

Old Time Law

J. Hill (Hill III:6; Haas XVIII:149-153)

Vhakv empvtakv seko oketv omof,
ahá·ka impatá·ka síko· okíta ô·mo·f
Before there was a constitution,

vhakvt ocvtēt omēs.
ahá·kat o·catí·t ô·mi·s¹
there was a law.

Hoktēt ehe ocēt omat honvvnwv ētvn vcvkkarēt omen,
hoktí·t ihí ó·ci·<t> ô·ma·t honánwa í·tan acákka·hí·t ô·min
If a woman with a husband was going with another man,

mv hoktē ehe enahvmkvlket kerraken omat,
ma hoktí· ihí ina·hamkâlkít kílla·kín o·mâ·t
and the woman's husband's kin found out,

hoktē honvvnwv 'tepa·kvv vhonkvtkv sekon 'rokafruecakēt omvtēs.
hoktí· honánwa (?) 'tipã·ⁿkan² ahonjkátka síko·n 'loka·flóyca·kí·t³ o·matí·s
both the man and the woman would be whipped without count.

Mohmof wikekot 'setewelakē monken omat,
móhmo·f wéykikot 'sitíwila·kí· mōnkin o·mâ·t
Then if they didn't quit and kept going together,

'svhokkolat ehvckon enwarakēt omvtēs.
'sahókkō·lá·t iháckon inwá·la·kí·t o·matí·s⁴
the second time they cut off an ear.

Mohmen wikekot 'setewelakē monkēpen omat,
móhmin wéykikot 'sitíwila·kí· monkî·pin o·mâ·t
Then if they didn't quit and kept going together,

¹ The clan kinfolds had charge of morals. If there are not enough clan kin to hold the offender to whip him, then ask another clan member.

² M: Changed from 'tipá·kan based on Hill ms.

³ M: Haas nb possibly has 'loka·flóyca·kít.

⁴ Used an old dull knife. If it happened to be sharp, knocked it against a rock to make it dull. I guess they gonna make him remember it.

When they cut off the ears, they throw them away so they can't find them any more. Otherwise, they might put them on again.

'svtuccēnat eyopo yoksv lowvckan entvcakēt omvtēs.
'satócci-nâ·t iyopó· yókxa⁵ lowácka·n íntaca·kí·t o·matí·s
the third time they cut off the tip of the nose, the soft part.

Momen honvnwv ehiwv ocēt amat
mo·mín honánwa ihéywa ó·ci·t ô·ma·t
And if a man had a wife

hoktē ētvn ehiwv hayēt 'svrēpen,
hoktí· í·tan ihéywa há·yi·t sáli·pín
but went with another woman as his wife,

hoktē enahvmkvlke kerraken amat,
hoktí· ina·hamkâlki kílla·kín o·mâ·t
if the woman's kin found out,

mv vhakatan svfvshotēt omvtēs.
ma ahá·ka·tá·n⁶ 'safásho·tí·t o·matí·s
they applied that [same] law.

Hofonē vculvketate em vhakvt omvtēs.
hofóni· acolakítá·ti imaha·kát ô·matí·s.
This was the law of the old ones a long time ago.

Este rokvhoyan hecvkot, yopo entvchoyvtē arateu hecvyvtē sekot omis,
ísti lokáfho·yâ·n hicákot 'yopó· intachoyáti· a·lâ·tiw hicáyati· síkot o·mêys
Although I haven't seen anyone whipped, and I haven't seen anyone going around with
the tip of their nose cut off,

ehvcko enwarhoyvtēn hecakvyat sasvtēt os.
ihácko inwa·lhoyáti·n hica·kayâ·t sa·satí·t ô·n⁷
I have seen some with their ears cut off.

Hoktvket vhakv sestvfastet omvtēs.
hoktakít ahá·ka sístafa·stít o·matí·s
The women applied the law.

Honvntakeu sēyvnicet hoktvke yekcvkē sasat tis ennake tokis
honantá·kiw si·yáneycít hoktakí yikcakí· sa·sâ·tteys innâ·ki tó·keys⁸
They used men, and women who were very strong, and people who were not even kin,

⁵ M: Hill sometimes inexplicably writes soksv for yoksv.

⁶ M: Or (MM): ahá·ka i·tá·n.

⁷ JH has seen man and his wife both with ears cut off (they cut off both ears). JH never saw anybody with nose cut off.

In old days don't hardly tell lies on each other -- when asked whether they make mistake.

If those laws were enforced nowadays, there ain't nobody had ears on, only two yrs. old.

⁸ M: Corrected from innâ·kit ó·keys based on Hill ms.

em vnicv hopoyet este tat rokafaket omvtēs.
<im>anéyca hopo·yít ístita·t lóká·fa·kít o·matí·s.
they looked for helpers and whipped the people.