

The Fearless Terrapin

Told by J. Hill (IV:77-83)

Eto rakkēt tulkvtēt hvokēt wakkēt oman
itó lắkki·t tólkati·t háwki·t wá·kkit o·mâ·n
tree big had fallen hollow lying was
A big tree had fallen and was lying there hollowed out,

naket ofvn vpiket on hecaket
nâ·kit ó·fan apêykit ó·n hicâ·kit
something inside was inside was saw it
and they saw something was inside,

punvttv holwvyēcakat sulkēt em vtelošet ossihcet
ponátta holwayi·câ·ka·t sólki·t imatilô·kit osséyhcit
animals mean (animals) many had gathered put it out
and many ferocious animals had gathered to drive it out

naket omat hecetvn eyacaket omatet
nâ·kit ô·ma·t hicítan iya·câ·kit o·mâ·tit
whatever it is to see wanted (for that reason)
because they wanted to see what it was,

em penkvlaket vpoken,
impĩŋkalâ·kit apô·kin
they were afraid of it were sitting
but were sitting there afraid;

lucv-tokocket vlaket, “Estomen vtelošet
locatokóckit alâ·kit ísto·mín atilô·kit
terrapin came up for what reason have gathered
a box turtle came up: “Why are you gathered

momēt vpokatskâ?” kicen,
mó·mi·t apô·ká·cka·n^ kaycín
that way you all are sitting? told
sitting like this?” he asked them,

“Heyv eto ofvn naket vpiket omen ossicetvn puyacet oman,
hiyá(?) itó ó·fan nâ·kit apâykit o·mín osseycitá(n) poyâ·cit o·mâ·n
this log inside something was [inside] was to get it out we want did
“Something is inside this log and we want to drive it out,

a pum vkoslēt likēpet on vpokēt omēs” kicaken
a·pomakóslī·t laykî·pīt ó·n apô·kī·t o·mī·s káyca·kín
outdid us still is sitting is we were sitting we are told it
but it’s defeated us and is still in there so we’re just sitting here,” they told him;

lucvt okat “Vnet ossicarēs” maken;
locát o·kâ·t anít osséycá·lī·s ma·kín
terrapin said (as follows): I will get it out said
Turtle said, “I will drive it out;”

“Kos cē! Ecehyetskvs!
kosci·^ icíhyíckas
no! Don’t! Don’t go in there
“No! Don’t go in there!

yekcē ceyvllvr’ tayēt omakis a em vkoslēt liket onkv,
yíkcī· ciyállaftâ·yi·t omâ·keys a·imakóslī·t lâykit oŋká
strong able to resist they were they outdo it sitting is
It defeated even those who are able to put up a strong fight,

ecēyetsken omat celēcvrēs” kicaket oman,
icî·yíckin o·mâ·t cilí·cáli·s káyca·kít o·mâ·n
if you go in there do it will kill you they told it did
so if you go in there, it will kill you,” they told him,

“Momis naket on omat hecvranit okis” mahket,
mô·mays nâ·kít ô·n o·mâ·t hicála·néyt o·kéys máhkit
anyhow (something) whatever it is I’m going to see I’m saying said
but he said, “Well I’m going to see what it is;”

lucvt eto hvokan ecehyen em ehaket vpoken
locát itó hâwka·n icíhyin imihâ·kit¹ apô·kin
terrapin log hollow went in waiting sitting
and Turtle went into the hollow log while they sat waiting,

hofonē hakēpet on
hofóni· há·kī·pīt ó·n
long time became, got to be was
and after quite awhile,

“Elēcephoyat tŷlkusēs” maket fullof
ili·ciphô·ya·t tãlⁿkosi·s ma·kít follô·f
it was killed by someone bound to be said around
when they were saying, “He has surely been killed;”

¹ M: Haas nb has imi·hâ·kit.

lucv-tokocke yossen hecahket oh-vpēyet,
locatokócki² yo·ssín hicáhkit óhhapi·yít
terrapin came out saw it were going up to it
they saw the box turtle come out and went up to him,

“Naket liket oma?” kicet em pohaken
nâ·kit lêykit o·ma·^ keycít ímpoha·kín
something sitting is said asked it, them
“What’s in there?” they asked him,

“Pvtot liket on ohkatskvten
patót lêykit ó·n óhká·ckatin
mushroom sitting was you-all meant
“It was a mushroom you were talking about,

lohkit ra ossit omis”
lôhkeyt la·ô·sseyt o·méys
I ate up I came out have
and I ate it up and came out,”

lucv-tokocket maken vhecakan,
locatokócki³ ma·kín ahíca·ká·n
terrapin said they looked
the box turtle said, and when they looked,

naket sekot on okēpen,
nâ·kit⁴ síkot ó·n oki·pín
nothing wasn’t there meant
nothing was in there, just as he said;

punvttv rakrakē holwvyēcat nak makekot hvmkusvntot ayet
ponátta łakłakí· holwayî·ca·t nâ·k má·kikot hâmkosántot a·yít
animals big mean anything didn’t say one at a time went
and not saying anything, the big, ferocious animals

vwahvtēs mahokvnts.
awa·hatí·s má·ho·kác
(they) went away
went away one by one, it was said.

² M: Haas nb has locatokócki.

³ Raiford: locatakócki.

⁴ M: Haas sometimes has nâ·ki for nâ·ki, which we have corrected. The falling tone on the first syllable of nâ·ki can be spread over two syllables, but sounds different from, e.g., wá·ka ‘bovine’.