

Dream Narrative

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1. Yùt tőkèc ketŭwakõnùtom... Yùt tőkèc ketŭwakõnùtom elqahsŷyánpon pihce. Cù=al kis newinsk cèl olŭwikõnok kehsikõton. Nekèt=te míyaw psi wèn 'qotõmakéyin.

[Now I want to tell about... Now I want to tell about a dream I had long ago. It must have been about forty seven years ago. At that time everyone was poor.]

2. On nìt etõloqsì, sõlahkì=te ntolqàhs=yaq ntolóssin yùt—qotõputíyol pihce eliwihõtõmuhtitpõnil skicinúwok, ntoliwihõtõmonénnul tóké péncol. On=õte píttókson=õte. Yùt=ehta 'kísatõkossínon wéna. Nìt tehsahqìw etõli-spoteqsì.

[So then as I was sleeping, at one point I dreamed, as it seemed, that I was lying on this—what the Indians used to call chairs, what we now call benches. It was very long. Here someone could lie stretched out. There on top is where I was napping.]

3. On=õte ntolõqahkõnáhsin ihik, nomõcini khàkõnok, sõlahkì-te nwewúloq wèn peci-npahkámok -wõlóssik. Cihciqéyu=na yùt eq... eqcossin. Malom=õte nwewõnóma sõlahkì=te

¹Peter Lewis Paul (1902–1989) was a Maliseet elder from Woodstock, NB. This story was recorded on one of the many occasions when he came to visit friends at Indian Township.

elömi-kskomkúwit. Malom=öte sölakhi=te ntalüwolátom. Malom=öte=na köma=te nkisi-macéssiw.

[So I was stretched out uncomfortably over by the door, and suddenly I felt someone come and lie down at my back. And what I was lying on was narrow. Then after a bit I felt someone's body pushing against on me. After a while I could hardly breathe. Finally I couldn't move.]

4. Téhpú nkisi-macéhtun npíhtin etöli- kekèsk -tokötòm nkát. Malom=öte nit ntuktihiik. Nit tuhkiyà, etutalösi. Naka, naka èlüwe=te nsiktéhkaq wòt wéna peci, peci-wihpémit.

[I could just move my hand so as to tap on my lower leg a little. Finally I woke myself with my tapping. When I woke up, I was sweating profusely. And whoever had come share my bed had nearly suffocated me.]

5. Pòl nit ntópin sipkiw, nkisi-wtóman. On nit malom=öte sölakhi nulossínon. Nit=al=öte àpc etöloqsiyàns. Malom=öte àpc sölakhiw nütömon sakhi-motehtihíket nkahakönúmok eltáqok. On nit ntolíyan khàkōnok. Wòt=tahk àpc kótok skicin kis yùt uci-maciyútan, cu=al nsikōton, yùt iyok eyultíyek.

[After that I sat for some time, and I had a smoke. And then I finally lay back down. I guess I must have gone back to sleep at that point. Finally I heard a sudden loud knocking at my door. So I went to the door. Here was another Indian who had moved away from here some three years before, away from our community.]

6. On=öte peci-pawátok tàn=op nkiseltomúwan ’peciþhan mehcinelícil nicánol naka yùt ’toli-spasíhtúwan níkok. Ntíyan, “Cù=kahk=al=õna. Pecip...Ksephàn.

[But he had come to ask whether I would give him permission to bring over his child who had died and have the wake here at my house. I told him, “Of course. Bring him in.”]

7. Nít ’kósseptùniya puskonikõnóssis, naka=hc ’sikõtóne=ehta wásis. Malom=öte yùt=te míyaw punõmúhtit puskoníkon yùt etõli-puwihtúwánpon. Ntotólóqsín yùt yèy õpúnsis, kòsõna=al pénc, eliwihtõmúhtit tóké pénc. Nít=te míyaw púnut yá, wòt ’puwìn. Nít=te míyaw etõli-puwihtúwánpon wòt ÿyá npasici-ksomkákun yùt íyok, õpúnok. Ipá, ma=te nmihqitahatõmúwon yáka kisi-puskontímok eli, elqahsiyánpon.

[Then they brought in the little coffin, and it turned out to be a three-year-old child. They put the coffin right where I had had my dream. I had been sleeping there on that bed, or bench, what they call a bench nowadays. Right there is where they put the body. It was right there where I had dreamed that someone was lying on me and pushing down on me, right on that bench. But you see, I didn’t recall what I had dreamed until after the burial.]