

Number: 06-03

Narrator: *Kaasgéiy* Susie James

Title: *Yéil ka X'aan* / Raven and Fire

Recording: late 1960s, Sitka, *Kaatléx* Mary Pelayo

Transcription: *Kéixwnéi* Nora Marks Dauenhauer

Introduction:

Once again this episode transitions seamlessly from the preceding episode. The Dauenhauers however decided to divide *Kaasgéiy* Susie James's single performance into separate transcriptions rather than grouping them all together as a single long narrative as with *Naakil.aan* Frank Dick's performance (**THIS VOLUME**).

At the end of the preceding story Raven has just created the Aleutian Islands after the great flood of the world caused by his uncle. Now Raven is at the Alaska Peninsula and sees fire in the distance from a volcano, and he decides to retrieve this fire for himself. He convinces Hawk Owl to fetch the fire, and as a consequence Hawk Owl's beak is burned down to a small stump. This is the reason why owls have short beaks.

*Kaasgéiy* Susie James does not spend much time on this story, instead essentially presenting an abstract rather than a complete narrative. For a much more thorough version of Raven & Fire see the the narrative by *Kéet Yanaayi* Willie Marks (**THIS VOLUME**). At the end of this episode Susie lets out a great sigh and then launches immediately into the next story.

Text:

1	<i>Kúnáx</i> kuliḡéitl'shán a ḡoo ayagaaxdateenín. <sup>1</sup>	It's very frightening among [the islands] whenever it's stormy.
	<i>Wé tax'aayí,</i> át daḡéen áwé, ḡan daḡéen áwé tle,	That peninsula, when he flew there, when he landed,
5	<i>kudaseigákw ch'a áx'.</i> Ch'áakwḡ nastee áwé tsa ḡunayéi uwagút.	he stopped there to catch his breath. It was a long while till he started to walk.
	<i>Wáa sá kawahayi át áyú?</i> Deikéede duwatéen	What is that thing out there? It's visible way out to sea

	anáx kei akagánji, wé x'aan.	when the fire flares up through it.
10	Áwé tsú héit'át <sup>2</sup> xánt áwé ugootch,	So he goes around to the living things nearby,
	« Néi!	“Look!
	Yú deikéede kwshé daak idaḱeen	You should fly way out there
	yú x'aan ax jeenáx yan yasaýék.	and bring that fire ashore to me.
	X'aan áyú yú deikéénáx kei kagánch. »	There's fire that is flaring up way out there.
15	« Hadáa! Tléel aadé.	“Oh no, no way.
	Tléel, tlél ax tuwáa ushgú » tle yoo yanduskéich.	I don't, I don't want to” is what they say to him.
	Wáa nanéi sáwé K'ákwk' <sup>3</sup> xánt uwagút.	At some point he comes up to Hawk Owl.
	Hah!	Ah!
	« Hadáa! Aadé daak idaḱeen!	“Oho! You should fly out there!
20	Ax xooní!	My cousin!
	Ax xooní! Xaat idashí!	My cousin! Help me!
	Yú x'aandé daak idaḱeen!	Fly out to the fire!
	Ax jeenáx yan yasaýék. »	Bring it ashore for me.”
	Áwé aadé daak wudikín wé K'ákwk'.	That Hawk Owl flew out there.
25	Ách áwé du lú yéi goowáatl'k'.	That's why his beak is so short.
	Woosh shóox kei uwagán du lú.	His beak burned back to the end.
	A jeenáx yan aýawsiýék wé x'aan.	He brought the fire back ashore in his beak.
	Ách áwé du jee yéi wootee wé x'aan, hú kwa, Yéil.	That's how he got the fire, Raven did.
	Wáa sákwhé aawa.oo a daakeidí.	Somehow he had a container for it.
30	Gwál a daakeidí awu.oo.	Maybe he bought a container.
	Ách áwé x'aan du jee yéi wootee.	That's how he got fire.
	Yú K'ákwk'ch du jeenáx yan yawsiyék wé x'aan.	That Hawk Owl brought back fire in his beak.

- 
- 1 The verb *ayagaaxdateenín* is the consecutive mode form of the verb *ayawditée* ‘it was stormy’. The verb theme is *g*-conjugation hence the presence of the *g*- conjugation prefix, and the *x*- is phonologically reduced from the *g*- modality prefix. The verb stem ends with *-n* and there is the suffix *-ín*. All these added together mark the consecutive mode meaning roughly ‘whenever’. Thus the verb *ayagaaxdateenín* means ‘whenever it is stormy’.
  - 2 The demonstrative *héit’át* is literally ‘something right there’. The reference in this context is to the living things that are near Raven out on the peninsula.
  - 3 *Kaasgéiy* Susie James actually says *K’áxwk’* rather than *K’ákwk’* but this is apparently just a variant of the same name. See the notes for *Kéet Yanaayí* Willie Marks’s version of Raven & Fire for details on identification of the bird called *k’ákw* in Tlingit (**THIS VOLUME**).