

Wishes Granted

Peter Lewis Paul
Indian Township, ME¹
August 13, 1976

1. Nèqt=yaq, pihce, núhúwok skítapíyok naci-qíluhkūwàñya Kòluskapíyol. Naci-kotūwapemáwal. Ìpöcol itòmuk nékèt=yaq tánè Kòlúskàp mácáhat, ítòmùss=yàq, “Sòláhki wèn kílūwàw wisòki-kotūwapémit, kilúhkūwic, cù kmoskuwípa.”

[Once, long ago, three men went to look for Koluskap. They went to seek his help. For they say that when Koluskap was leaving, he said, “If it should happen that someone among you deeply desires my help, have him look for me, and you will find me.”]

2. Malom=öte=yaq yùkt núhúwok maciyahkeniníya. Elömahkeníhtit, elömahkeníhtit, on malom=öte, olūwikōnok kehsikōton.

[Finally, they say, these three (men) set on the trip. They traveled and traveled, until finally seven years had passed.]

3. Sòláhki=yaq=öte pétkawötúwok yùt eli-milawi-íhik ktáhkōmiq supékuk. Nìt wàht olōmasqìw nìt éhtek wikūwámsis. On=yaq nìt qihìw petápasíhtit ’conessultiníya, naka [tu]ciw ’kakálumàñya yúhtol wénil lámìw eyilícil, “Qéy.”

[At that point, they came to a stretch of land that extended out into the sea. There, off in the distance across a meadow, there stood a little house. And then, when they had come close to it, they stopped; and at that point they called out to whoever was there inside, “Hail!”]

4. On=yaq nìt máhkìyèw=öte=yaq sakhíkapūwéssit wéna. Psìw yùt ’sísoq=yaq, ánsa pñapsqèy cèl peciw=öte eli-psíki-íhik pñapsq sakhikōnul iyol, cacahqésol. Wòt=ya... yaq, nòt yá, Kòluskàp.

[Then, after just a little while, out into view stepped some person. His whole face was like something made of stone; and where there was a crack in the stone, there were even strands of moss growing out. This, they say, was Koluskap.]

5. ’Tíyà=yaq, “Kociciyúlpa weci-petapàsìyeq. Kéqsèy=op=ölu kisi-li-wicuhkemölópa?

[“I know why you have come,” he told them. “Would I be able to help you in some way?”]

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.

6. 'Tiyáwal, “Ahà.”
[“Yes,” they told him.]
7. Wòt pèsq=yaq nihkanikapŭwéssit. 'Tíyal “Nìl, nìl npawàtōmon ntaskomáwsin.”
[One of them stepped forward. He told him, “I want to live forever.”]
8. 'Tíyal=yaq Kōluskàp, “Cù ktoli-psònōmon. Ckuwì. Wiciyewìn.”
[“Certainly,” Koluskap told him. “So shall you receive. Come. Come with me.”]
9. Malom=ōte=yaq wòt macéphan yùt eli-qesawéyik. “Nehè, yùt=te sehkèn.”
[Then he led him off to this point of land. “So! Stand right here.”]
10. On=yaq wìhquéllan wónĩyàkōnok, naka=hc yùt táma=al=yaq eli-kspisílit, naka [tu]ciw 'pimosséllan. On éláhkēt yùt=tahk=yaq opòs séhkēt tàn wisōki-mocináhat. Moci... moci... Mocaqhémsu, naka 'posketqónit. Kōma=oc=ōte=hp wèn 'kuwhàwĩyol 'ciw keqsèy, cèl yùt, cèl yùt... Cèl=te=hp skà kisi... kisápemàw kotŭwéhkohòt piwsókul. Nìt wòt élíkēt kci-opòs. 'Tíyal, “Níta. Yùt=oc tōké séhkĩyon. Áskomìw=ōte=hc yùt ktì. Ma=te=hc kmehcínèw.”
[Then he took him by the head, and then here, about where he wore his belt; and at that point he twisted him. And when he let go of him, here stood a tree, one that was terribly crooked. Its grain was bad, and it was full of knots. No one would cut it down for any purpose. Nor would you be able to get anything useful from it if you wanted to use it for firewood. That's the kind this big tree was. He told him, “Well! This is where you will stand now. Forever you will be here. You will not die.”]
11. On=yaq àpc weckuwí-wesŭwéssin yúhùht nísù sehkélit. 'Tíyà=yaq, “Well...”
[Next he came back to where the (other) two were standing. He told them, “Well...”]
12. On=yaq kótok àpc nihkanikapŭwéssin. 'Tíyal=yaq, “Nìl=lu npawàtōmon ehpicik, psi-te ehpicik nkoselōmókun.”
[And then another (of the men) stepped forward. He told him. “As for me, I want women, all women to love me.”]
13. 'Tíyal, “Ú, 'kómaséyu níta. [Nì]t=ōna ktoli-psònōmon.”
[“Oh,” (Koluskap) told him, “that is easy. So shall you, too, receive.”]
14. “Kìl=lu?” yéhtol nuhuwewéyal 'tíyal.
[“What about you?” he asked the third one (still standing at a distance).]

15. 'Tíyal, "Nìl=lu npáwàtōmon mécimìw nulelōmóqan. Tàn=ōte eci-naci-kotunki, npáwàtōmon nulelōmóqan. Nìt=te eli, eli-pawàtom."

[He told him, "As for me, I want always to be lucky. Whenever I go out hunting, I want to be lucky. That is what I want."]

16. 'Tíyal, "Nìt=te=ōna 'komaséyu. Tàn=te=hc eli-psònōmeq."

[He told him, "That, too, is easy. You shall both receive as you just as (you have wished)."]

17. 'Tiyà "Nìt=oc=ōlu wesūwehkawōtiyèq, músà lihkaw... olōqíhkawōtíhkeq weci-petkawōtiyeq." Nìt=te yéta olōqì olūwíke. "Nìt, nìt ktoloq... ktoloqihkawōtinīya. Cù kpétkawōtípa=hc weci-macehkawōtiyèqpon."

[He told them, "When you go back, do not walk in the direction from which you came." Then he pointed off in the distance. "You should go in that direction. Then you will arrive at the place from which you set out."]

18. Kéhtol=ōte macehkawōtinīya. Malom=ōte... Nìt=yaq=ōte, olūwikōnok kehsukōniw, sōláhki=yaq sakhíhkawōtíciq yùt weci-macehkawōtihtítpon, kìs olūwikōnok kehsikōton.

[Sure enough, they started out. Then, they say, after seven days, they suddenly came walking in, here where they had set out seven years before.]

19. Nìt=yaq=ōte yùt elí-nōmiyùt uckuhkawōtinīya, psi=yaq=ōte éhpíciq nutiyámkessúwok yùt utenehsísok. Wōliw 'tassíhtekhūwáwal yúhtol, wòt péwatōkópon kselōman. Wiwōnahpeláwal, áyùt alōcemáhtit, áyùt wisōki-kselōmawal=ehtá=te.

[Then, when they were seen approaching, all of the women came out in a mob from the village. Right away, they ran up to greet him, the one who had wanted to be loved. They surrounded him and even kissed him all over; and then, indeed, they even made love to him fiercely.]

20. Wòt=ōlu kótok noqcúhsan. Mam=ōte wikūwak pecíyat... Ípocol qènōtaq ma mícūwákon ihíwi. Wáhka kisawsù 'siwi. On wíhqéhtun yèy, peskuwàt... Nìt nutáhan naci, naci-wiyuhsúhkan. Nìt=yaq=ōte nutékapūwéssit wáhsi wiksísok, nìt=yaq séhket òtúhk. Nìt=te etoli-psahkōnahtélūwat. On=ōte 'posséllal. Ktánáqot wíyuhs éyit.

[But the other one walked straight on. When he finally arrive at his home... For there had long been no food there. His relatives could scarcely live. So then he picked up a gun. Then he went out to go hunting for meat. As soon as he stepped out behind his little house, there stood a deer. He shot it right there, and it fell over. Then he skinned it. He had a lot of meat.]

21. Nìt 'címacìw níta, tòn=öte eci-nací-kotúnket wöli=te=hc nókösayìw neh páhta. Nìt=te=na punáwet, kéhsuhtóhok metèkõnik.

[Then, from that time on, whenever he went hunting, he soon made a kill. In just the same way, when he trapped, he collected lots of hides.]

22. Wòt=ölu kótok, mèc=öte ehpilicíhi wisöki-ksi-iyàku. Ma=te táma kisi-liyèw 'qotuhkayìw. Mécimìw=oc 'tali-núhsuhkàku ehpilicíhi. Malom=öte élömíyak nìt kis 'síwellòku nékom. Ma=tahk, ma=tahk 'kisi-conellàwi. Pésqon=öte mèc eli, eli-ksi-íyaht.

[But as for the other (man), still the women loved him passionately. He could go nowhere by himself. They would always follow him around. Finally, as time went on, they had made him weary (of them). He just couldn't stop them. They still loved him just as intensely.]

23. Malom=öte söláhkì mace-ksinúhka. Ma-te keqsèy... kisi-ihì... 'qotúhkayìw táma kisi-liyéwi. Mécimì=te ehpilicíhi 'talamkìpha. Malom=öte nìt élömíyak, sikte-íyu, 'siktiya... 'siktiyamkumkù yúhùht ehpilicíhi. Nìt etöli-mehc... etöli-mehtapéksit.

[Finally, at one point, he began to grow ill. He couldn't... go anywhere alone. He always had a crowd of women around him. Finally, as time went on, he was done in—the mob of them rode him to death, these women did. That was the end of him.]

* * * * *

24. Yút... Yút nìt tókèc nìl elí-nutömánpon yút elákõnimqósit wòt nuhúwewèy skitáp, wòt síkte-ksèlõmiht ehpilicíhi. On=yaq=öte élíyat ehpilicíhi, nìt=te wetamkessílit. Nuhsuhkàku, cèl=yaq ma apcokuhkéwi kòsõna apiskìw. Ma=te 'kisi, 'kisi-pcòculàwi yúhùht ehpilicíhi. Malom=öte nìt élömíyak, malom=öte sikte-kotüwocökúhke kòsõna=al sikte-kotüwisku.

[This now is how I heard the story told about this third man, the one that the women loved to death. Wherever he went, they say, that's where the women went. They followed him, and he couldn't go and shit or go and piss. He couldn't get rid of these women. Finally, after some time, finally he died from his need to shit, or died from his need to piss.]

* * * * *

25. Cuwítpot yút wasisüwi-põmawsuwinúwok utõkehkimstiniya eli- skát -cuwítpotúnuhk kèq wèn wihkütõmon skát kèq wõleyaku... skát kèq wèn kisapètõmuhk.

[Young people are to learn from this that they shouldn't ask for something that won't do them any good.]