

## Raven and the Whale

told by Katherine Mills

Tléix' yateeyi aa áwé,	There was this time
yá Yéil áwé át woogoot.	Raven was walking around.
Áwé awsiteen yá yáay.	He saw this whale.
Héennáx̄ kei aklakél'ch yú yaaw.	The whale is chasing herring through the water.
Áwé ch'á wá-a-a-a-a-a-s tsú du x̄'éit agasnei wé yaaw.	Just h-o-w-w-w-w can Raven get a taste of the herring? <sup>5</sup>
Wáa nanée sáwé yéi tuwdisháat.	At what point was it when was it he thought,
"Shk'é áa daak k̄uk̄kwadaḱeen.	"Let me fly out there.
Tle wé yaaw x̄'ayeeḱ x̄'awut'aax̄í, áwé x̄át tsu du yíkdei k̄kwadaḱéen.	Then, when the whale's jaws open for the herring, I'll fly inside, too.
Yéi áwé tsá aa yak̄kwadláaḱ, yá yaaw wusx̄á."	It's the only way I'll get to eat the herring."
Áwé tle áa daak wudik̄ín tle k̄únáx̄	So he flew out there. Just when
yá yaaw du yíkt kawu.aayí áwé wé yáay,	the herrings were pouring inside the whale, <sup>10</sup>
tle a yíkdei wdzigeet yá yaaw x̄oo.	Raven fell in among the herring.
Tle yá yáay	Raven was right in the bottom of the stomach
du yoowuk'óol' áwé áwú á yá Yéil.	of the whale.
Tle áx' shóot awdi.ák.	Then he made a fire there.
Tle áx' áwé agalt'óos'	Then right there he barbecues <sup>15</sup>
wé Yáaych	the herring
sax̄a yaaw.	the whale is eating.
Tle k'idéin,	He would eat them just fine
ch'u tle oosk'ítch.	without any trouble.
Tle ldakát á yax̄ awoosx̄áaych yáax' áwé tsú neil aa koo.áaych.	He would eat all of them and here another load would come pouring in. <sup>20</sup>
Yú yáay k̄u.aa	The herring
yú yaaw tle neil koo.áaych. Yá Yéil a taayí	would come pouring into the whale. Raven would cook
tle yax̄ ayagoos.éech.	its blubber.
Áyá yeedát barbecue yóo duwasáakw	Nowadays that kind of fast cooking style
yasátk aadéi at gas.ee yé.	is called a barbecue. <sup>25</sup>

Wáa nanée sáwé	At what point was it	
x̣'awdzinák	when the whale	
wé yáay	quit eating	
wé yaaw neilx kalasóosji.	the herring that were pouring in?	
Aatlein yáaw áyú aawaḡáa yú Yéil.	Raven had eaten a huge amount of herring.	30
Ch'a aan áyú,	Even with this,	
yú yáay yix̣dixwás'i	the fat	
yú taay	hanging inside the whale	
ka ldakát du yik.ádi;	and all of its internal organs;	
tle ch'u tle yú	then he even	35
yú yáay yoowú tsú tle	ate up	
tle yax̣ ayawsix̣áa,	the whale's stomach,	
ka yá taay.	and the fat.	
Ldakát át.	Everything.	
Ldakát yú yáay yik.ádi yóo ax̣á.	He's eating up everything inside the whale.	40
Ts'as du x̣'éi kéi nak'éin yú atx̣á.	He's getting hooked on eating these foods.	
Wáa nanée sáwé a téix̣' aax̣ aawaxaash. Tle woonaa yú yáay.	At what point was it when he cut the heart out? Then the whale died.	
Du een áwé át wuliháash.	He floated around with it.	
Áwé tle a yíkdei áwé éex'.	Then he's hollering inside it.	
"Yak'éiyi l'éiw-w-w-w-w-w-t shé x̣at galaháash	"Oh, I wish it would float me to a fine s-a-a-a-a- a-nd.	45
Yak'éiyi l'éiw galaháash yá yáay,"	I wish this whale would float to a fine sand,"	
yóo áwé a yíkdei éex'.	is what he's hollering inside it.	
Ch'áakw éex'i áwé	After hollering a long time	
tóo aawanúk yan wulihásh yú yáay.	he felt the whale float to the beach.	
Yá teet du een át x̣'awdiyeiḳ.	The lips of the breakers were sliding all over it.	50
Awsikóo yánt áyú wlihásh.	He knew he had floated to the beach.	
Ách áwé tle tsu a tóodei éex'.	That's why he hollered inside it again.	
"Aadóo sgí káa kaanáx̣ kéi agaxáash?	"Who could possibly cut somebody out?	

Aadóo sgí k̄aa k̄aanáx̄ kéi agaxáash?"	Who could possibly cut somebody out?"	
Ch'a yéi x̄'ayaḱaayí áwé	While he was saying this	55
at yátx'ich áwé seiwa.áx̄.	children heard him.	
Át k̄aa loowagook̄ wé áa yéi yateeyi k̄u.oo.	The people who were living there were running around.	
Áwé tle s at'aawjixéex	Then they ran home	
neildé.	to tell.	
Áyú wé at yátx'i yéi has sh kalneek has du tláa k̄a has du éesh has een.	These children are telling it to their mothers and fathers.	60
"Yáay tlein áyú yóonáx̄ yan wulihásh.	"A huge whale floated to shore over there.	
A yíkdei kasiyeidéin at duwa.áx̄ch."	Strange sounds are coming from inside."	
Ách áwé tle aadéi aawa.aat,	That's why the people went over there then	
ldakát k̄aa jishagóoni een.	with all their tools.	
Át a.áat áwé sawduwa.áx̄ wé Yéil.	When they got there they heard the voice of that Raven.	65
"Aadoo sgí k̄aa k̄aanáx̄ kéi k̄ugaxáash."	Who might possibly cut this person out?"	
Áwé tle a daa wuduwanaaḱ.	Then all hands worked on the whale.	
Tle kakawdudlis'úw tle	Then the huge whale	
wé yáay tlein.	was chopped open.	
Tle,	Then	70
tle du eetée yáx̄ áx̄ k̄ukunalgéi, áwé anax̄ kei wdiḱín. Gáa!	as soon as it was wide enough for Raven, he flew out. "Caw!"	
Tle ch'a kei ndaḱín áwé,	Then he's flying up,	
ch'a kei ndaḱín kindachóon. Áwé tle ldakát áyú	flying up and away. Then all of the people	
a k̄wáan áwé tle yei s x̄'ayaḱá.	of the place said,	
"Ch'a kei gidaḱeen!	"Just fly up!	75
Ch'a kei gidaḱeen!"	Just fly up!"	
Tle kíndei kei ndaḱín. Wáa nanée sáwé,	Then he's flying upwards. At what point was it when they said,	
"K̄uyáx̄ needaḱeen,	"Fly horizontally,	
k̄uyáx̄ needaḱeen."	fly horizontally."	

Tle yan t'éidei wdiḱeen.	Then he flew out of sight.	80
Yan t'éit daḱéen áwé tle, tle daa—	When he flew out of sight then, then he's washing	
daa da.ús'kw.	his body.	
Tláakw yatee daa da.ús'kw. Ldakát yú eex,	He's washing his body for a long time. All that grease—	
ldakát át áwé du daatx a.ús'kw.	he's washing everything off.	85
Wáa nanée sáwé ayaawadlaaḱ. Tle k'idéin sh wudzinei.	At what point was it when he was finally done? Then he primped himself.	
Yáax' áwé tle aan yaa uwagút. Há',	Here he went past the village then. Well,	
ldakat áwé neildéi yaa kandujél yú yáay daa ideidí	they're taking home all of the whale, all the parts of the whale,	
dleey ka yú taay, ldakát át.	the meat and the blubber, all of it.	90
Áwé tle yéi kuyawsika,	Then he said to them,	
"Hó. Yáay tlein áyá yeeyjáḱ." "Tléik', tléik'.	"Wow! You killed a huge whale." "No, no.	
Hél wutoojaaḱ.	We didn't kill it.	
Haa eegáa át woosoo.	It was good luck.	
Yáanáx yan wulitidi yáay áyá."	This is a whale that was carried to shore by the waves."	95
"A tóodei gé at duwa.áxch?"	"Did they hear anything inside?"	
"Aaá,	"Yes.	
a tóodei xá at duwa.áxch.	They sure did hear something inside.	
A tóodax kei át wudikín."	Something flew out of it."	
"Haaw.	"Well.	100
Haaw.	Well.	
Yóo áwé duwa.áxch,	I hear tell	
ch'áakw tsú yéi at woonei.	that something like this also happened a long time ago.	
Áwé yú aantḱeenéech has aawaḱáa.	The people of the village ate it.	
Tle kutx has shoowaxéex."	They all died off.	105
Ách áwé yéi kuyawaḱaa—	That was why the people—	

ách uwa.axi ku.óoch—	the people who heard this—said,
"Yá yan woohaashí,	"This carcass that floated ashore
woonaawú.	was dead.
A tóodáx̄ kei át wudaḱeení. Hél aadéi x̄duwax̄aayi yé.	Something flew out of it. No way should people eat any of it. <sup>110</sup>
Tle anák̄ yóo naaligás'k."	Move away from it."
Ách áwé tle	This was the reason then
tle anák̄ at wuduwaxoon .	people prepared to leave it.
Tle ldakát yóo neildéi kawduwajeili yáay	Then all the parts of the whale that were brought home
daa ideidí tle anák̄ kuwligás'.	were left behind. <sup>115</sup>
Áwé Yéil ku.aa tle áa yéi wootee.	But then Raven stayed there.
Yú yáay tlein a shóox' yéi wootee,	He in the remains of the huge whale.
Tle ldakát á shunaxéex̄ áwé tsá aax̄ wudiḱeen.	Only when it was finally all gone did he fly away.
Yéi áwé yan shuwjix̄ín yáat'aa.	That's how this one ends.