

## Koluskap and Turtle

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1. Píhce=yaq tamà toli, toli-milõnúkot. Ktonúkot. Skicinúwok etõli-mawiyáhtit. Koti=yaq epeskomhõtúwok, ayùt enawõtultúwok, olõtoqhultúwok. Psi=ehta kèq. Ktanáqot, koti-ktanáqot pahpūwákon. Mam=õte nìt=yaq, Kõluskàp=õna 'koti-líyan. Naci-íyu, natsatkiyūwe. On=yaq Kcìhkõnaqc=õna 'kotūwiphóqan.

[Long ago, they say, a festival was being held somewhere. It was to be big event. The Indians were getting together there. They were going to play ball, even hold races and jumping contests. Just about everything. It would be a lot of fun. Then, they say, Koluskap wanted to go, too. He was going go and look on. And then, they say, Turtle wanted to tag along as well.]

2. Kcìhkõnaqc ipõcol, Kõluskàp níhtol íyol, nicáلكul. On nìt weci- yúhtol... -nicalkuwakúmat íyol, kcìhkõnáqcol, ipõcol kcìhkõnaqc yalíptaq 'pahkámok, elikõtók. Ipõcol 'sánku pili-kisúhsok 'qocikõton. Nìt eli... skicinúwok elõkitõmúhtit 'qocikõton, 'sánku kisúhsok. 'Páhkam yá, kcìhkõnaqc ipõcol 'sánku kehsakínul skonísol. Nännul epahsì ya elamkáhtek ya naka nèwõnul, nèwõnul ehetūwìw. Nìt 'sánku kéhsõnul.

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<sup>1</sup>Peter Lewis Paul (1902–1989) was a Maliseet elder from Woodstock, NB This story was recorded on a visit to friends at Indian Township.

[Turtle, after all, is Koluskap's mother's brother. And it is because he has the turtle as his mother's brother that the turtle carries around on his back the way a year goes. For there are thirteen new moons in a year. That's the way... the way the Indians count out a year, thirteen moons. So on the back of a turtle there are thirteen round bones. Five are grouped together in the middle, and there are four on either side. So there are thirteen in all.]

3. On nít=te macehkawõtiniya naci, naci-wici... witsakiyüwaniya. 'Tíyal=yaq wòt yá, Kõluskap yúhtol íyol, "Kìl=õna koti-witenáhkíyon? Kisi=na witenàhk. Enawõtultímok, kòsõna elõtoghultímok, kòsõna tàn=õte kèq koti-wiciyatõmon. Musà=lu... On=oc kwicuhkémol. Tàn... Musà=lu ktoli-aqamehtúhkoc naka tàn eli, eli-milol."

[So then they set out to look on with the others. Koluskap said to (Turtle), "Are you going to join in? You can join in. In the races, or the jumping, or in whatever you would like to take part in. But don't... And I'll help you. But don't go beyond what I give you."]

4. 'Tíyal, "Kàt=op."

[He told him, "Of course."]

5. On=ehta nít mam=õte petkawõtúwok etõli... etõlonúkahk. Amsqàhs=õte nemihtúhtit, 'kisi-yúktok skicinúwok -nehpahawasõpónil putepíyol. On=yaq nít 'sesõmitahatõmõniya tàn=oc 'toli-kisi-nattokacqe... nattokacqellaniya. Kõma tepiyèwiyok eyultícik 'poqananiya yúhtol, putepíyol.

[So then they arrived at the place where everything was happening. When they first saw it, it seems that these Indians had killed a whale. And they were wondering how they were going to be able to drag it ashore. There weren't enough people there to move this whale.]

6. 'Tiyà=yaq wòt yá... Mecimì ìpöcol ali-ki... kincésu wòt yá, kcíhkönaqc. 'Tiyà=yaq yuhùht, “Ú, nìl téhpu nòt 'qotuhkayìw nkisi-kisahqenikála.”

[So then he told them... For this Turtle was always trying to be a tough guy. He told them, “Oh, I can carry it up the hill all by myself.”]

7. 'Tíyal, “Wèn alok... Kìl=op=al. Elkilsóssiyon.”

[Someone said, “Who the... Sure you can! You're so small!”]

8. “A, cu=té=lu. On mahkǐyèw skùwǐyoq.”

[“Oh, but I can! Just wait for me for a little while.”]

9. On=yaq wòt macáhan yùt eyílit íyol, Köluskapíyol. On=yaq “Tàn=öte keti-ollúhkǐyon? Koti, koti-kisahqenikála wòt ìyá, putèp?” 'Tíyal-yaq, Köluskàp, “*Well...* Kkisi, kkisi=-te=hc=öna nìt

-ollúhkan. Musà=lu aqámok ktokk... ktokkonikaláhkoc naka yuhùl. Naka knostuhmúlon ehcŭwi-tokkonikalot. Mùs aqámok olõmiyáhkoc.”

[So then he left for the place where Koluskap was staying. And he said, “What is this that you’re going to do? You’re going to carry this whale up a hill?” Koluskap told him, “Well, you’ll be able to do that. But don’t carry it any farther than I tell you. And I’ll tell you how far you should carry it. Don’t go any farther.”]

10. Mam=õte ’kisi-nsotuhmúwan tàn=oc tekkonikalat yúhtol. Malom=õte on wesüwéssin. On nit peciyàts, ’tolaskuwyáwal yúktok. Tàn=oc yúhtol ’toli, ’toli-kisõnikálan, elkilsóssit wòt? Elkílit!

[Then he told him how far he should carry it. After that, he went back. When he got there, they were waiting for him. How could he carry it, when he was so small? It was so big!]

11. On=yaq ’kisi-pihtüwihpúsin yúhtol íyol, putepíyol. On=ehta=yaq maceníkan. Elõmoníket, psìw wèn seskultúwok. Eci, eci-palitahamáhtit etutsonílit.

[Then he crawled in under this whale. And indeed, they say, he started to carry it. As he carried it along, everyone was screaming. They were really impressed at how strong he was.]

12. Malom=öte ulítahásin yùt ehcŭwi-toli-pu... punellátpon... ehcŭwi-punátpon íyol, putepíyol. Nìt, nìt yùt pemtéhkok yùt yèy, yuhútpón ’tokkíyan. Nìt wòt ’sami-tkiqö-lul, nìt etöli, etöli-íyaht, kōlíhkaht yùt ktahkōmíkuk.

[In the end, he forget where he was supposed to put down the whale. Then he went on past the point he had been told was as far as he should go. Then because it was too heavy, it got to him and pinned him here on the ground.]

13. Malom=öte, etö-laskuwasultíhtit yùkt pōmawsuwinúwok ’sakhi-nutahálin. Ma=te sakhi-nutehewíyà wakà, kcihkōnàqç. Malom=öte nìt, on=yaq, ’pimsqipo... ’pimsqipokōmúlan yúhtol íyol, putepíyol. Wòt=tahk=yaq elóssik pihtŭwíw. On ’tíyan, “Tàn ktoléyin?”

[Then the people were waiting for him to come out into view. He didn’t come back out into sight, this vanished turtle. Finally, then, he slid out sideways from beneath this whale. And here he lay, sticking out from beneath it. So then (someone) asked him, “What happened to you?”]

14. On nìt ítom=yaq, “Sōla... sōláhki=te pemōnikì, sōláhki npeci-kotùks. Ntolitahàs, ‘Pòl mahkŭyèw, mahkŭyèw nkopskíyan.”

[So then he said, “All of a sudden, as I was going along carrying (the whale), all of a sudden I started to feel sleepy. So I thought, ‘I’ll just doze off for a moment.’”]

15. On nìt, malom=öte nìt, ulamsotüwáwal pömwawinúwok. Kenük=ölu Kóluskàp=yaq téhpu toli-kotüwélömu. Nékom 'qociciyal toli-ksonöqíyol.

[And then, at length, the people believed him. But Koluskap, they say, just wanted to laugh. He knew that he was lying.]

16. Malom=öte àpc pilüwéyak àpc etöli-qecessultíhtit yúktok skicinúwok. Malom=öte 'toli-tpinüwà wòt ìyá, Kcíhkõnaqc etölotkuhultilicíhi. Nìt=te qihìw nìt yùt wiküwak éyit wòt ìyá, épit Kóluskàp.

[Then next, some different people were engaging in other contests. So after a while Turtle went to watch the people who were jumping hurdles. Near there, at this lodge where he was staying, Koluskap was sitting.]

17. Malom=öte kisötoqhultílit, nékom 'tolíyan. Nékom=öna 'kisi-sqittóqhin yùt etöli-alüwi-sqittoqhultílit. 'Tiyà=yaq yuhùht, "Cèl=op nìt nisökèhs spahtèk nkisi-sqittóqhin."

[Then, when they had finished jumping, (Turtle) went there. Now he could jump over where they had tried to jump and failed. He told them, "Even if it were twice as high as that, I could jump over."]

18. On=yaq 'tewepi-punõmuwàñya yùt etõli-sqittoqhultíhtit. Kehtól=õte. 'Tolõmi=yaq...  
Olõmi=yaq sqitamũwàkk. On ítom, ma apesíwi.

[So they raised the bar where they had been jumping. Sure enough. He sailed right on over. Then he said, it wasn't enough for him.]

19. Àpc mèc=õte koti-aqami-palihtáhsu. 'Tiyà=yaq yuhùht, 'tiyà=yaq "Nkisi-sqittóqhin yùt wikũwam éhtek."

[He wanted to do something even more impressive. He told them, "I can jump over this lodge standing here."]

20. 'Tíyal wòt=yaq, "Sqittóqhi=éhta."

[This one man told him, "So jump over, then!"]

21. On=yaq wòt 'tíyal, "Pòl=ehta nkossáhan yùt lamikũwàm." On=õte 'kossáhan epílit yúhtol íyol, Kõluskapíyol.

[So then he told him, "Just a moment while I go inside here." Then he went inside where Koluskap was sitting.]

22. 'Tíyal=yaq, "Kisi-ollúhkíyon kisi-yáhak yúktok kusqittoqhalíhtõmon yùt, yùt nìt wikūwam èyyon. 'Tíyal=yaq, "Ktiyulúhpon musà ihíhkoc, qeci-sqittoqhíhkoc." 'Tíyal=yaq Kõluskàp, "Well, sqittóqhi=éhta. Musà=lu, míyaw epahsì toli-sqittoqhíhkoc. Nomõcinìw tamà."

[(Koluskap) told him, "What you've done is to tell these (people) that you will jump over the lodge where you were." He said, "I've told you not to do it, to try to jump over." Koluskap told him, "Well, go ahead and jump over. But don't jump over right in the middle. Along the side somewhere."]

23. On=ehta=yaq=õna wõlitahásu Kcíhkõnaqc, on nutáhan. Níta=ehta wesūwéwsan. 'Qásqin. On=na 'tolõtóqhin.

[So Turtle was very happy, and he went on out. He went right back there. He ran. And then he jumped.]

24. On nìt, nékom=õlu mokõnómon etõli- nìt míyaw -spáhtek yùt yèy, wikūwam. On sakhomuhtíkil yúhtol opõsíyol. Nìt=te míyaw elõqi-sqittóqhit. Malom=õte, kõma tepi-spotqihíwi. Yùt pèsqon opòs sakhómik ánsa wõli-pisõmihtéhsin 'tahkúhkok. Nìt=te ekhúcit téhpu tolikõnatútom. Malom=õte 'tahcūwi... Malom=õte 'tahcūwi-suhkahqõnomõníya yùt wikūwam, weci-kisi-mõnelláhtit.



[But then he chose exactly the point where the lodge was highest. And these poles were sticking out. He jumped up right toward that point. In the end, he didn't jump high enough. This one pole that was sticking up went right into his butt. He just hung there wiggling his legs. They finally had to take down all of the poles of the lodge in order to be able to get him off.]

25. 'Tíyal=yaq, "Tàn, tàn ktoléssin?"

[Someone asked him, "What happened to you?"]

26. 'Tíyal=yaq, "On=ehta keti- nahàhte -olōtoqhì, on òlōmuss 'kosōka-qásqin, on napisqàmman. Nìt weci-napittehsin yùt."

[He told him, "Just as I was about to jump, a dog ran across (my path), and I tripped over it. That's why I got stuck on the pole when I landed here."]

27. Kōluskàp=yaq téhpu toli-kotūwèlōmu. 'Kocicíyal nékom àpc eli, eli-ksonōqálit.

Kōluskàp=yaq 'tíyal, "Cuwítpot kìs kisōkehkimkun yùt eli- skàt -cuwitpotúnuhk ktaqaméhtun tàn yuhúlok."

[Koluskap just wanted to laugh. He knew that (Turtle) was lying again. Koluskap told him, "This should teach you for sure that you shouldn't do more than you've been told you can."]