



Himwiča: Our Legends

As Told by Our Hupačasath Elders



A Hupa³časath Publication
PORT ALBERNI, BRITISH COLUMBIA
©2005



Himwića: *Our Legends*

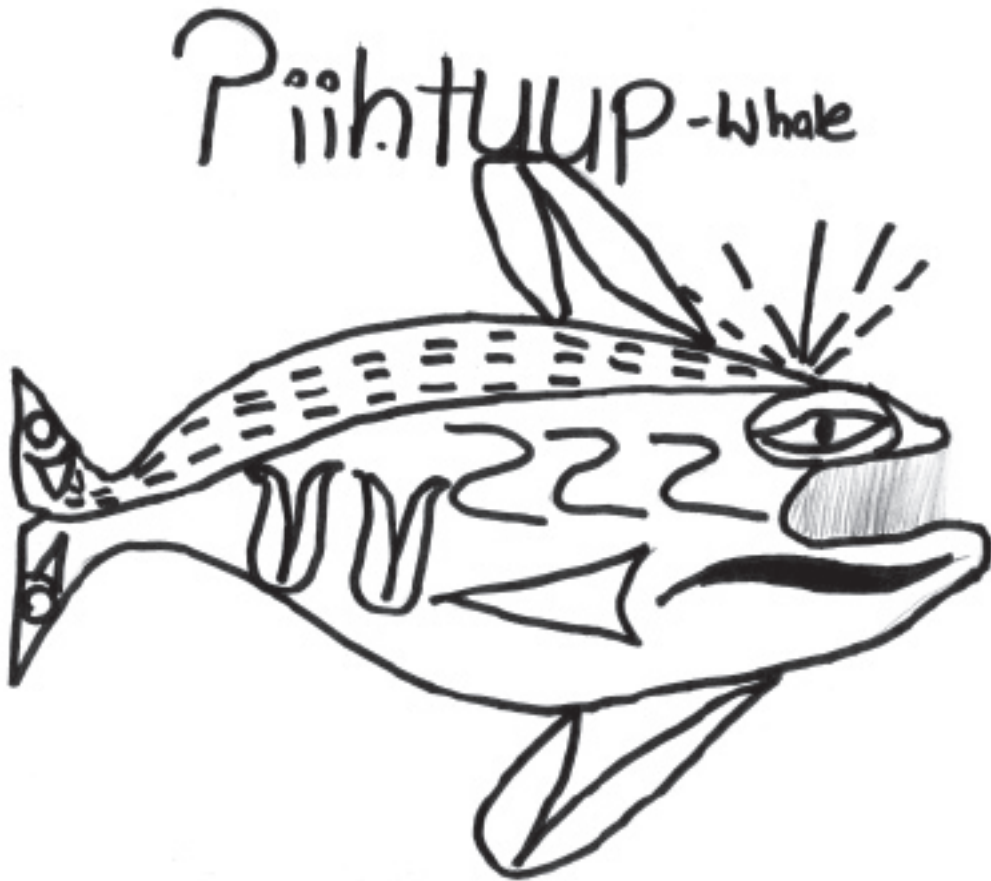


Brandy Lauder

Himwiča: *Our Legends*

Table of Contents

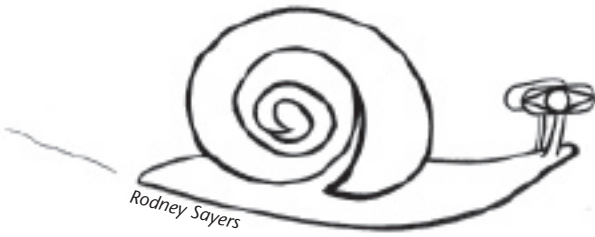
Foreward.....	1
q ^w iyimtič ʔakuʔnah qasii čix ^w atin ʔuuk ^w iʔqh ʕenmi.....	3
When the Eagle Went to Borrow Eyes From the Snail	
quʔacma.....	5
The Shadow	
teeʔinwaqas.....	7
Daughter of Sea Cucumber	
ʔiʔišsuʔiʔ.....	9
Gum Woman	
ʕentʔtin q ^w iyiič čakupšiʔaʔ.....	15
When ʕentʔtin Became a Man	
Q ^w iyimtʔittq k ^w atyaat ʔiiʔtuupšiʔ.....	21
When k ^w atyaat Turned Himself Into a Whale	
ʔunaakweʔin pawac tiickin hiʔuuk tuutaa.....	23
The Thunderbird Has a Nest on Thunder Mountain	
q ^w iyimtʔitq ʔak ^w aqʔ tuškuuh.....	25
When the Codfish Was Sad	



Foreward

The stories told here are the collective memories of the fluent speakers group. Five speakers can tell each story five different ways. Amongst them, they decided on the versions you read here.

As few as possible liberties were taken in writing the English translation in order to preserve the tone of the dialogue. It is important to remember that this is not a word for word translation, but an accurate reflection of the Nuu Chah Nulth stories.



Rodney Sayers



q^wiyimtiič ʔakuʔnah qasii c'ix^watin
ʔuuk^wifqh ʕenmi

*When the Eagle Went to
Borrow Eyes From the Snail*



ħacqaʔaqqit weʔin ʕenmi huuʔak ʔahʔaaʔaħ maquuʔsaħweʔin c'ix^watin
There was a time when the snail had really good vision and the eagle was really blind.

ciqṣeeʔaħ weʔin ʕenmi ʔuuqumħiʔaħma nučiʔi.
The snail speaks and says, "It's a beautiful day and the mountain looks beautiful."

čanimah waaʔaħ c'ix^watin ʔuunuuh maquuʔqas ʔakuʔayiiʔis qasii
"I can't see because I'm blind" said the eagle to the snail. "Can you lend me your eyes?"

ʔaaniyasaaqħah ʔakuʔayii suwa huʔayiiquk hiniʔaħ qasiiʔatʔi ʔuuk^wif c'ix^watin
"I'll only lend you my eyes if you promise to give them back to me" said the snail, then he handed his eyes over to the eagle.

matṣeeʔaħ c'ix^watin wiktaqṣiħ huʔayii qasii ʕenmi q^waanuuʔaħ ħackaʔaħ c'ix^watin
ħahʔuuyii ʔahʔaaʔaħ wiiicmaas ʕenmi maquuʔk^wačeeʔaħ
The eagle flew away not returning the eyes to the snail. That's why today eagles have really good eyesight, and now the snail travels really slow because he's blind. ✧





quʔacma *The Shadow*

ʔayaqʔasit weʔin ʔaʔa hiyath ʔiih maʔas ʔukčiqʔas nananiqsu suusinħictaʔ taatniakʔi huuʔičpiiʔaʔ ʔuyuʔaʔnakaʔ ʔupksit sačiiʔckʷaʔ weʔin ʔaneeʔisʔi wiikaʔʔinčeeʔaʔ ʔaneeʔasʔi.

A long time ago many families lived together in one big house. One night when everyone was asleep in the big house, a family had a young child who crawled away from its bed.

naačukšeeʔat ʔuyupksit weʔin qʷamīaaqʔasʔitq načukšeeʔaʔ ʔaneeʔisʔi.

The family realised the child was missing, so they began to search for him. It was very dark as the only light was from the fire, and the family could not find the child anywhere.

hiinipnakaʔ weʔičuʔckʷi weʔin ʔaaneʔisʔi wikʔmīaa weʔin ʔupksit ʔaneeʔisʔi.

They finally found the child sleeping in a corner and they tried to wake him up.

haaʔinčeeʔaʔ ʔuuštaqyu sukʷiʔnakkaʔ ʔuuštaqyu sukʷeeʔaʔ weʔin nayaqakʔi ʔuyuuʔaʔ pawaʔšiʔukqa quʔacma naačukšitčipʔaʔ quʔacma.

They tried and tried but the child would not wake up. Somebody went to get the indian doctor to help them. The doctor looked at the child and found out that the child's shadow was missing and that is why the child was sleeping and would not wake up.

hiniipčipʔaʔ quʔacma nayaqakʔi naacsant weʔin ʔaʔa ʔuuštaqyuʔi hiʔaqʔnuk quʔacmeʔi wikaʔ weʔin čačimħi ʔakiis.

The doctor searched the house for the missing shadow. Some time later the doctor came carrying the child's shadow in his cupped hands.

quʔacmeeʔi ʔani pawaʔa yaqʷacʔitq quʔacma huʔanaksap quʔacma naʔiyyak ʔupksit ʔaneeʔisʔi huʔanakšit quʔacma yaa ʔaneeʔisʔi čačimħičiʔ.

They could see the shadow in his cupped hands and it wobbled back and forth. The doctor returned the shadow to the child who then woke from his sleep and was fine. ✧



Slade Charlong

teeʔinwaqas

Daughter of Sea Cucumber

qʷačaʔaʔweʔin teeʔinwaqas haakʷaaʔ.

The Daughter of Sea Cucumber was a very beautiful girl.

čiiksaʔaweʔin heʔiiʔatweʔin hinaksuʔ čiiksaʔum qʷačaʔsimtweʔin teeʔinwaqas, ʔayaqʰʔatweʔin ʔuuʔaʔʔakʔat.

She had bangs that reached down to her mouth.

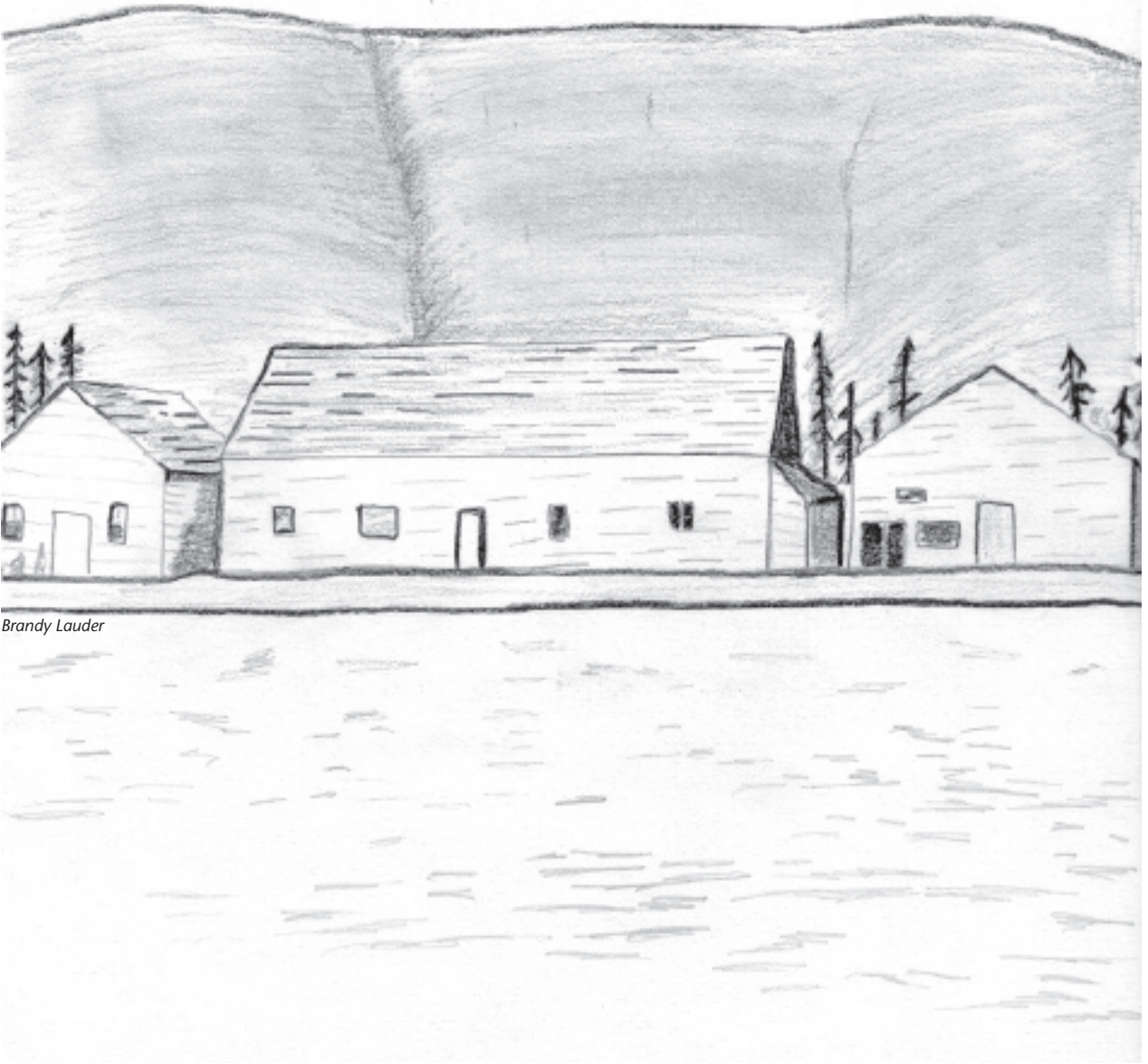
ʔuušmaʔiiqʰstuuʔaʔweʔin.

She wanted to go to the bathroom.

waʔaakʔaʔ kʷačinuʔaʔweʔin kistaa, luu luu luu luu waaʔaʔ weʔin.

She sat down on her chamber and said, "luu luu luu luu." (A common phrase people used to use.) ↵





Brandy Lauder



Brandy Lauder

naanačimupał hawifałgi ſuʔasʔi.

The young man spied on her and looked down from the tree into the pond.

načsaał yuq^wa načuʔaʔ ʔiʔiſſuʔiʔ ʔuq^wayuuʔaʔ qaḥ.

The gum woman stopped and looked into the pond.

ʔatweʔinčaʔasq^waa uḥ hawifałgi načmicinʔ ʔiʔiſſuʔiʔ.

ʔuu... λuuʔ ʔiſſaʔas λimλima hinuuʔaʔ ʔi ʔuuk^waḥkuuḥ qaḥ ʔiʔiſſuʔiʔ.

The gum woman was looking into the pond, admiring herself and stroking her face thinking it was her own reflection, but it was the young man's.

y^wuq^waaʔał naačsitas hawifałgi ſučaasʔi ʔuyaałitweʔin hinaʔsiḥ wik qaaʔuḥ q^wi^wipaʔʔit hinaʔsiḥ ʔiʔiſſuʔiʔ.

The gum woman moved her head back and forth and the young man followed her movements, then he moved his head the opposite direction from her. That's when she realised it wasn't her own reflection.

hitaʔatał hawifałgi ʔačaqaḥak waʔał iʔiſſuʔiʔ. ʔaqisk^wačiḥak λuʔ hawifał.

The gum woman asked the young man, "Who are you and how did you become so handsome?"

λuyaciḥmeḥsaḥak waaʔał hawifałgi.

"Do you want to get pretty?" said the young man.

λuyayappuusqas suwa čuu... ʔapaakah λuyaciḥ waaʔał ʔiʔiſſuʔiʔ ciqſeeʔał hawifałgi ʔuḥaahči m^wuksy^wi.

"Yes I want to get pretty" said ʔiʔiſſuʔiʔ. "I can help you," said the young man.

ʔuuyiḥpał ʔiiḥ m^wuksy^wi.

He told her to look for a big rock, and she brought it to him.

ču... λaʔuuḥaḥči m^wuksy^wi.

"Yes! Now go find another rock," he said.

λaʔuuyiḥpał m^wuksy^wi ʔuʔiiʔasʔaḥiʔaḥ tuḥčatiʔatqak.

She brought another rock and the young man told her to put her head down on it.

Himwiča: *Our Legends*

t̄aaqaakʔaʔweʔin ʔiʔiʂsuʔiʔ.

The gum woman believed him and put her head down on the rock.

čitk̄ʷiiʔaʔ suk̄ʷiiʔaʔ ʔaʔuuʔi m̄uksȳi ʔaʔinkssapaʔ m̄uksȳi.

The young man picked up the second rock and smashed her head between the two rocks.

yaaʔʔaʔweʔin ʔiʂciipsiʔ ʔiʔiʂsuʔiʔ.

The gum woman turned into gum between the two rocks.

ʔaʔʔaaʔaʔitweʔin kamitq̄siʔ ʔaačukšeeʔaʔ taatneʔisʔi ʔuyuʔaʔ ʔaʔiʔ ʔačiiʔiʔ ʔuyuʔaʔ taatneʔisʔi.

The young man ran and started to look for the missing children. He saw a cave, and this is where he found the children.

maʔqapiih̄ taatneʔisʔi čaaniiweʔin taatneʔis ʔuʔuuksuʔ ʔiʂciip.

The children were tied high up in the cave and they had gum in their eyes so they could not see.

ʔeeʔeeʔiʂap weʔin k̄ʷik̄ʷiicsuppaʔ taatneʔisʔi ʔiqyuksapaʔ taatneʔisʔi kamitq̄siʔsuu ʔeeʔeeʔiʂa waʔsiʔ ʔačattiipsiʔ taatneʔisʔi.

He untied the children and took the gum out of their eyes, and they all ran home. ✧



Brandy Lauder



Slade Charlong

Ƨentħtin q^wiyiič čakupš iʔaλ

When Ƨentħtin Became a Man

čakupšeeʔaλ weʔin Ƨentħtin.

When Ƨentħtin became a man,

yuxtiičiʔaλ weʔin čamiiqwitas čuk^waa naʔuuqsʔisʔak waaʔaλ weʔin Ƨentħtin.

he prepared for a long journey in a canoe and asked a man to go along with him.

ʔayiicsuλ čiihati muustati.

He brought along lots of arrows and a bow.

ʔaλistinuuʔaλ λihšix hinašix q^wiiciyukʔitq.

The two of them got into the canoe and reached their destination.

λeħsaʔaλ, nāčaayipiiʔaλ Ƨentħtin kupmisiinλ weʔin Ƨentħtin.

When they reached the beach Ƨentħtin pointed up to the sky.

nāacsahak yeeti čaniimah waaʔaλ yayaqʔitq, λičix ʔaqλah čiihati muustati

nāciicʔim λiicλiyyaqλah taaqstuppāλ čiihati.

“Do you see that?” Ƨentħtin said to the man. “I can’t see it,” he replied. “Watch, I am going to shoot arrows with my bow and they will be joined together.” He shot arrows into the sky.

nāacsiičeeʔaλhak?

“Now can you see it?”



Himwića: *Our Legends*

ʔuu... haaʔa n̄aacsiičiiʔaʔah waaʔaʔa yayaqʔitq.

"Oh, now I can see it," said the man that was with him.

ʔanaač̣inʔicaʔ č̣iiḥatiʔi.

The joined arrows came down low enough for him to reach.

suʔiḥtinuuʔaʔ maʔsap yaaʔweʔin č̣istuupsap yaa č̣iiḥatiʔi.

He grabbed the end of the arrow and shook it and it turned into a rope.

wiinapisʔim č̣iimisinʔ ʔaqʔah č̣iimisinʔ sayaač̣inʔ n̄ač̣iicʔaʔ yayaqʔitq.

He told the man to wait for him until he got back. "I am going to climb way up."

č̣aniic̣iiʔaʔat hinasiṭ hinaayiʔ yaac̣siʔaʔ, neʔiic̣iʔ weʔin ciciiqyu ʔuḥ weʔin č̣aaʔaš qʔaa ʔenmiqas maʔah.



Lily Charlong

The man couldn't see ʔentḥtin anymore after he climbed up to the heavens. After he got there he walked until he got to a place where he could hear voices. He looked to see where the voices were coming from. It was ʔenmiqas, the snail sisters.

ʔaaqinḥasuu waaʔaʔ, maʔatquḥin waaʔaʔ ʔenmiqas.

ʔentḥtin asked them, "What is wrong with you?"

"We are blind, we can't see," said the snail sisters.

ʔiiqḥukkuuḥak hiyathuusi hupaʔ

"Can you tell me where the sun lives?" He said.

n̄aacsiiyapuusah siiwaa waaʔaʔ ʔentḥtin.

"I could give you eyes to see," said ʔentḥtin.

sukʔiṭ siptuup ʔaasippaʔ ʔaʔa siptuup, ʔaqqinuppaʔ tuḥč̣itatʔi ʔenmiqas.

He picked up two sticks and stuck them in the snail sisters head, and that became their eyes.

ʔiiqḥukʔaʔat histuuʔaʔcuyii hupaʔ.

ʔenmiqas gave him directions to find the sun.

Himwiča: *Our Legends*

yaacuk^w ał ʔuʔucama histuuʔaʔʔaql̥iič hupaʔ sayaʔii yaacuk.

ʕent̥tin began walking a long ways following the directions he was given to find the sun.

ʔuyuʔaʔʔał quuʔas k^w iiłk^w iiya ʕučim, ʔaaq̥iic̥iʔhak.

He saw a person sharpening a mussel shell and he asked them what they were doing.

ʔuk^w iiʔah ɕax̥yakk^w iɥtim waaʔał quuʔasʔi.

The man said "I am making a spear head."

ʔuu... n̥ašsaap̥is ʔah̥nii.

"Oh...show me the spear you are making."

suk^w ił n̥aṇaanič̥sił.

He took it and began looking at it.

čaačimʔiɥuusiiʔic ʕaasip̥pał ʕučimʔi ʔuʔiiyasʔap hišspaa tuɥčitatʔi ʕuhʔas ʔakłink ʕaatušsaʔał muuqmuq^w a weʔin.

ʕent̥tin took the mussel shells and put a shell on both sides of the mans head, then he slapped his behind and made it white from the powder from the shells. Atush went galloping off.

ʕaʔaayuʔaʔʔał quuʔas, ʕaakʕaak^w ał ʔaaq̥iic̥iʔhak?

ʕent̥tin kept walking and then he saw another man and asked him what he was doing.

ʔuk^w iiʔah ʔux^w aap.

He answered, "I am making a paddle."

kaaʔa n̥ašsaap̥is, suk^w eeʔał ʔux^w aapʔi hiʔcuuʔateeʔic hiinaaʔaʔʔatʔitqak.

"Show it to me,"

ʕent̥tin said and he took the paddle, and then said that the man should have it on his back.



Lily Charlong

ʕaaph̥łaph̥aq̥h̥čik weʔin susaa ʕatuučeeʔał.

The man turned into a beaver slapping his tail and he swam away.

Himwića: *Our Legends*

yaacšee ʔaʔʔa ʔaʔuuyuʔaʔʔa ʔaʔʔa ʔuuʔas.

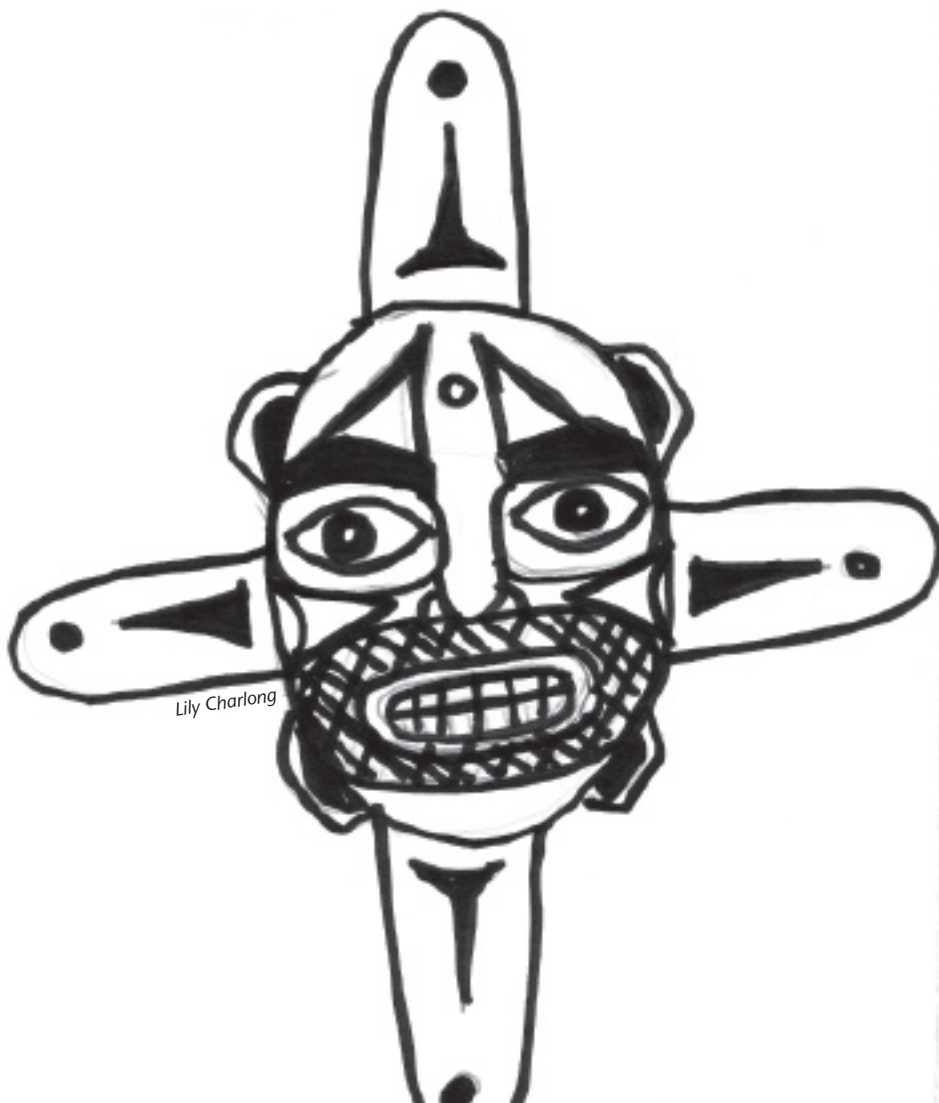
He started walking again and then he saw another man.

qiiyuuʔuktuk hinasiʔ hiʔʔiitq hupaʔ.

ʕentʔtin walked a long ways until he saw where the sun was.

hinaseeʔaʔ weʔin hiyʔathʔitq hupaʔ ʔuʔimaʔ hiinačwitas ʔakʔaaʔukʔitqak.

He reached where the sun lived and he abruptly asked the sun for his daughters hand in marriage.



hiinačwitas ḥak^waałuk^wit qak hupařas.

"I have come to ask for your daughters hand in marriage."

kaḥ⁷iitappāḥ ḡust⁷as⁷i načstaa⁷aḥ kuuḥinkstee⁷i, ticstaa⁷aḥ ʕentḥtin mušinksee⁷aḥ kuḥstaa⁷i.

The ground cracked open and ʕentḥtin fell in, and then the ground closed up again. ʕentḥtin turned himself into snot and went back up through the crack then turned himself into a man again.

ʕentmiičsee⁷aḥ ḥitawaḥsuḥ hu⁷aas ʕentmiičiḥ, hu⁷aas⁷aḥ quu⁷as quu⁷asšiči⁷ tiičswaaqḥaḥ.

ʕentḥtin became a man again.

čuu...ḡaanimē⁷ic k^wistuup waa⁷aḥ hupař.

"Yes, you really are supernatural," said the sun.

hini⁷aqaḥaḥ suwā ḥak^waałukqas hupařřac.

"I am going to give you my daughters hand."

čuu ḡaniime⁷ic k^wistuup waa⁷aḥ hupal.

"Yes, you are really something."

hu⁷aciiyüksii⁷aḥ histaqšič ḡitq ʕentḥtin.

ʕentḥtin started going back to where he came from.

hiniics⁷aḥ hupařas hu⁷aa⁷atu hiicin⁷yamit⁷itq čapac hiyaḥck^wi winapḥck^wi yayaqit⁷itq.

He came back down to where he had left the canoe and the man he had travelled with.

yaařwe⁷in qahakk^waḥs siicaa⁷aḥ yayaqit⁷itq řuučimsaḥ wařšič ʕentḥtin.

The man had been dead for days and was covered with maggots. ʕentḥtin went home with a new wife. ✧



Lily Charlong

Q^w iyimtʔittq k^w atyaat ʔiiḥ tuupš iḥ *When k^w atyaat Turned Himself Into a Whale*

ʔuušstiyamitweʔin wikpiičiči ʔiiḥtuup ʔiiḥtuupšeeʔaḥweʔin k^w atyaat.

k^w atyaat noticed that there weren't any whales
around.

ʔuunuuḥ ḥamatapqa ʔunaq qa ʔiiḥtuup tiickinʔi.

He turned himself into a whale knowing that the
Thunderbird's favourite food was the whale.

ḥupkšeeʔaḥweʔin tiickin wikii haʔuksiči siya ʔuhḥah k^w atyaat waaʔaḥ wikpiičiči ma
ʔiiḥtuup q^w aanuuḥitah ʔiiḥtuupšiči.

k^w atyaat said to the Thunderbird, "Don't eat me, its
me k^w atyaat. I want you to help me find out where the
whales went."

ḥamatupckinmah hiʔʔiitq ʔeʔiiḥtuupʔi hupiičičiquuk siya.

"If you could fly me up to the Aeuletians, you can
watch for them and when you see them let me know."

ʔuḥayiiʔaqḥah suwa.

"I will reward you with something."

matšeeʔaḥ tiickin ʔucačiči nuušin. načuuʔaʔʔiikquuk ʔiiḥḥukʔaḥsuksiya. čuu
yaaʔminḥʔaḥma waaʔaḥ tiickin huuʔičma.

The Thunderbird flew north and upon seeing the
whales, he said "There they are, sleeping down there."

matʔaaʔatapis matʔaaʔatupaḥ tiickin k^w atyaat.

k^w atyaat said, "Put me down, I will wake them."
k^w atyaat was put down.

ʔaphačistuppaḥ siḥaa ḥupkssaapaḥ ʔeʔiiḥtuupʔi.

k^w atyaat slapped his tail fluke on the water.



wat̚saapa̚aʔ ʔeʔiihtupʔi q̚ʔiyaaʔʔitq waʔʃeeʔaʔ k̚ʔatyaat ɥaaʔinʔaʔ maatmaasʔi ʔiihʔiiɥaʔ.

He woke up all the whales and brought them back to the coast.

ʔuuyiiʔaʔ ɥeʔiʔiik tiickin.

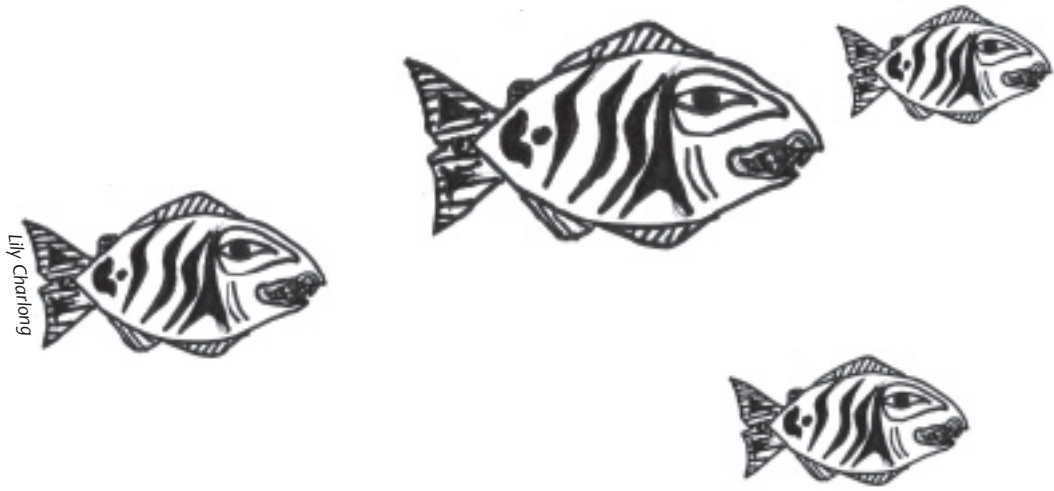
It was a few days later that k̚ʔatyaat threw a party and presented the lightning snakes to the Thunderbird.

q̚ʔaasaahaʔ ʔunaak̚siʔ ɥeʔiʔiik tiickinʔi.

That is how the Thunderbird got the lightning snakes.

ʕatiq̚ʃiʔaʔ k̚ʔatyaat ʔup̚uupa̚aʔ ɥeʔiʔii tiickin.

The Thunderbird was rewarded for helping k̚ʔatyaat.✧



q^wiyimtʔitq ʔak^waqʔ tuškuuh
When the Codfish Was Sad



ʔuuṣṣtiyamtweʔin ʔak^waqʔ tuškuuh ʔuunuuʔ hačatakʔat ʔuupaaʔat.
There was a time when Codfish was real sad. No one really liked him because he was ugly.

yakṣeeʔaʔweʔin k^watyaat wikii ʔak^waʔqah waaʔaʔ ʔuuṣyakkeeʔic.
K^watyaat showed up and said, “You’re valuable.”

muḫčooʔaʔquuk ʕuyičeeʔaʔiiʔic
“When you are boiled your fish becomes medicine.”

haweeʔaʔweʔin ʔak^waqʔ ʔiiḫ^waqsuuʔaʔ tuškuuh.
This made Codfish really happy.

čiiṭuk^wiiʔaʔ ʔiḫaqsuuʔaʔ hemčeeʔaʔ čičičʔatʔi.
This really made Codfish happy. He really smiled and showed all of his teeth

Teaching: every person is valuable in their own way and we all bring different things to this world. ✧

Himwiča: *Our Legends*



The Hupacasath acknowledge and thank the First People's Heritage, Language & Culture Council for their financial contribution to the work and publication of this book. Without this contribution, the Hupacasath Dialect would not survive.

ǰlecko, ǰlecko!

FPHLCC from all Hupacasath including future generations.

Acknowledgements to:

Fluent Speakers: Jessie Hamilton, Rosie Tatoosh, Dorothy Unger, Edward Tatoosh, and Vernon Ross

Project Coordinators: Judith Sayers and Rodney Sayers

Artists: Brandy Lauder, Slade Charlong, Lily Charlong, and Rodney Sayers



© Hupacasath First Nation 2005

5500 Ahahswinis Drive
P.O. Box 211
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2
(250) 724 4041



Slade Charlong