’, -qu’ (plural) sit, stay’, hence Anna’s surmise about the nature of the house. Provided and cooked food for a captive person.

32. Two loosely structured sentences, interlocked.

33-42. This repetitious section is only minimally edited and fully translated here, there being no exact repetitions; for example, the verb ‘maht ‘cook’ is used in forms that mean ‘cooks’, ‘cooks (repeatedly)’, and ‘cooks (customarily).’ The translation does not attempt to reflect all these contrasts in a direct way, but rather the same general impression with its own slight variations on the same ideas. Compare Giant Rat, sentences 19-26. Anna clearly enjoys lingering over these descriptions of how animals provided and cooked food for a captive person.
42 Awq' yanahl te'k'.
43 *Q'e'dah awyaq' ganamthl.
44 *Ta't qa' awes'k',
aw sahxw.
45 U-ch'aht q'unhaw,
unstkih'gayu' q'aw gace't,
gace't.
46 Tsadli'na'q' sadahthinh*,
anh qe't.
47 Aw tse'le'xhrh k'uqu'washe'ch't
sahat da'x,
tsadli'na'q'ach' qa' sah,l,
da'x awq' sadahthinh.
48 U-da'x q'unh unstkih'gayu' ulax
isa'tanhl.
49 "A'nt sadahthinh.
50 Anh siyitkh*,
a'nt sadli'na'q' sadahl."
51 U't ahnu'xa' yaq'saqehl da'x q'aw
waX anhtl' daleh,
"A'nch' iya' q'ah.
52 Daga' q'aw utl' ...* 
53 Datli' sahtx q'aw k'a'dih
sa'le'l.'
54 WaX q'aw anhtl' daleh,
"Di'dah netl' da'ant sidahl.
55 Di'dah netl' da'ant sidahl.
56 Laxch'an'win'inh laxa'
k'uqa'siyuhk,"
waX anhtl' daleh.

he sits on them.
He lies over them.
*Right away they start to cook in it.
*They bob up out of the water, those cockles.

After that then,
her brothers were traveling along,
boating.
She was sitting on a skerry*,
that woman.
The octopus had gone hunting
and,
she climbed up onto a skerry,
and she was sitting on it.
Then her brothers saw her.
"She's sitting there.
My* sister,
she's sitting on a skerry here."
They boated ashore by her there and
said thus to her,
"Come here at last.
That's enough of (living)* with him.
You've been missing a long time
already."
Thus she said to him,
"Let me stay here a little while yet.
Let me stay here a little while yet.
Your brother-in-law will kill things
for you,"
thus she said to him.

43. End fades out below audibility. Exact interpretation uncertain, but probably 'it starts right away to cook inside it (octopus)' (?). This whole section has a dreamy pensive quality, about being comfortably provided for.
44. Drawn into her reverie, probably Anna was going to say something more about the cockles, but then turns her thoughts back to the story.
46. I.e., offshore rock. For the same significant image, see Lament for Eyak, sentence 29.
50. 'My' here instead of 'our' is fairly common Eyak (and Tlingit) usage. Compare sentence 95, also sentences 75, 76.
52. Interrupted with choked voice; supply waXit'eh.
So, they let her be there. They boated back without her. Only she did say thus,*
“You'll boat back here some time. You'll boat back here,” she said to them, to her brothers, and then they boated back without her.

The octopus came back there and she said thus to him,
“Your brothers-in-law boated here, to get me. So I said thus to them, ‘Let me stay here a little while yet. Your brother-in-law will kill things for you,’ Thus it was I said to him. Thus it was I said to him. That’s why they let me be here.” It must have been a big octopus, her husband was. Then, he said thus to her, to his wife, “You had better say to them that they must not kill me, your brothers, let them not kill me. Killing things is all they have on their minds.” “Yes, I’ll say thus to them, that you’ll help them, when you see them,” thus she said to the octopus, that woman.

59. Distorted and barely intelligible, but the present interpretation, given the context, is reasonably certain.
Anh qe’l awa’,
aw u’li’lgah.
Da’al,
awch’ q’aw ya’ sa’yahł,
datli’,
aw tse’le’xquh.
Tse’le’xquhyaquhyu’ da’sałxa’łinh,
k’uyaquhyu’,
la’díh uyaquh,
tse’le’xquhyaquhyu’.

Aw q’unhaw,
wax anhtl’ dasalit,
“U’ch’ da’ qa’a’ch’.
Shich’an’win’ inhgayu’ch’ da’
qa’a’ch’.
Ahnu’ iyahshgyaquhyagayu’ ità:”’
U’ch’ sha’a’ch’ínú.
Daxunh,
dik’ tse’le’exquhq q’a’aw.
Daxunh q’aw saît.
U-da’ sha’a’ch’l da’x q’aw wax anhtl’
daleh,
“Tla’exuh wax
u’laxxah,
tse’le’exquh q’aw
xusallah,
daxunh q’a’anhs.”
Daxunh saît.
Ahnurtl’ wax í’t’íninh.

Aw q’aw,
awshunh q’unhuw,
yahł q’aw saqehł.
Da’a’ q’aw mistake wax sañił.
Al qa’yit teh’l qa’ni’ saiyahł.
Aw q’unh aw qa’yit teh anhla’x
sát’u’l.
Anh shashehtinh.
Aw tse’le’exquh shashehtinh,
aw qa’yit teh.
That woman for her part,
she knew him.
This in fact,
she had gotten used to him,
already,
that octopus.
She had octopus-young,
some young,
her two young,
 octopus-young.

Then,
he said thus to her,
“We’ll go there.
We’ll go to my
brothers-in-law.
Take those offspring of yours.”
They went there.
A person,
he wasn’t an octopus.
He had become a person.
She got there and she said thus to
him,
“Where’s that which you were telling
thus of,
that it was an octopus which
abducted me,
his a person.”
It has become a peson.
He lived with them.

Then,
evidently,
he boated out to sea.
He himself made a mistake.
He fought with this whale.
Then the whale got the better of
him.
It killed him.
It killed the octopus,
that whale.
*After that then,
she went back to his sisters,
that’s all,
for the last time,
with her brothers.
She didn’t remain alive long,*
after that,
she too,
she just died.

Those young of theirs however grew
big.
Those octopus-young,
they became big.
And then,
they went into the water,
those young of theirs.
Their mother had died from them
and they went into the water.
Then they said thus,
“We’ll get revenge on it for my* 
father,
we’ll kill that whale.”
They fought with it,
those children of theirs.
After their mother had died they
went.
They fought with it.
They killed it for their mother’s
brothers,
that big whale.
A big whale,
they killed it for their uncles.

89. Story somewhat uncertain here. -at-kih refers to the sisters of a man only. This must therefore mean that
the widow of the octopus went back to the sisters (up to now not mentioned) of the octopus, accompanied
by her brothers. It is not clear whether this was a visit (mourning or farewell) and she went back to die with
her brothers, or whether she stayed to die amongst the octopuses.
90. Literally ‘she did not remain a person for long’, a normal way of saying ‘she did not live long’, but here
with extra meaning.
95. Compare sentences 50 and note, and sentences 75, 76.
101 U·ch’aht q’uhnu· da∫ich’ ahnu·xaht
    sha’a’ch’t.
102 Dik’ ahnu·da’ q’e· ashda’a’ch’tlq.
103 Dik’ qi’ch’ sha’a’ch’l u xa’ aw
    u’la’daga’q.
104 Dik’ ahnu· uga’kgayu’ aw u’la’hga’q.
105 Daq’e·dah q’a’aw.

After that they went away from them
for good.
They never came back to them.
It was not known where they went
to.
Those mother’s brothers of theirs
didn’t know it.
That’s all.

WOMAN AND OCTOPUS

1 Once there was a woman who went out picking blueberries with her child.
While she was standing about berrypicking, something interfered with her.
3 Something grabbed her foot. Something interfered with her foot and she said,
‘What’s this clinging to my foot?’ She looked at it. It was an octopus sitting
there.
‘What are you doing?’ she said to it. ‘Long-fingers,’ she called it, and it immediately
wrapped itself around her. It wrapped itself around her and started dragging her down
toward the shore. She cried out, but who was there to hear her? There was no one to
hear her because she was alone with her child. The child wailed for her mother. She
said, ‘It’s taking me into the water!’ As it dragged her away into the water, she said to
the child, ‘Go home. Tell what has happened to me, that the octopus has wrapped it
self around me. Tell my uncles of me. This is already my last breath.’
23 Nothing happened to that woman. The octopus dragged her into the water and
it turned into a man with her. He took her into a house, a big house. It was probably
a chamber under a rock, but in her eyes it was a house. The octopus married her and she
lived with him.
32 He would always go hunting for all kinds of things, fish, anything, which she
would eat. When he caught a seal, he would lie down on top of it to cook it. That’s
how he cooked them, by lying down on top of them, and she ate them. Cockles, all
those kinds of things too, he would cook them that way, by lying over them and right
away they would start to cook.
45 Some time after that the woman’s brothers were traveling along in their boat.
The woman was sitting on a rock, a skerry. The octopus had gone hunting and she had
climbed up onto a skerry and was sitting on it when her brothers saw her. ‘There she
is, our sister sitting on a skerry there.’ They landed by her and said, ‘It’s time to come
with us. That’s enough of living with him. You have been missing a long time already.’
She said, ‘Let me stay here a little while yet. Let me stay here a little while yet.
Your brother-in-law will hunt for you,’ she said to them. So they let her stay there.
They went back without her. Only she did say this, ‘You’ll come back here sometime.’
won't you?'' she said to her brothers, and they went back without her.

68 The octopus came back and she said to him, 'Your brothers-in-law came here to get me. I said to them, "Let me stay here a little while yet. Your brother-in-law will hunt for you," that's what I said to them. That's why they let me be here.' He must have been a big octopus, her husband.

Then he said to his wife, 'You had better tell them that they must not kill me, your brothers. Let them not kill me. Killing things is all they have on their minds.'

'Yes, I'll tell them that, that you'll help them when you see them,' said the woman to the octopus.

71 That woman had gotten to know him. In fact she had gotten quite used to the octopus. She had octopus-babies, two of them. Octopus-young.

74 Then he said to her, 'We'll go there. We'll go to my brothers-in-law. Take those babies of yours.' He had become a person, he wasn't an octopus. They arrived there and she said, 'Where's that octopus you were saying had taken me away? He's a person. He has become a man.' He lived with them.

83 Then one day he went out to sea. He made a mistake. He fought with this whale. The whale got the better of him. It killed him. The whale killed the octopus.

89 After that she went back to his sisters for a last visit, along with her brothers. She didn't stay alive long after that. She soon died.

91 The young octopuses, however, grew big and went into the water. After their mother died they went into the sea. They said, 'We'll get revenge on that whale for our father. We'll kill him.' After their mother died they went and fought with the whale, those children. They killed that big whale for their mother's brothers. That big whale, they killed it for their uncles.

104 After that they went to sea for good. They never came back. Their uncles never knew where they went.

108 That's all.
GROUNDHOG-MAN*

Of this fine tale only fragments had previously been recorded from Eyaks. I had transcribed from Lena Nacktan a section of it corresponding to sentences 58-70 here, the climactic section in which the man discovers he has become a groundhog. Lena’s version of that section is so close that much of it corresponds even word for word, clearly because for at least some tellings of this tale, perhaps most, that point is indeed the climax. As we shall see here, Anna’s 1933 version is also very close to the first part of the later version, but ends at that climax. (The 1933 version also is helpful for understanding that first part, so might most usefully be read first.)

This text is an exquisite example of Anna’s art, a traditional theme with magic symbolism, subtle but strong character delineation, realistic and effectively placed conversations, and also classic tragic themes, such as conflicting allegiance, mixed marriage unhappy in the society of either partner, failure to observe taboo and to resist temptation in the form of an attractive but forbidden woman, and final complete tragedy. However, perhaps deepest for her and most complex of all here is the feeling of emotional conflict that Anna conveys so intensely in this telling of the tale.

1 La’tnu hil-a‘gayu’ q’uhnu,  
   itaduxinu.
2 Aw tinhgih awa‘,  
   aw da₃axwex-k,  
   aw li₃ya‘k’inh.
3 Q’e‘dah,  
   de‘ga‘dunh adix aw axe‘k* *,

Two men it was,  
they were trapping.  
One of them,  
those groundhogs,  
he’d get a haul of them.  
That’s all,  
he’d be packing* a lot of them home,

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 27, 1965, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan, Cordova, June 2, 1965. ‘Groundhog’ here is Marmota caligata ‘hoary marmot’, also popularly called ‘whistler’.  
dałaxwe’k.
4 Anh fimhgih awa’ adaχ dik’ k’u’she’k’q.
5 Dik’ dade’k’ihdunh ashe’k’q.

6 Aw q’unhaw,
Ilt’alaqei’t,
u’a’n’ sahl,
qi’ iladux’d’a’x,
da’u’t q’unh sadalh.*
7 Anh utl’ yi’nhinh awa’ u’xaht q’e’ sdiyah.
8 Dik’ k’ushshehlt’ghin,
dik’ dade’tq.
9 Anh Ilt’alaqei’t ut’ ud’a’ sahl da’x wax anhtl’ dalinhinh,
“U’li’lgahshuw,
uleht dik’ k’ulishe’k’q?”
10 “Dik’ah.”
11 **“Qe’ilgayu’ attsi’la’d’a’lahl da’x,
k’uxi’ya’k’.
12 Qe’ilgayu’ ts’a’tl’alaya’x ya’x adale’k*
da’x,
 k’uxi’yah.
13 Awleht q’aw dik’ dade’t iyatl’e’q’ ya’n’ya’k’q,
dade’tt.”
14 *Aw q’unhuh wax anhtl’ dale’,
“K’e’chi’duh qu’xi’uh?
15 Dik’ da’u’daxya’k’ih da’la’xī’a’q.”
16 “Ne’tl’uh*,
itl’ q’al a’xxah,
uleht dik’ k’u’lishes’k’q.

groundhogs.
The other fellow though never killed anything.
He’d never kill anything at all.

Then,
Mountain-Woman,
she came upon him,
by where he was trapping,
there he was sitting.*
His companion, however, had gone back without him.
He hadn’t killed anything.
not a thing.
That Mountain-Woman went over to him there and said thus to him,
“Do you know,
why you don’t kill anything?”
“No.”
“*As women are combing their hair, you eat.
As women fuss with their hands* in baby-baskets,
you eat.
That’s why nothing falls into your hands,
whatsoever.”
*Then he said thus to her,
“What in the world will become of me?
I don’t have anything.”
“In due time*,
this is what I’m telling you,
why you don’t kill anything.

6. Another possible interpretation is ‘Then, Mountain-Woman, he came upon her, by where he was trapping, right there she was sitting.’
12. ts’a’tl’alaya’x (motion) within baby-basket’, ya’x adale’k’x ‘moves hands about’.
16. Or ‘soon, first, wait, in a while’.
"Qe'gayu awla'e it'eh da'x, kuxahn' adifaleh da'x, kux'iyax.'"

Wax q'unhuw, dadzanhoq uxa', ahdxan'a q'awda'x dasatsu'xl.*

Qe'dah hi q'aw ya'yu', qe'gayu ya' let da'x, aw saq'gayu ya', aw xe'x ya'x da'x,*

dx qe'gayu awla'e it'eh da'x, k'uxahn.

Da'hi q'awyu uyay' qa' gali 'inhinh.

Udx q'unh wax anhtl' dasali, "Yaq'x q'a'aw, thdawa alak'ah qi'yiyah da'x, duxx'a q'ix'a qi'yiyah."

Qe' sdiyafinu, uch'ah.

Dik k'uxasahtq da'x q'unhuw, yan' sateh.

Q'ah lahts* yagalqar.

Yagalqar da'x q'uw, alak'ah saht.

Duxl, aluyu'q'ch uxa' sahl.

Qe'dah hi q'aw duxl uxa' dagida' di'yahinh, daanaxwe'k.

Aw q'unh aw xwitl'gax it'echkh q'unhaw, awx ithxih a'tl, *As women are having their periods, as they clean themselves off, you eat."

Thus she, her staff, she poked him in the back with it.* Just all those things, women's hair and, that children's, what they go,* and as women have their period, he eats.

All those things spewed up from inside him.

Then she said thus to him, "Tomorrow, you'll get up early and you'll go among your traps." She went back, thence.

He didn't eat and then, he lay down.

Now it's getting light toward the south.* It's getting light and then, he got up.

Traps, he went among these things of his. Simply all his traps were full, groundhogs.

Then it was that little white one, he became enamored of her,

---

17. Again very slow, deliberate, intense. Literally 'women are different', a standard idiom referring to menstruation.
18. Compare the 1933 version for a clearer description of this gesture.
19. As in English, a euphemism; Eyak xe'x ya'x da'x 'goes around outside (not far from house).'
20. lahts 'forward, out over ocean', i.e. south, where especially in winter the sun is seen to rise.
a white groundhog*.
She was simply all snow-white.*
Then it burst together* on him, he was carrying it on his back and, that’s it,
they immediately escaped in all directions,
those groundhogs.
That one he chased, the white one.
She was running into her hole and then,
he grabbed her tail.
As he hung onto her tail, it broke off in his hand.
He just remained there.

Pretty soon then,
a girl came out there toward him, from where the groundhog had run
in on him.
She said thus to him,
“Give it back to me, my younger sister’s ribbon.
Give me back my younger sister’s
ribbon.”
“I won’t give it back to you.
Just say to her that she must come out here.”
“She doesn’t want to come out here.
That ribbon, you yanked her ribbon off, from on her head.
That’s why.”
“May I never go in there with you?”

28. Note that in the 1933 version the woman had warned him that he must free the pretty white one he would catch.
28-29. x(w)t’l’ga’i’t’eh, literally ‘it is like snow’, the standard phrase for ‘white’ (all color-names in Eyak are of this type). One occurrence of it is arbitrarily chosen for translation as ‘snow-white’.
30. So translated by Lena, meaning something like ‘imploded’.
“If you’ll give it back to her, come on in with me.”

Way back at the end of that little place she sat.

That younger sister was weeping there,

for that ribbon of hers.

So he went up to her and (said),
I’ll give it back to you.”

He was simply crazy about her.

“I’ll give it back to you,
this ribbon of yours,
if you’ll live with me.”

Then the older sister said thus to her,

“Live with him.
That ribbon,
it’d never do for you to go around
without your ribbon.”

Thus he married her.

One year it was he was absent.

It became winter on him.

It was becoming summer and then,
at the time when the groundhogs
come out, he came out.

In his own eyes he was a person.

A regular person,
he was still a person.

Then,
people were boating along below
him,
they were boating along.

He yelled down to them.

*But he only whistled.

---

60. This is basically the climax of the story as it probably was usually told. The word for ‘groundhog’, da-

taxwe’k, also means literally ‘he whistles’, so here the climactic sentence is a play on that word, with the
double meaning ‘he was only a groundhog’ as well as ‘he only whistled’.
61 Ahnu'tl' dałaxwe'k.
62 At-lah u'sditahł.
63 Uyaqa't'sch' isał'anhł.
64 Dałaxwe'k.
65 A'nt uyatl'at'a'q't awa',
    dałaxwe'k.
66 Awleht q'unh uk'ahshch' isał'anhłinh.
67 Dałaxwe'k yiłch,
    yellow.
68 Dałaxwe'k gate'lıinh.
69 U'ch' adix q'e' łađla'sdı'yahl.
70 Datlı: dałaxwe'k gate'lıinh.

71 Aw q'unhaw ulah k'u'satahlıinh.
72 Da'uga' daxunhyuł ulah
    u'satahlıinh.
73 K'a'dih q'unh sałe't.
74 Dałaxwe'k,
    datlı: dałaxwe'k.
75 Ahnu' q'e' qa'le'ginh.

76 Aw q'unh anh qe'tł,
    u'éht'-ąkhıh uxa' u't ɂa'-dałx,
    a'q' sałtlnih.
77 Se'ł a'q' sahtł.
78 Ahnu'ch' q'unh,
    datlı: ahnu' łađa'slı'ehıt.
79 Ahnu'xa' ya' łađa'slı'ehıt.
80 Aw q'uhnu' ła'tnu' q'aw,
    ahnu',
    anh qe't'ąkhih ahnu' sałkun'tłt.
81 Ahnu' sałkunł'tlnih.
82 Ahnu' sałtehtlnih.
83 Ahnu' sałkunł'tł dałx anh qe't'ąkhıh,
    dałaxwe'kkih q'a'anh,
    ulałxade't dałxunh aw yiłch.
84 Anh u'éht'-ąkhih ihx
    ɂađla'slı' yałtł.
85 U-dałx q'unh q'e' u'sdile'ktł,
    a'gidik.
86 Q'e' u'sdile'ktł.

He was whistling at them.
He found out about himself.
He looked at his hands.
Groundhog.
Here the backs of his hands,
groundhog.
Therefore he looked at his feet.
They were groundhog,
yellow.
He was becoming a groundhog.
He ran back in there.
Already he was turning into a
groundhog.

Someone found out about him.
People like himself found out about
him.
He had been missing.
A groundhog,
already a groundhog.
They’re going to get him back.

Then that woman,
his little wife outdoors around there,
she went out.
One evening she went out.
To her they,
already they had sneaked up on her.
They sneaked up on her.
Then two it was,
of them,
they grabbed that girl.
They grabbed her.
They carried her (off).
They seized her and that girl,
little groundhog that she was,
in their eyes she was a person.
He ran along following his little
wife.
Then he was captured,
he too.
He was recaptured.
He was recaptured and then,
he said thus,
“Give her back to me,
that little wife of mine.
Don’t take her from me,”
“Come with us.
We’ll give her back to you.”
He went in with them.

*He went with them to among
people.
He didn’t eat any more this which
people eat.
He ate only this which groundhogs
eat.
Shieldfern-sprouts,
those he eats.
This whichever people like himself
give him he doesn’t eat it.
He just stows it here behind himself,
in back.

Then his little wife it was sneaked
back away from them.
She went back.
She ran back.
It had gotten dark and,
he was sleeping.
His wife had awakened early.
“Where is she,
what have you done with her,
my little wife?”
“We don’t know what—*
Maybe she got back out home.”
She had gotten back.
He was going after his wife,
following after her.

92. May also be translated ‘They went to amongst people with him/them, they took him/them to amongst
people.’
104. Supply perhaps salil ‘happened to her’ or ‘she did’.
108 Anh‘e̓x qe̓' qała̓t.
109 Anh‘ar‘n’ qe̓' sdiyahť.
110 *Uga’ daxunhyu‘ qa’ anh qe’ sdiyahľeht q’unh, diḳ‘ anahshakih anhxa’ qe’ idaleq, uqa’, diḳ‘ anahshakih anhxa’ qe’ idaleq.

111 Saqet’s ahih uyay’ sadahťinh, anh qe’t’ ahih, u‘eht‘ ahih.
112 Ya’ a’gaga’ daxunh.
113 Utsin’ da’ya’* awa’, daxunh yileh.
114 A’nt ya’n’ch’ awa’ daľaxwe’k yitinhinh.
115 A’nt ya’x ulaqahch’ daxunh, daxunh sae’l* da’x, u’daň q’unh idehdah awlah u’satahľ.
116 “Daľaxwe’kyu’sh q’aw xiteh.
117 Xusaľlah*.”
118 Wäx da’a’ attli’ dadalininhinh, “Da’u’t uxa’ ya’ qu’xđinhinu’ nuh

He was going back looking for her.
He came upon her again.
*Because she had gone back among people like herself,
he didn’t like her any more,
her husband,
he wasn’t happy with her any more.

She got with child,
that girl,
his little wife.
It was half human.
About half* of it,
it was a person.
This here lower part of him was a groundhog.
Up here toward his head a person,
he was born* and,
then he really found out about it.
“Groundhogs I suppose I must be.
They have taken* me.”
Thus he said to himself,
“I guess I may as well* stay right

110. Grammatically ambiguous as to which had gone back to his/her own people, and as to which stopped liking the other. *Because he/she had gone back among people like accordingly himself/herself independent she/she didn’t like her/him any more, her husband subject or object, but more probably subject he she didn’t like her/him any more. Daxunhyu‘ is not to be interpreted too literally as (real) people, cf. sentence 151, where it is used conversationally among groundhogs with reference to groundhogs. Most recently, they were among his people and she stole away without him back to her own. As he followed her, he must still like her, though not she him. (Perhaps she had never gotten to like him in the first place, having married him originally to get her ribbon back.) Most likely, however, once they both were back together among her people he was no longer happy with her. (Their move back to his people had been forced; back to hers it was her choice.) At the birth of their child, upon realizing the true depth of his involvement with the groundhogs (115-118), he decides to stay with them, resignedly. As for the wife, at the death of the father and child, it is stated with agitation (142) that she was looking for her husband. Upon finding him, though she grieves explicitly over her child only, she refuses to remarry, and kills herself. Here (sentence 118) is then very probably an important emotional turning point, to which Anna is calling attention in this tale of emotional conflict, even obsession.
113. *tsin’da’ya’ ‘half (or somewhat less than half) of’ –.
115. daxunh sale’l ‘became a person’, usually idiomatic ‘was born’, here quite ironic.
117. ‘They have rescued me’, or ‘they have abducted, kidnapped me’, often used of animals taking people away to live with them.
then among them."

Then it was becoming winter again and then,
already there was snow.
There was snow.
What did he go out for?
With her child it was he went out.

(It isn’t told of it,
what it was,
boy or girl.
Anyway it was her child.
It’s known that it was their child.
That’s the one he went out with.)

It was coming down a little.
Then the snow by where he had gone out with him to,
yonder,
he hadn’t found out about it,
from way up above yonder,
snow started to slide down.
It slid down.
It avalanched down over him,
and he died,
that child.
He died,
and the child too with him.

He was already dead and then those people,
they were people going around.
Porcupines they were going around after.
And then they saw him.
It had avalanched down there,

118. nuh q’ah expresses resignation, submission to the inevitable, ‘I give up, may as well’.
snow that had avalanched down with him the child too.
It had avalanched down and, where it was not yet deep, those trees, they split them and, fashioned them into shovels. With those they dug them up out. Then they saw him, about half of him, he was a groundhog, a child that he had. He, however, only his hands and his feet were already like groundhogs'.
His nose too, his mouth too were already getting just like a groundhog's, that person.
His whiskers had grown out.*

*That wife had been looking for him, she had been looking for her husband. She said thus, "It must already have avalanched down over him, my little child. It has avalanched down." That child of hers, he was dead.

Then her older sister it was said thus to her, "Why did you let him take him
“I didn’t think that thus would befall him,”
thus she said to her.
**“Whatever will become of us?”**
she said to her older sister.
**“There’s not just one man.
Your own relatives are many.
People like yourself are many here,
groundhog-people.
There are many groundhogs.”
Then she said thus to her.
“It shall never happen thus.
*When I die,
I’ll die.
My little child is dead.”

Then she went thence away
from her,
from her older sister.
Way up there,
from yonder summit it was,
she rolled herself down,
from a mountaintop.
She rolled herself down.
Up yonder,
she rolled herself a long way down.
Yonder where it’s deep,
she fell into the snow,
that woman too,
that girl too.
She too died.

Only that far it is,
is told of them.
That’s all.

---

138. Very downcast and pathetic.
139. Common Eyak expression, similar to English ‘There are plenty of fish in the sea.’
140. Literally ‘at the place/time I’ll die, I’ll die’, a rough equivalent to ‘to my dying day’ and/or to the
    resigned ‘if I die, I die’ or ‘I may as well die’.
Two men were out trapping. One of them kept catching a lot of groundhogs; he kept bringing in lots of groundhogs. The other man, though, never caught anything, anything at all.

As he was camped out trapping, Mountain-Woman came upon him. His companion had gone home without him. Mountain-Woman went up to him and said, 'Do you know why you don't catch anything?'

'No.'

'You eat while women comb their hair. While women tidy up babies you eat. That's why you never catch anything at all.'

Then he said, 'What will become of me, what shall I do? I have nothing.'

'If you would listen to what I'm telling you, you would understand why you never catch anything. While women who are having their periods clean themselves, you eat.' She poked him in the back with her staff, this way. Then all those things, women's hair, children's excrement, menstrual blood, all those things spewed up from inside him.

Then she told him, 'Tomorrow get up early and go to your traps.' She went away. He ate nothing and went to sleep. As it was getting light towards the south, he got up. He went among his traps. Virtually all his traps were full of groundhogs.

One of the groundhogs was white, pure snow-white. He fell in love with her. As he was carrying them along in a pack on his back, it burst, and all the groundhogs immediately escaped, dispersing in all directions. [Mountain-Woman had warned him that he would catch a white groundhog and that he must free her.] That one he chased, the snow-white one. Just as she was running into her hole, he caught hold of her tail. He hung on to her tail, and it broke off in his hand. He just stayed right there.

Pretty soon a girl came out to him from where the groundhog had run in. She said, 'Give it back to me, my younger sister's ribbon. Give me back my younger sister's ribbon.'

'I won't give it back to you. Just tell her she must come out here.'

'She doesn't want to come out here. You pulled that ribbon off her head. That's why.'

'Then couldn't I go in there with you?'

'If you'll give it back to her, you may come on in with me.' Way at the back of that little place she sat, that younger sister there, weeping for her ribbon. So he went up to her and said, 'I'll give it back to you.' He was quite in love with her. 'I'll give it back to you, your ribbon, if you'll live with me.' Then the older sister said to her, 'Live with him. It would never do for you to go around without your ribbon.' That is how he married her.

He was gone for a whole year, passing the winter there. As spring came, at the time groundhogs come out of their holes, he came out. In his own eyes he was still a person. As far as he knew he was a regular human.
Then some people came along by in their boat down below, and as they were passing by he yelled down to them. But what came out was a whistle. He was whistling at them. He then realized what had happened to him. He looked at his hands, and they were groundhog's. The back of his hands, groundhog's. He looked at his feet, groundhog's. He was becoming a groundhog. He ran back in. Already he was turning into a groundhog, a whistler.

Then the people found out about him. The real people found out that the man who was missing had turned into a groundhog. They went to get him back.

One evening the little groundhog-wife went out and the people sneaked up on her. Two of them grabbed that girl. They seized her and carried her off. That little groundhog-girl was human in their eyes. The husband ran along after his little wife. So he too was captured. Captured, he said, 'Give me back my little wife. Don't take her from me.'

'Come with us and we'll give her back to you.' He went with them.

He went with them and rejoined his own people. But he didn't eat any more what people eat. He ate only what groundhogs eat. Shieldefn-sprouts is what he ate. But whatever his own people gave him he would not eat. He just would stow it away in back behind himself.

Then his little wife sneaked away. She got away and ran home, while it was dark and he was asleep. She got up early. 'Where is she? What have you done with her, my little wife?'

'We don't know what... Maybe she ran back home.' She had gone home. He went following after her, looking for her. He found her home. Because she had gone back to her own kind, her husband wasn't happy with her any more.

But that little wife was carrying and bore a child. It was half human. About half of it was a person. The lower half was a groundhog, and towards the head was human. This made him really understand. 'I guess I really must be a groundhog. They have made me one of them.' That's what he said to himself, 'I suppose I may as well stay right here with them.'

Winter was coming, again then, and already there was snow. There was a lot of snow. What did he go out for? He went out with her child.

(It isn't told whether it was a boy or a girl. Anyway, it was her child. It's known that it was their child, the one he went out with.)

It was snowing some. Then from way up above where he had gone out with the child to, before he realized what was happening, the snow started to slide down, a snowslide. He was buried in that avalanche and died. He died, and the child too died with him.

He was already dead and some people came along hunting. They were after porcupines. They saw the snowslide that had taken him down, with the child. Where the snowslide wasn't too deep they split some trees and fashioned them into shovels. With those they dug them out. Then they saw that the child he had was about half
groundhog. But he, only his hands and feet were groundhog. Also his nose and mouth were getting like a groundhog’s. His whiskers had grown long.

142 That wife had been looking for him, looking for her husband. She was saying, ‘He’s been buried in an avalanche, my little child. There has already been an avalanche.’ Her child was dead.

146 Then her older sister said to her, ‘Why did you let him take the child out?’ ‘I didn’t think this would happen to him,’ she said to her. ‘What will become of us?’ she said to her older sister.

‘There’s not just one man. Your own relatives are many. Your own kind are many here. There are many groundhogs.’

‘Never. When I die, I’ll die. My little child is dead.’

156 Then she went away from there, from her older sister. From a summit way up there she hurled herself down. She fell rolling down from the mountaintop, a long way, into the deep snow, she too. So she too died.

162 Their story goes only that far. That’s all.

1933: ‘TURNED INTO A GROUNDHOG’

There was once a man out trapping with deadfalls. He was having bad luck. He got nothing at all. He couldn’t catch anything. He trapped for a long time. Finally an old woman came to him.

The old woman told him, ‘You know why you’re having bad luck?’ ‘No.’

‘You lay in the bed while these young ladies get up before you. You eat, too, while your women are combing their hair. You are in the house when sick women come back in from outside. You go take a bath in devil clubs. Rub the devil clubs on yourself.’

He did that. The old lady had a cane. She laid her cane on his back. He threw up nothing but women’s hair.

She told him, ‘Tomorrow all your deadfalls will have something in them.’ He went out next day. All his deadfalls held some kind of animal. He brought them back home and skinned them. He had the same kind of luck every day.

The woman told him, ‘Later on you are going to catch a pretty white animal in your last deadfall on your trap line. Don’t take it home. Take it out and let it go.’

The man caught a lot of animals, and then in his last deadfall he caught a white animal, a pretty animal. He took it away, and started home. He had a big load. He put this on top of his pack. On the way home, the animal kept falling off every little while. Finally it started to run away. He put his pack on the ground and chased this animal. When he was chasing it, just when the animal was going in its hole, he grabbed it by the end of the tail, and pulled off the end of the tail.

He sat down and felt sorry. Towards evening a woman came out of the hole. He still had the piece of tail.

The woman said, ‘Give me my sister’s hair band.’

The man said, ‘No. You send your sister out.’

‘No, she’s not going to come out.’

The man still wanted to see the woman. Finally she came out. She was a pretty woman. She wanted that hair band back again. The man wouldn’t give it back. He wanted to go inside with her.

She said, ‘No.’

The man said, ‘I’ll give you your hair band back if you’ll let me go inside with you.’

‘No,’ she said, and started inside.

The man followed her in anyway. He turned into a groundhog.

(Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, pp. 274-276.)
WOLF-WOMAN*

This is the longest single text we have in Eyak. It is all the more powerful because of the emotional weight that Anna sustains throughout it. This version overlaps only in a minor way with Anna's 1933 Wolf-People tale. That version tells of a careless, disobedient little girl who lets herself be enticed and captured by the Wolf-People, and then escapes from them (practically an Eyak Little Red Riding Hood). Austerlitz recorded the same story from Lena and Marie in 1961, except that there the captors were called Qa' Xinhinur 'cannibals'. In Anna's later version here, however, only sentences 1-81 correspond to these other versions; and even here, significantly, the story is no longer about a careless little girl, but about a married woman left alone by her husband, unprotected. The longer section of the story, after she escapes from the Wolf-People, sentences 82-214, has a hushed, subdued tone, even more emotionally charged than the adventure of the first part. Here Anna deals with the complexity of the relationship between wolves and humans, including the Wolf clan present as part of both the Eyak and Yakutat Tlingit social organization, and also the complexity of the second part of her own life at Yakutat. After her stay with the Wolves, the woman can only hesitantly and incompletely re-enter her own society. She is never again quite like her own people among whom she lives. She shuns her husband, who has already re-married. The only person she is close to, who understands, is her old grandmother. At the death of her grandmother, sentences 156-157, the woman's sadness, expressed somovingly in Anna's voice, we shall feel again only at the end of Anna's Lament for her people, at the end of this book. After that point in the story, the woman's life becomes a kind of spiritual mission, a bond between the Wolf-People and her people.

As mentioned above, the relation between wolves and people is very complex. First there is the level in real life at which people and wolves can potentially do each other harm; but, as mentioned in Birket-Smith and de Laguna, 1938, p. 102, 'wolves

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 28, 1965, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan, Cordova, June 4-5, 1965.
were not hunted because they were also supposed to have been men. The Eyak believed that if attacked by a wolf they could speak to it and induce it not to hurt them. (The Yakutat Tlingits, on the other hand, apparently did hunt wolves; see de Laguna, Under Mount St. Elias, 1972, pp. 366, 371, 825.) Anna speaks here not only of the wolves as wolves (gu'jihyu'), but also of the Gu'jihwalahyu 'Wolf-People' or spirits of the wolves. As she explains (sentences 200-203), many, perhaps all, animals are such 'people' or have such spirits. Yet another level of relationship between wolves and humans also dealt with in this story is in the fact that there were Wolves (Gu'jihgayu) in both Eyak and Yakutat Tlingit social organization. In Yakutat the Wolves were part of the Eagle moiety; in Eyak, their position is less clear. According to Birket-Smith and de Laguna, pp. 123-126, they were adopted into the Raven moiety, but de Laguna now believes it more likely that they were adopted by the Eyak Raven moiety to be in the Eagle moiety. Most important, Birket-Smith and de Laguna note, p. 149, that the Eyak sometimes, but not often, fought the Tlingit. The implication is that this was before the adoption of the Tlingit Wolf and Bark House People into the tribe. Thus the existence of the Wolves is also an important element in the friendship, as well as in the differences, between the Eyaks and the Yakutat Tlingits.

Anna herself, being Raven, could not in any case have belonged to the Wolf Clan at Yakutat. Perhaps for Anna, in the complex feeling of this story, the Wolf-People are the Eyaks, whose shadowy presence around Yakutat she is a part of; and also at the same time the Wolf-People are the Yakutat Tlingits, whom Anna has become a part of too.

1. Qe't q'a'an, uqa' u viruses, daq'èxinh.
2. A' awa' a'axakihya'at ts'u'dinh.
3. Anhxaht sahlinh.
4. Uqa' uxaht sahl.
5. Aw Gu'jihwalahyu* u'a'n' sha'a'ch'inh, anh qe't.
6. Da-'wax tsu't da'x, aw a'axakih ahnu'tl' ya'x sałxe'tslinh.*
7. Datli' gadla'a'wch ahnu· gałxe'etsl*.

A woman it was, her husband was boating around with her. She was asleep in the canoe. He went away from her. Her husband went away from her. The Wolf-People* came upon her, that woman. She was still asleep and, they picked the canoe up onto their shoulders* with her (in it). They had already been shouldering it a long way,

5. Gu'jihwalahyu: are the mythical 'people' or spirits of the wolves. See introduction and cf. notes to 165 and 192.
6, 7, 9, 10, 14. -4-èe'ts 'to pick up onto and carry on shoulders'.
they were going along with her and then,
she woke up.
So then,
she arose and looked around.
She was being shouldered* along.
They were carrying her in the canoe on their shoulders*.

So then she cut open her pillow*.
She cut open her pillow and then,
she strewed those down-feathers out.
They weren’t aware of it, those Wolf-People.
She was tossing them out, and then,
they, with it on their shoulders* they came to a river,
and they boated across with her, to their relatives yonder, those Wolf-People.
They kept her.

A long time she lived with them, that woman.
It was getting dark, that is as it would start to get dark, the menfolk would go out, hunting.
Only at night, not during the day.
During the day they would sleep.
Thus it was she found out about them, and then,

---

11. ti'lahl 'pillow; comb', a modern innovation in this version of the story.
aχayu*: xatsiya’t
saţahl.
21 Giyahgulalu’ qa’ a’k’ inh.
22 Anh giyah aw laq qa’kk’ inh,
anh qe’l awa’.
23 Da’waχ aw giyahgalalu’ qa’ gah da’x
q’unh aw aχ*,
aw atse’xk’.
24 Aw tse’xk’.
25 Da’uyaga’ idiyahkiih q’unhuw dik’ aw
asltsaxlq.
26 Da’u’ch’aht* aw giyah qa’kk’ininh.
27 K’ugatsu’t da’x,
 yan’ k’ugatu’ch’ da’x,
aw giyah qa’k’.
28 A’ awa’ χatl’ tsurtk’ininh.

29* K’udzu’dah ahnu’ utl’ daχunh
yilinhinh.
30 Li’q’ ya’yu’,
da’l daχunhyu’ χahyu’ga’
k’uxinhun’.
31 Uch’ aw adaya’k’ininh,
aw qu’xi’dahwahya’,
dade’t gasheh da’x.*
32 Da’a’ q’unhuw xa’dawaht aw
-łale’k’.
33 Da’a’.
34 Ahnu’ Guijihwalahyu’ awa’ adaχ,
da’ayaga’ k’uxah.
35 Dik’ k’ulqaq’t’kq.
36 Ulah q’aw k’irɔ’ idale’k’,
qu’xi’dahwahya’,

there were canoes* down at
shore.
She would go to get water.
She would carry water up from shore,
that woman.
While she’d still be gone to get water
those canoes*,
she would cut them.
She’d cut them.
A small one of just the right size for
her to handle she didn’t cut.
Even after that* she kept on fetching
water.
When they slept,
when they lay down,
she would fetch water,
She however would sleep at
night.

*They behaved kindly with
her.
All kinds of things,
yet they ate things just like these things
which people eat.
It was given to her,
that foodstuff,
whenever they killed anything.*
She herself would prepare it for
herself to eat.
She herself.
As for those Wolf-People however,
yet they ate in their own fashion.
They didn’t boil anything.
They would circle around it howling,
something to eat,

20, 23. aχ ‘canoe, boat’, here of skin, as explained in sentence 51, henceforth not aχ’akih *(standard Eyn small dugout) canoe’.
26. Ambiguous, ‘even after that’ or ‘from right there’.
29. ‘They lived (literally ‘were people’) nicely with her’ or ‘She lived nicely (behaved properly) with them’.
31. Literally ‘when/if they killed whatever’.
those Wolf-People. Thus they cooked it, they for their part. But she however cooked over a fire.

*They took good care of her.

Already a number of years had been passing for her there and then, she cut open those boats. That little one, she put it in the water. She’d keep looking at them, whether they were asleep, to see if they were sleeping. They were sleeping. Then she went to get water and, she put it in the water.

*She ran and embarked into it.

*She launched herself out with a kick.

She kicked it out with herself* and then, she was boating across the river. The distance to shore had already shortened to this little bit for her and then, someone found out about her. They immediately scurried in all directions, those Wolf-People.

Each time they shoved them in the water, they would just sink down, those canoes. Of skins it was,
aχ yiłeh.
52 Yaχ aht's'nt'k'.
53 Wαχ q'uńnu',
daχ'nu'duw shajahqɺ, aw ḥinγih aχ.
54 Datli· yaq' saqeht da·x q'aw u'ihx aw yah ta sa'yaht,
aw ḥinγih aχ.

55 Aw q'unhuw,
giyah qi' yaχ igadli·t'ah,
itl'a'na'q'ach'aht yaχ igadli·t'ah,
x'i·t ḥadaqdačh'aht.
56 *A'nt awa· ma· yiłeh.
57 *Ma· qi' yaχ igadli·t'ah,
li' gali'·ah.
58 Alt'a·x q'aw,
x'i·t xalast yax
igadli·t'ah,
a'nt uli'·t awa',
dik' giyah k'a'te'q.
59 Awt'a·t q'unhuw
guga'ant',
aw giyahgalat'a·t.
60 Aw u'da'· insaquaht.
61 U·da'· insaquaht.
62 Ahnu' uq'i·dla'·gə'e'x łchanh.
63 Aw giyahya'·qi' saht'ch'aht
adaχ dik'.
64 K'ude'dah.
65 Da'urt q'aw ḥiya'·yaχ
i·ndaqu'x.
66 Qakir'nx.
67 Qakir'nx.
68 Awdah' tu·li·tinhinh,
aw gu·jih.
69 Da'urt q'unhuw,
uq' saχe'nlinh,
da'urt aw giyahgalat'a·t.

(those) canoes were. They kept sinking. Thus it was, a number of them sewed it, that one canoe. She had already landed ashore and it set out after her, that one canoe.

So then, where water falls, it falls down from on a mountain, from up yonder. *Here though it forms a lake. *Where the lake-water falls down, it flows downstream. Behind this it is, the water falls some distance out in front, here in behind it however, there is no water. In back of that it was she was standing, in behind that water. They ran thither. They got there running. They smelled her track. Not however from where she had gone into the water. Impossible. Right there (stymied) they ran back and forth. They howled. They howled. She could hear their sound, those wolves. Right there she (stayed), might fell on her, right there behind that water.

56-57. It is not clear whether the pool is above or below the falls.
Because it had gotten dark she sat down right there.
Thus she remained sitting and then, she slept.
It got light and then, she stole out in front by there.
There was nobody.
Thus it was she got back to among people by following along those same down-feathers.
She was going back by following along those feathers along where they had gone with her from.
As it began to get dark (she would look around) for that (water) —
*A number of them, two,
she went across two mountains.
As it began to get dark, she would look around for a place where that water falls.
When she saw it she would try it, to get in behind back of that water.
Thus it was, two places, three places, where water falls, she spent the night behind them.
In three nights and three days she ended up safely back home.

*She didn’t immediately go among them.
When it was already getting dusk, she went down above where people live.

77. Anna interrupts briefly her main stream of thought of 76, 78, with which however she remains preoccupied; the interruption is very casually put together.
82-92. Spoken in an increasingly subdued and quiet but intense manner.
84 Awlaqdax ts'a sahł da'x q'unh, datli' ga'se't.
85 Daxunh e'x yaq ila'a'nxih, anhch' da'yileh*.
86 Giyahgurnch' sahłinh, giyahgalalu'qa', ma'ya't.
87 Ma'ya'ch'a' sahłinh.
88 Saqets'akah, anh q'unhuw anhlax isat'anhł*.
89 Anh q'a'anh ch'a' u'zdi'ehtst, "A'neh' iya'.
90 Xu' q'a'al.
91 A'nda' siyahł.
92 Waxed utl' dagali'n'iniu', ahu' sikuwa'na'qayu', a'nda' silu'qa; ga'a'ch'x." 
85 *Waxed q'unh q'e' xadla'sdi'yahł. 
86 Anh dik' giyah laq asqahlginh. 
87 Q'e' xadla'sdi'yahł. 
96 U'da'adin xadla'sa'yahł da'x q'unh, wax daleh, "Daxunh, qe't q'a'anh, xi't xalaqt aw giyahgaladaqt sadahl. 
97 U'ch'a' ch'a' xu'sdi'ehtst. 
98 U'ch'a' ch'a' laxi'da'ehdzinh, dawa'tga';" 
99 U'ch' k'ulasaquhl. 
100 Dahi'q ila'guyu' u'ch' lasaquh. 
101 U'dax q'unhuw utl' ts'a' q'e' k'ushdi' a'ch't.

She went downhill above it and then, it was already evening. She looked around for a person, that she might hail*. He had gone to the water, to get water, in the lake. He had gone to the lake. A child, it was he she saw*. It was he she called over to herself, "Come here. This is me. I've gotten here. Say thus to them, my relatives, that they should come here to get me." *Thus he ran back. He didn't fetch any water. He ran back. He ran in there and, he said thus, "A person, it's a woman, is sitting above the water yonder upland. She called me over there to herself. She is calling you over there to herself, in a hurry." Some ran there. All the menfolk ran there. Then they went back down with her.

85.-leh actually spoken while drawing in breath (see note to 88), unusual for Eyak, but part of the quiet, intense style of this section.
88. Not clear who saw whom; it may equally well be the child who saw her, and the child could be 'she' as easily as 'he'. *anhł spoken with indrawn breath (see note to 85). 
93-101. Speaking style changes suddenly to rapid, louder, more animated throughout whole section.
Her husband, her husband was already remarried to another.
He had married someone else.
She didn’t greet him and, he said thus to her, "Ah*,
is that indeed you come back here?"
She didn’t answer him.
She didn’t say anything at all to him.
And then she lay down.

It got dark.
It was becoming evening.
By then she had gone to bed.
Her companions asked her,
"Will you eat something?"
"Not now."
*She won’t eat anything today.
"Tomorrow though, tomorrow morning I’ll eat something, not now."
Thus she lay down right there by her grandmother.
Then she told her grandmother of it, how it happened,
why she had been absent.

*After that it got light.
*Night fell again.
She had spent that one night right there and then,
wolves,
aw ḥatl',
gu'jiŋ anhq' ts'a' sha'a'ch'{
120 Aw Gu'jiŋwahayu' q'aw ahnu' e'x
yaŋ ila'any.
121 Daŋunhyu'laŋade' t awa' idehdaŋ
gu'jiŋ yiyeh.
122 Daŋku'ih gu'jiŋduw awa aŋhq' ts'a' sha'a'ch'{
123 Uq' yagatqa' da'x q'aw,
aw gu'jiŋhyu' u'ch'aht q'e'
̱dia' a'ch'{
124 U'ch'aht yasɑʔq̱ah{*,
q'e' sliŋe' t'ɬ da'x q'aw,
gurdaŋ u'daŋt q'e'
usdiτah{,
aw gu'jiŋh.
125 Dik' a'q' a'k'g̱in.{
126 Da'adixt.
127 Anhq' ila'g̱e' t,
anhq̱ q̱e't ila'g̱e' ṯw̱a'x q'aw,
aw gu'jiŋ aw u'li'lg̱a',
anhq̱ q̱e't u'da' q'e'
sdiṭah{.
128 U'daŋt q'e' u'sdiτah{.
129 Y̱ahτda'q' q'aw qa'
k'usba' a'ch'{
130 Aw t'ik'ldita'l',
daŋku' nu' ʰila' ɣayu'duaw.
131 Q'aḍits'in q'aw awa' sduisuit,
aw gu'jiŋh.
132 U'dal q'aw k'uk'ah salc'k{t.
133 Q'aḍits'in gu'jiŋ awa' sduisuit da'x,
k'uk'ah salc'k{t.
134 Dik' daŋunhyu̱'a' q'e' k'usla'yahtq.
135 Dik' k'ulan' q'e' adaqahq.

that night,
wolves descended on the village.
Those Wolf-People were looking
around for her.
In people's eyes though they were
regular wolves.
A number of wolves descended on
the village.
It was getting light on them and so,
those wolves went back away from
there.
After that it got light*,
it got dark again and then,
again their noise was heard some
more,
those wolves.
She wouldn't go out.
(Sh[ay]ed) right indoors.
Her trail,
by that woman's trail it was,
those wolves knew it,
that the woman had gotten back
there.
Their noise was heard some more.
On top of the houses some climbed
up.
With those arrows,
a number of menfolk.
Eight of them it was got killed,
those wolves.
Then they left people alone.
Eight wolves of them were killed and
they left people alone.
They didn't bother people any more.
They don't come around one any
more.

After that she became well again.
This mind of hers,
it had become almost like wolves' minds.
When her mood was bad, her mind would straightaway become set on biting humans. As she had gotten to be living long enough back with people, her mind became again quite like people’s minds.

Then it was, they moved camp with her. They were going to smoke meat. These fish were going to be dried. They moved camp thither with her. They had moved camp with her and then, one wolf was going around there.

*She knew him.*

*She knew him.*

*That woman knew him.* She kept saying thus to him, “Any of these things, things to eat, these mountain-goats, these black bears, I have no way to get any. Kill some for me.”

The next day in the morning when it got light, all sorts of things, black bear, mountain-goat he’d leave outside there by her.

Only she wouldn’t remarry, that woman. Because she had ended up among those wolves, she wouldn’t remarry.
153 Da’uchu-shiyahx’a’ awa’ sadahinh.
154 Wax i’t’inhinh.
155 Uch’u-shiyah ux’a’ ida’ya’laʃ lasaʃyahl.
156 La’yahax’a’ sa’yahlinh,
uchu-shiyah ux’a’.
157 *U-daʃ q’unhaw da’a’,
*da’a’ q’unh axakihya’ yax
idaq’e-k’inh,
dlaʃa’라’.

158 Uda’ aw a’-ch’k’,
daxunhyu’*,
q’e’dah daxunhyu’.
159 Aw q’uw aw gu’jih ahn qe’tl’ dasalih,
“Ahnu’ iga’ daʃunhyu’ tl’ wax
dagale’,”
ya’xu’ qa’ qu’wasì k’inu’.
160 Da’uga’ daxunhyu’ q’al gayaq.
161 Qa’kuwa’na’q,
qa’ga’ gu’jihyu’ laxqa’t,
gu’jihyu’.
162 Iga’ daxunhyu’ gu’jih q’al xu’,”
wax dalè k’inh.
163 **Ida’galax’echts da’x –
laʃqa’-
dalaxqa’- q’aw gayaq,
laxqa’- daxunhyu’ q’al gayaq.
164 Wax utl’ dagali’ni’nu’,
ya’xu’ q’e’ qa’
qa’siyu’k’inu’.
165 Ahnu’ qa’ga’ Gu’jihgayu’*.

She stayed right with her
grandmother.
Thus she was.
Her grandmother got too old.
She succumbed to old age,
her grandmother.
*Then herself,
by herself she would boat around in
her canoe,
al alone.

They would come to her,
people*,
just people.
Then that wolf said to the woman,
“Say thus to those people like
yourself,
that they must not keep killing us.
We’re people just like them.
Our relatives,
wolves like us are among you,
wolves.
I’m a wolf like you people,”
thus he kept saying.
*When you have a potlatch –
your kind,
we’re of your own kind,
we’re your kind of people.
Say thus to them,
that they must not keep killing us
any more.
Those Wolves* like us,

157. Profoundly emotional, foreshadowing Lament; see Lament, sentence 27.
158. Apparently in contradiction with what follows; daxunhyu’ ‘people’ used here where gu’jihyu’ ‘wolves’
would surely be expected; perhaps in deliberately bold extension of meaning.
163. Original intention of sentence beginning with ‘if/when you (pl.) have a potlatch’, probably not carried
out fully here. -qa’ ‘of -s kind/class, part of -’ may have been intended all three times in this sentence, but
the second and third instances sound like -qa’ ‘among’, also plausible here, with the meaning ‘(we live)
among you’.
165. The -ga- here is a form of a suffix found normally only with certain nouns referring to humans, e.g.
q’égayu’ ‘womenfolk’, I ya’qdalagh(ayu’ ‘Eyak(ş)’. Here gu’jih ‘wolf’ is treated as such a noun, referring
to the “Wolves” (i.e. members of the clan of the Eyak Raven moiety) among humans. Cf. also the
introduction to this tale and notes to 5 and 192.
we’ll help them, with anything whatever.
*They didn’t use to kill us but, they keep killing us.
They trap us with deadfalls. They shoot us with arrows. They stab us.
With those spears they keep stabbing us to death.
That’s how they keep killing us, those relatives of yours.
Thus you should say to them that they should leave us alone.
Then we too won’t bother you any more.”

So that woman, “Yes,” she said to them, “I’ll say thus to them.”
The wolf said thus, “Don’t forget to say thus to them.”
“Yes, I won’t forget.” They filled some canoes for her, that woman.
Mountain-goat, black bear, brown bear, they killed them for her.
Those Wolf-People it was, they killed some things for the woman.
She boated back with them.

Then,

166. The ‘customary’ form of the verb does not distinguish between past or discontinued action and present or continued action; thus the only interpretation that resolves the apparent contradiction is as translated, but it is strange that no adverbs are present to make the intention clear (unless the first part of the sentence is to be taken as a false start).
daxunhyu',
uga' dāxunhyu' uda' tsa' i'nsaquhįł,
qe' lgayu',
uga' qe' lgayu'.
182 "Da'ch’ahtduh uga' ixa' k’ušit'u?"
183 "Ahnu' uqa'ch' sileh
ga'nsa'yahlinu' qa't,
si'a'n' sha'a'chįł.
184 *Ahnu' q'a'ahnu' siya' k'usasuňt.'
185 *Ahnu' q'a'ahnu',
ahnu' qe'lgayu',
ahnu' uqa'gayu'tl' wax dasalit,
186 "Uch'a-χ galax'a'ch'inh,
awa' aw laq
galaxtin'inh,
aw a'nda' satl'ihįł."
187 Aw laq salahįł da'χ q'aw,
ahnu' qe'lgayu',
ahnu' qe'lgayu' ahnu' ch'a-χ sha'a'chįł.
188 Aw ya' dasaltsaşlinu'.
189 Ilt'a't aw salahįł.
190 U-da'x q'uňnu' wax ahnu'tl' ida'xa',
ahnu'tl' aw a'xa',
ahnu' Gurjihwalahyu',
ida'utl' dalch.
191 "Ya'xu',
yā'xu' wax q'e'
qu'laxsi'k'iuńu'.
192 Wax q'uw sitl' ida'xah,
ukuwa'na'gayu',
people,
people like her ran down to her,
women,
women like her.
"Where did you get so much stuff from?"
"Among those among whom I spent a year,
they came upon me.
*They’re the ones who have killed
some things for me."
*It’s they;
those women,
they said thus to their husbands,
"Go help her,
bring those things up from shore for
her,
what she transported here."
They brought them up from shore
and then,
those women,
those women helped
them.
They cut it up.
They hung it up.

Then she told them thus,
she told them of it,
those Wolf-People,
what they had said to her.
"Don’t,
don’t keep killing them that way any
more.
Thus it is they told me,
their relatives,

184-185. Tape reel had to be changed at end of 184 in recording session. The interruption caused very little
break in continuity of the story, but it did perhaps in the emotional tone, which is now less pensive, less
subdued.
Wolves like them are many* among us.
That’s why you keep killing.
That’s why they too have bothered us.
They’re people just like us.
They’re people like us.
Thus is all they said.
We won’t bother them any more.
We didn’t know they were people like us.

All these things, they have spirits
black bears,
all these living beings.
Thus they told me, these Wolf-People.
Land-bird-people also exist.
Young land-birds,
when their spirits speak to us,
when we go to get them
we won’t bother them any more.”
Wolf-People it was said thus to them,
said thus to her,
to that woman.

*After that they weren’t bothered any more.
*Nothing more at all happened to her.
*Sometimes there are days,

12 Cf. notes to 165 and 5. Here again gu’ijh ‘wolf’ is further treated as human by the use of -t’u’ with the special prefix -gu’n- used only when -t’u’ ‘many’ refers to humans. This is certainly strong grammatical underlining for the message in the following sentences.
205-206. It is not clear, especially in 205, whether it is the wolves, the people, or the woman who aren’t bothered any more, but in 206, the -unh suffix suggests reference to the woman.
207. Sentence structure very loose. The whole is perhaps best interpreted as two sentences meaning ‘Sometimes (in summer?, with the help of the wolves?) quite a quantity of game such as black bears and mountain-goats accumulates. (But) in winter they are difficult to kill’. If dla’la’etsk is taken as a slip for ldlu’la’atsk, then the sentences would read, very plausibly, ‘Sometimes there are days, quite an amount of black bears and mountain-goats and black bears go, in winter it is difficult, thus to kill black bears, whenever snow piles up, those mountain-goats and black bears. The last line is still more literally ‘thus that black bears and mountain-goats may be killed’.
Quite an amount piles up, those mountain-goats and, black bear, in winter it is difficult, thus to kill black bears and mountain-goats. *Only on that they used to live, such fish, fish. *In olden times those were the things people used to live on. So then, in just those ways they kept helping them and then, she died, that woman. After that woman died they haven’t any more come upon people. They don’t come around one any more, those wolves. That woman died. That’s all.

208-209. The exact connection between these sentences and the preceding is not clear. Apparently, before the wolves became their friends and helped them to get black bears and mountain-goats, the Eyaks subsisted mainly on fish, at least during the winter mainly on (dried) fish. It was still a common Eyak saying that one shouldn’t speak disdainfully of fish, for in olden times that was the Eyaks’ main sustenance. From the following sentences (210-212) it would seem that the wolves withdrew their direct help after the woman died, as well as ceasing to frequent human habitation (in recent times wolves are very few in the Eyak area). The continuing supply of mountain-goat and bear is presumably due to the presence of the “Wolf-People” among the Eyaks.
A woman was traveling about with her husband. While she was asleep in the canoe and her husband was away from her, the Wolf-People came upon the woman. While she was still asleep they picked up the canoe onto their shoulders with her in it. Then they had already carried it on their shoulders a long way, and were still carrying it along, she woke up. She sat up and looked around. She was being carried along in the canoe on their shoulders.

She cut open her pillow and strewed the down feathers out. The Wolf-People weren’t aware of it. She was tossing them out until they came to a river, and then they crossed the river, to those Wolf-People’s relatives over there. They kept her.

That woman lived a long time with them. As it would start to get dark, the menfolk would go out hunting, only at night, not during the day. During the day they would sleep. That’s how she began to realize who they were. Their boats were at the shore. She would go to get water. That woman would carry the water up from the shore. While she was gone to get water, she would cut those boats. She cut them except for a small one just the right size for her to handle. She kept on fetching water from there. While they slept, after they lay down, she would fetch water. Unlike them, she would sleep at night.

They were kind to her. They ate everything, just like what people eat. Whenever they killed anything to eat, it was given to her. She herself could prepare it for herself to eat. The Wolf-People, however, ate in their own fashion. They didn’t boil anything. They would circle around the food howling, those Wolf-People. That was their way of cooking it. She, however, cooked over a fire. They kept good watch over her.

She had already spent a number of years there when she cut those canoes. She set the small one in the water. She kept looking at them to see if they were asleep. They were sleeping. Then she went to fetch water and set it in the water. She got into it running. She launched herself out with a kick. She gave herself a good shove-off and was paddling across the river. She was just this short distance from the other side when they found out about her. Those Wolf-People immediately ran in all directions. Each time they shoved a canoe into the water it would sink. Those canoes were made of skin and would sink. So a number of them sewed up one canoe. She had already reached shore when that one boat set out after her.

Then, where a waterfall comes down from a mountain, from up above, here a lake forms, a lake where the falling water goes downstream. It was behind this, the water falling out in front, here in the recess behind it, there was no water. It was behind that water she stood. They ran there smelling her tracks. But from where she went into the water, they couldn’t any more. Right there they stayed, running back and forth, howling. She could hear the sound of those wolves howling. She stayed right there, as night fell, behind the water. As it was night, she settled down there. She stayed there and slept. After daybreak she stole out forward by there. No one was
there. So that was how she got back among humans, following along those same down-feathers along the way they had taken her. As it began to get dark she would look around for water. How many—two—mountains she crossed. As it began to get dark she would look around for waterfalls. When she saw one she would try to go in behind it. Thus, in two, three places, she spent the night behind a waterfall. In three nights and three days she ended up safely back home.

82 She didn’t immediately go in among her people. When it was already well into evening, she came down to shore by skirting above where the people lived. She approached the shore from above, in the evening. She looked around for some person to hail. He had gone to get water, at the lake. A child who had gone to the lake for water she saw. She called him over. ‘Come here. It’s me. I’ve come, tell them, my relatives, to come here for me.’ He ran back. He didn’t fetch any water up, he ran back so. He ran inside there and said, ‘Somebody, it’s a lady, is sitting over there by the water. She called me over to her. She’s calling you to come. Hurry!’ They ran there. All the men ran over there. Then they brought her back down to their home.

102 Her husband was already remarried to another woman. When she didn’t greet him he said to her, ‘Ah, is that really you that came back?’ She didn’t answer him. She said not one word to him.

107 Then she lay down in the evening darkness. The people with her asked, ‘Would you eat something?’

‘Not right now.’ She wouldn’t eat anything that day. ‘Tomorrow, though, tomorrow morning I’ll eat, not now.’ She just stayed right there where she lay by her grandmother. Then she told her grandmother what had happened to her, why she had been gone.

117 Another day came and went. After she had spent that one day there, wolves, that night, descended on the village. It was the Wolf-People, looking for her. In the people’s eyes, however, they were ordinary wolves. Quite a number of wolves descended on the village. As it got light the wolves went away again. The next day after nightfall they could be heard, those wolves. Staying right indoors, she wouldn’t go out at all. From following her trail they knew that the woman had come back there. Again their call could be heard. A number of men climbed onto the housetops with bows and arrows. After eight of the wolves were killed they left the people alone. They didn’t bother or interfere with people any more. They didn’t come around people any more.

136 After that she became well again. Her mind had become almost like a wolf’s mind. When her mood was bad she would right away feel like biting humans. When she had been living long enough with people again, her mind became pretty much human again.

140 Then the people with her moved camp. They were going to smoke meat, to dry salmon. They moved camp there with her and one wolf was prowling around there. The woman knew him. She kept telling him, ‘Mountaing-goat, black bear, I have no way to get any of these things to eat. Kill some for me.’ The next morning
when it got light all those things, mountain-goat, black bear, were lying there outside for her.

183 Only she never would get remarried, that woman. Because she had come to be among the wolves, she would never remarry. She stayed right with her grandmother. That’s how she lived. Her grandmother got very old and died of old age. Then she herself would go about in her canoe, alone.

185 They would come to her, the (Wolf) People. The wolf told the woman, ‘Tell your people not to kill us. We are people just like them. Our relatives, Wolves like us, are among you. I am a Wolf like your people. When you have a potlatch, your own kind, we are your own kind. Tell them not to kill us any more. Those Wolves like us, we’ll help them, with whatever they want. They didn’t use to kill us, but now they keep killing us. They trap us with deadfalls, they shoot us with arrows. They stab us with spears; they keep spearing us to death. They keep killing us that way, those relatives of yours. So you should tell them to leave us alone. Then we won’t bother you any more either.’

174 So that woman said, ‘Yes, I’ll tell them that.’
The wolf said, ‘Don’t forget to tell them that.’
‘Yes, I won’t forget.’

They filled some canoes for the woman. They killed mountain-goat, black bear, brown bear for her. The Wolf-People killed things for the woman. She took them home.

185 Then her people came running down to shore to her, women like herself. ‘Where did you get so much stuff from?’
‘Those people among whom I spent the year met me. They’re the ones who hunted the food for me.’

Those women said to their husbands, ‘Go help her, bring it up for her, what she brought.’ They carried it up, the women helping. They cut it into pieces and hung it up to dry.

190 Then she told them the story; she told them what the Wolf-People told her. ‘Don’t keep on killing them any more. That’s what they told me. Their relatives, Wolves like them, are many among us. That’s who you keep killing. That’s why they too have bothered us. They’re people just like us. That’s all that was said. We won’t bother them any more. We didn’t know they were people like ourselves. All these things have spirits, black bears, all living beings. That’s what they told me, the Wolf-People. There are also song-bird spirits. When we go around after little land-birds, and their spirits speak to us, we won’t bother them any more.’ That’s what the Wolf-People told the woman.

205 After that they weren’t bothered any more. Nothing more at all happened to her. Sometimes there are days when quite an amount of mountain-goat and black bear is accumulated. In winter it is hard to kill black bears and mountain-goats. They used to live only on those fish. In olden times those were the things people used to live on. They kept helping them in those ways, and then that woman died. After that woman
died they haven’t come around people any more. Those wolves don’t come around us any more. That woman died.

214 That’s all.

1933: ‘WOLF PEOPLE’

The Wolf People had been taking the people from a village. They took quite a few away. Once a young girl was playing outside. Some old people smelled something.

‘Oh, there’s something smells like a muskrat,’ they said. ‘It’s queer this muskrat smells in the fall.’

They were suspicious. It was fall and muskrats smell only in the spring. While the girl was playing outside they called her but she wouldn’t come in.

A Wolf Man was back of the house in the brush. He ws showing the girl different kinds of pretty birds. The girl went up to him, and he tied her up and put her among some feathers and packed her off. While he was packing her the little girl started to throw the feathers out one by one through a little hole in the bag. They went a long way. They came to a big lake. He hollered to his people. They met him with a canoe and brought him home.

The Wolf Man was a slave of the chief of the Wolf People. He put the bag with the girl in front of the chief. The chief looked in and found only a little girl in the bag.

He said, ‘How did you do this? What did you do this for? Didn’t you take pity on this little girl?’

When he took the girl out, instead of killing her, he killed the slave who brought her home. Another slave cut up his body and they ate him.

When they cooked the slave meat, they gave some to the little girl. She pushed it away and started to cry. After she didn’t eat the meat the chief sent his sister after some goat meat. All she ate was goat meat and bear meat. She lived with them there.

She started to grow up. She got old enough to pack water and to get up in the morning. The Wolf People thought the girl was just like themselves because she was growing up among them. Every morning before the others got up she packed water for the whole village. She tried to get on the good side of them so they wouldn’t kill her. The chief’s sister told her to do things for everybody so they wouldn’t kill her. She gave the girl a knife and told her while she was packing water early in the morning to put holes in all the Wolf People’s canoes, except one small one the girl could handle alone.

‘These people go hunting early in the evening and come back in the morning,’ she told her.

One morning while she was packing water, the girl cut up all the boats. It was easy because the Wolf People had birchbark canoes. Then she started away in the small canoe she saved for herself. Before she got to the other side the Wolf People found out she had got away. They put their canoes in the water and jumped in. Before they got far the boats sank. One boat with some men bailing and others paddling got clear across. It nearly caught her.

The girl landed and ran behind a little waterfall and hid there. A Wolf Man landed and tracked her to the falls and lost the track. He walked around and cried and sang a sad Wolf song. [Galushia and Annie Nelson had heard the words of this song but did not remember them.]

The Wolf People gave up searching after half a day. The girl followed the feathers home to her own people.

(Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, pp. 306–308.)
PART FIVE

ON THE BEGINNING AND END OF EYAK HISTORY
ON THE BEGINNING AND END OF EYAK HISTORY

The real truth and meaning of Eyak history as told to us by Anna here go far beyond the factual, to the personal and spiritual.

Anna’s version of the beginning of Eyak history is the only origin legend ever recorded for Eyak. She told it to me one day in response to renewed requests for an Eyak explanation of where the Eyaks came from. I was never able to get her or anyone else to confirm the story any further. (It does indeed agree with the academic theory that the Eyaks must have come from the Interior.) The truth of Anna’s Eyak history here is deeply personal; the Eyaks found a good place to live, improved their houses and boats, adapted increasingly well to the area, became more settled and numerous, were flourishing and had a good life. Then came Cordova; the Eyaks, now few, moved to town, and the story quickly ends.

Anna’s lament for her people is one of several lament songs I have recorded from Anna, including some for her sons and for my daughter; they are a traditional type of mourning chant, of quiet emotional intensity. This is her lament for her whole nation. However sorrowful her earthly existence and tragic the fate of her people, Anna’s Eyak spirit rises in triumph for herself, for her people, and for us all. I can see Anna, old and frail, walking alone on the beach at low tide. At the end, “A’n, de-lehtdał dlagaxu’, ts’it dlagaxu’ atxstilahi? atgaχ̣̣ala’t. Yes, why is it I alone, just I alone have survived? I survive,” there is nothing more I can say.
EYAK HISTORY*

1. Dik’ dañunhyu’q* q’aw I·ya·qda’ t,
dik’ık Anåxanaqa’ t dañunhyu’
k’a’le’ q.
2. Xít xadaqdash’aht q’unhuw
dañunhyu’,
aw t’axksga’* axya’ li’
saqehít.
3. A’ngu’ nuwy’x* q’ihnur’ li’
saqehít.
4. Da’aw a’n ida’ yax gu’ndi’ahwa’l’x
q’uhnur’ yax
daq’ x.
5. Aw’a’n’ saqehlínu’,
k’uda’uhtk.
6. Ne’t’ld’a’x k’uda’uhtkláx isał’anhl.
7. Aw dasałqa’t’klinur.

No people* were at Eyak,
nor were there people at
Alaganik.
From way upriver it was the
people,
they boated down in those
cottonwood*-like canoes.
Down the Copper River* it was they
boated.
Following along the way that river
flows around they were boating
around.
They came upon them,
eggs.
First they saw eggs.
They boiled them.

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, May 28, 1965, and first transcribed with the help of Lena Nacktan, Cordova,
June 5, 1965.
1. Dañunhyu’ means both ‘people, humans’ and specifically ‘Eyaks’, so that the sentence does not neces-
sarily imply that these places were previously uninhabited. Anna does not mention any previous inhabi-
tants, however, though it is known that the Eyak-Alaganik area was previously Chugach territory. See
Introduction.
2. Cottonwood is rare in and perhaps not native to the Cordova Eyak area; the word t’axks(k) is probably a
very old borrowing from Athabaskan (e.g. modern Ahtna t’aghes). The reference here may in fact be to
birchbark, not part of the modern Eyak culture (cf. notes to 30 and 33).
They tried them and (they were) 
good, 
they got lots of them. 
*As they were still boating they 
arrived at Alaganik. 
They boated upstream by Alaganik. 
There they settled down.

Spruce-boughs, 
first they made something like 
houses*. 
In those* they lived. 
They lived thus a long time and then, 
ta’xts’*, 
wind-fallen trees, 
ta’xts’, 
houses, 
ta’xts’-houses, 
they made them, 
those ta’xts’-houses. 
*Thus it was, 
upon doing so over and over it was, 
really veritable – 
this hemlock, 
hemlock-houses, 
they got hemlock, 
their houses.

12-13. yahtga’ ‘house-like’ and missing the normal da- prefixes used in reference to houses, so not rated grammatically as real houses; otherwise forms should be dasahtlinu: (12), awdat’axt (13).
14. Neither Lena nor Anna could identify the exact meaning of ta’xts’, only that it was some kind of tree or bark, out of which canoes and houses were said to have once been made, but no longer. Ta’xts’ayaht was also the name of a village and a Raven House in Gravina Bay. Anna herself seems to mean here that it is a fallen tree of some kind. It is also uncertain whether in this whole section (12-16) on house-building they are building a single (community) house or many houses.
15. Loose sentence structure. Da-’waxyu’ ‘all sorts of ways’ or ‘that way over and over’, presumably trying to build a better house, finally succeeding in building a “real” house of hemlock, such as described by Galushia in Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, p. 32. According to Anna here, the Eyaks had first to build shelters of spruce-boughs, then of ta’xts’, before learning to build houses of hemlock.
They built houses, 
big ones.

They were becoming populous. 
*Those first ones who boated down, 
they never boated back upriver. 
They didn’t boat back there. 
Those (who had been left) behind 
them boated down in another fleet. 
Another group* boated down. 
*Thus there were people at Eyak. 
Thence Eyak. 

It became summer. 
It was becoming summer. 
Summer. 
A group of canoes would travel 
around. 
A group of canoes would travel 
around. 
First they made them, 
dugout canoes. 
Big cottonwood*, 
they chopped them down. 
Those they fashioned into dugout 
 canoe form. 
In those it was, 
they boated around, 
into Eyak Lake. 
*Those cottonwood, 

er, 
the spruce, 
they tried that next.
Aw k’udzu q’e’ sdiłe’t.
K’u’luw aṣ, aw lisch’aht q’e’ xa’n’ salifinu’.

*Wax q’uhnu’ I’ya’qda’t, I’ya’qya’x q’e’daq sdxahl.
Q’e’daq sdiqehlinu’.
Aw I’ya’qda’t, udaqalehyaq’ aw salifinu’.
U’t ya’n’ salahlinu’.
U’t aṣ q’e’ xa’n’ sałih.
U’daṭ aw Eyak Lakech’ saqehl da’x, k’ut’u te’ya’, gi’nga’ndaq*, awlaṣ isal’anhł.
*Wax q’uhnu’ dik’ q’e’yaṭ adaq’a’k’q.
Da’u’t wax sat’u’t.

Da’-waṭ u’ṭ wax i’t’eh da’x q’uw, uyahsh, wax q’uw k’ugu’n’t’u’ k’usałe’t.

That turned out to be another good thing.
Big canoes, they made them anew from spruce.

*Thus they were at Eyak, they boated back upstream to Eyak Lake.
They boated back upstream.
That Eyak area, it pleased them.
They settled down there.
There they made some more canoes.
Then they boated to Eyak Lake and, many fish, ripe reddened salmon*, they saw them.
*Thus they didn’t boat around any more.
They settled right there.

They remained living there and then, their children, thus there came to be many of them.

36. It has not been clear whether it was the first (Alaganik) group or the second (Eyak) group, or both, involved in the fleet traveling around in 27-28, or in the canoe-making of 29-35. Here the q’e’- could mean, as before, either movement of a subject back to starting point, or renewed movement of the subject farther on, or movement of a new subject in turn over the same area as a previous one, such that these sentences could refer either to the second (Eyak) group reaching Eyak for the first time, then boating westward to the mouth of the Eyak River (about eight miles farther west than the mouth of Alaganik Slough, cf. note to 9), turned back upriver and upland ascending the Eyak River to Eyak; or to a return of the first and/or second group to Eyak, after having boated around; or to the voyage upriver to Eyak of a new group (the Alaganik group). In any case in modern times there was no clear distinction between the Alaganik and Eyak groups, the population being fluid between them, with of course constant communication.
41. Chugach word, with -ng- as in English ‘singer’.
43. Or ‘They didn’t (traveling by boat) turn/go back’; this could mean either that the second group (Eyak) at last ceased their wanderings, as translated, or that the first (Alaganik) group came to join the second at Eyak for good, preferring Eyak to Alaganik; Alaganik, however, remained an important village until 1892 or 1893, as mentioned in the Introduction.
The Eyaks* kept having children, at Eyak. Thus we became many at Eyak. Thus we are Eyak people, at Eyak*.

They when they felt like it then to the mouth of the river, to the breakers at the river-mouth, to get seals. Yonder at where they had boated down from there were no seals. Neither were they very many, the salmon that might swim up thither. They boated down and they found out about that, everything. Seals, ripe reddened salmon, these cockles, these eggs, they saw them, these birds, geese, mallards.

Thus this Eyak became a home.

*Mountain Slough too though,
k’uguṅ put’u’ gałe’t da·x Itl’a·ndaya’ch’ awa’,
lah q’e’ sdiñe’t.

they were becoming populous and at
Mountain Slough for its part,
it became another village.

Cordova,
Cordova was not a village.
It was at Eyak Lake,
that was a village.
Already now White People arrived
there and then Cordova,
Cordova became a town.

Eyaks thither –
Eyaks,
they aren’t very many any more.
They lived at Cordova,
from Eyak it was,
they moved thither.
They moved to Cordova and,
nevertheless at Eyak Lake,
some of them would boat back to
Eyak.
They would live some more back at
Eyak.

Not in one place.
There came to be these White People
and,
we settled at Cordova,
in town,
in town,
we lived.
People thus settled.

EYAK HISTORY

There were no Eyaks at Eyak, nor were there any Eyaks at Alaganik. The Eyaks came from far upriver, in boats made of something like cottonwood. They came
down the Copper River. They were following along the river in their boats. They found eggs. They first saw eggs. They boiled them, tasted them, and they were good, so they gathered a lot of them. Continuing along they came to Alaganik. They went up past Alaganik. There they settled down.

12 Of spruce-boughs they first built shelters, and lived in those. After living a long time like that they then built houses of ta'xts', wind-fallen trees; ta'xts' houses they built. So after many attempts, they made true houses, of hemlock. They made their houses of hemlock. They built large houses.

17 They were becoming many, those first people who came down the river in their boats, and they never went back upriver. More people after them came down, in turn. That's how Eyak was established. It was Eyak after that.

24 Summer came and they would go around by boat. They made their first dugout canoes. They chopped down large cottonwood, and fashioned that into a canoe. They went in that into Eyak Lake. Then they tried spruce instead of cottonwood. That too was good. They carved large boats out of spruce.

36 They went back up by Eyak into Eyak Lake. They liked it at Eyak, and settled down there. They made more boats there. They went by these to Eyak Lake and saw many fish, ripe salmon. So they no longer wandered, but lived right there.

44 As they remained living right there, their children became many. The Eyak villagers kept having children, at Eyak. That's how Eyak became populous. Thus we are Eyaks, at Eyak Village. When they felt like it they would go to the mouth of the river, to the breakers, to get seals. Over where they had come down the river there are no seals. Nor are there many salmon, that swim up that far. When they came down the river they found out about all these things. They saw seals, ripe salmon, cockles, eggs, birds, geese, mallards.

53 So Eyak became a village. They were becoming numerous at Mountain Slough, and Mountain Slough became a village too.

55 Cordova was not a village. The village was at Eyak. Whites arrived there and Cordova became a town. The Eyak people were no longer very many. They moved there from Eyak. After they moved to Cordova still some of them would go back to Eyak, and live there again, not being in just one place. As there came to be these Whites, we moved to Cordova; the Eyaks lived in town.
LAMENT FOR EYAK

My poor aunt*. I couldn’t believe you were going to die.

*How would I hear you?

I wish this, to go back to you there.

You are no more.

*My child* speaks to me that way.

*I just break out in tears and lament.

All alone here I’ll go around.

Like Ravens I’ll live alone.

My aunts* are dying off on me and alone I’ll be living.

---

0. Recorded on tape, Yakutat, June 15, 1972. It was difficult for me to transcribe this, both because I did not have the help of a native speaker of Eyak and because the sounds are sometimes difficult to recognize in the singing style, which interferes especially with vowel length, glottalization, etc., and also because Anna’s language here is often very poetic. I am nevertheless fairly confident that I have correctly interpreted it in most cases. Sentences 1-7 are a kind of spoken introduction; the chanted lament itself is sentences 8-34.

1. ‘aht (Tlingit aat) is father’s sister. Perhaps specifically Wajnangi, wife of Old Man Dude, Cordova, who died in 1930. See Birket-Smith and de Laguna 1938, pp. 220-221, for account of her death, Genealogical Table, and Plate 6.2 for a photograph of her grave.

2. More literally ‘How will I hear anything of you?’

6. Perhaps to be interpreted Anh “Siyahsh” was stil’ tsin’dale: “My child,” that way she speaks to me’, that is, ‘my aunt calls me “my child”. This is usual for a mother’s sister, but not for a father’s sister.

7. Perhaps to be interpreted ‘She just became tearful with me’ in accordance with footnote 6; da’x aw ‘and it is’, ‘and so’, as direct introduction to the chanted lament.

9. ‘aht-gayu’ (Tlingit aat hás) ‘father’s sisters’ or ‘father’s sister’s side of the family’.
A·nt ala· de·lehtshdal wa·xyu·
gaxle·t?
Siga·kgayu·dik* siixa· ti·q' i·nnsdi·ahł
da·x dik· uk·'ah laxstahłgünu·.
Ahnu· siga·kgayu· siixa·
listdi·ahłch·ahł q'unhu·,
si'ahtgayu· siixa· q'e· lagadá·a·t.
Daxu· dlagaxu·.
Saqe·gayu· siixa· atgaxtala·t,
al anhq·ach'a.*
Ch'itwa·x ki·nx siixa· a·le·k'.
Aw ulah ya·x adi·lihxtla·ya·x da·t
ahnu· si'ahtgayu·.
Si'ahł q'a·anh da·x anh gatl·htya·
si'ahł siixa· k·di·x safel·t.
Da·chí·dal q'e· qu·xda·?
Da·chí·dal q'e· qu·xda·?
Datlı· dahl·q' ahnu· i·nnsdi·ahł.
Ahnu· i·nnsdi·ahl.
Daxu·sh k·e·'shuw da·al Qa·ta'·
k·e·'shuw wa·x siixa· ileh,
dlagaxu· galagaxta·hł·
Ts'itwa·x awa· atq' da·xladza·nts' da·x
k'udzu· sidagale· siya· q'e· dafe·k'.
A·ndax,
awleht q'aw al anh,
qi' atk'udadaza·nts',
ya·x axda·k'.
A'xq'e·'k' awch' ixiyah.
Dlagaxu· q'aw,
dlagaxu·kíh a·ndax lu·di·'daxyu· ya·x
axda·k'.
Ts'itwa·x ki·nx siixa· le·k'.

Why, I wonder, are these things
happening to me?
My uncles* also have all died out on
me and I can't forget them.
After my uncles all
died off,
my aunts are dying off next.
I'm all alone.
With some children I survive,
on this earth.*
Only I keep bursting into tears.
I think about where my
aunts are.
She is my aunt and my last aunt is
gone.
Where will I go next?
Wherever will I go next?
They are already all extinct.
They have been wiped out.
Maybe me, I wonder, maybe Our
Father wants it this way for me,
that I should live alone.
I only pray for it and my spirits
recover.
Around here,
that's why this land,
a place to pray,
I walk around.
I try to go there.
Alone,
alone around here I walk around on
the beach at low tide.
I just break into tears.

12. -ga'k-gayu' (Tlingit káak háš) 'mother's brothers', or 'mother's brother's side of the family'. Perhaps specifically Blind Sampson O'Shaw (1866-1948) (Tlingit name Yaandul'sín, Eyak Wa'ndahsan, also name of Anna's son Johnny) or Billy Jackson (died about 1949, Tlingit name Eitísče), both of Yakutat. The aunts and uncles whom Anna mentions are mother's brother and father's sister, the relations which are called by the same terms in Tlingit as in Eyak (káak = -ga'k, aat = -'aht), except in 34-35 below.
15. al anhq'ach'a also perhaps '(by moving) to this area;
I sit down on a rock.  
Only the Eyaks,  
the Eyaks,  
they are all dying off.  
Just a very few at Eyak  
there.  
They survived from Eyak,  
but they too are becoming extinct.  
Useless to go back there.  
My uncles* too have all died out on  
me.  
After my uncles all died out my  
aunts next  
fell,  
to die.  

Yes,  
why is it I alone,  
just I alone have survived?  
I survive.

34. -tinh·gayu’ ‘father’s brothers’ or ‘father’s brother’s side of the family’. 