

Kəloskəpe and Turtle

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Source: Speck, Frank G. 1928. Wawenock myth texts from Maine. *Forth-Third Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1925–1926, 165–197.* Washington: Government Printing Office.

Note: Speck’s transcription and his free translation are given in (a). A tentative retranscription and retranslation by Philip LeSourd are given in (b).

1. a. ⟨Negawa’ida pemi·zo·bek^wke’t Gluskə̀be’ ni·uni·’lən podeba’l’ ni·ugizi·nł̥a’n
podeba’l’ ni·unə̀dji·’ wa’wə̀ndokewə̀n wusa’si·za’l’ Tolə̀ba’⟩

“Well, then, as he wandered along the shore of the ocean, Gluskabe killed a whale and when he had killed the whale he went to inform his uncle, the Turtle.”

b. Ni=ka=wa aita pemi-supek^wket Kəloskəpe, ni wənihlən potepal, ni wəkisi-nhlən podepal,
ni wənači-wawə̀tohkewən wəsahsisal Toləpa.

‘Well, then, as Kəloskəpe was traveling along the shore of the ocean, he killed a whale, and when he had killed the whale, he went to inform his maternal uncle, Turtle.’

2. a. ⟨ni·udi·ʔənα “nabaʔci·eli·` podebeʔ”⟩

“Then he said to him, ‘Great luck! Killed a whale.’”

b. Ni wətihlən, “Nənapačili potepe.”

‘Then he told him, ‘I have killed a whale.’

3. a. ⟨ni·wusasi·zaʔlʔ udi·ʔəgun “negateciʔ gədjipʔtonenαʔ podebaiyaʔ.”⟩

“So he told his uncle, ‘And also we will go and get it, the whale meat.’”

b. Ni wəsahsisal wətihləkon, “Ni=ka=tte=ci kənəčiptonena potepaiye.”

‘Then his uncle said to him, “So we can go and get whale meat.”’

4. a. ⟨negeʔaʔ ni·unədjɪ·naʔ ni·wədlosenαʔ sobeguʔkʔ ni·bayəhədi·ʔt wabodebeʔls·ik
ni·wədnəmnaʔ kesiʔtweldamohodi·ʔt⟩

“So accordingly they went, went to the ocean; and when they arrived there where the whale lay they took as much of it as they wanted;”

b. Ni kehla ni wənəčinaʔ, ni wətəlohseŋə sopekək, ni payəhətɪt wa potepe elsik, ni wətənəmənə kehsi-hčəwelətamohətɪt.

‘Then indeed they went there, they walked to the sea, and when they arrived where the whale lay, then they took as much of (the meat) as they wanted.’

5. a. ⟨ni·gizi·ʔwikwu nəmohodi·ʔt ni·blaʔ pali·wi·ʔ obunəmonaʔ ni·wadoləbaʔ

edudji·ʔweheməʔt si·psaʔ ges·i·k·i·gi·ʔt msi·ʔwi· wski·tkamiʔk^w negan·i·ʔ səkhedəwoldihi·di·ʔt⟩

“and when they had taken it they placed it to one side for a while and that Turtle called together the birds, as many kinds as there were in all the world, and they came along flying in droves.”

b. Ni kisi-wihk^wənəməhətit, ni pəla paliwi wəponəmonə, ni wa Toləpa etoči-weheməṭ sipsə kehsikkikit msiwi wskitkamik^w, ni=ka=ni səkhitəwolətihətit.

‘Then when they had taken it, they first set some aside, at which point Turtle called together the birds, as many kinds as there are in the world, so that they all came flying up there.’

6. a. ⟨ne‘bəgwatci‘ nən·e‘mkami·gi·pode·` si·bi·wi·‘ wəda‘s·ot·ekawəwə‘l‘ ki·sosa‘l‘⟩

“On account of their number the ground fairly shook and, moreover, they fairly covered up the sun by their numbers.”

b. Ni epək^wahči nanemkamikihpote sipiwi wətahsohtekawəwəṭ kisohsal.

‘And on that account the land rose up and shook and the mass of them blotted out the sun.’

7. a. ⟨ni·ubedji·‘dəwuldenə msi·wi·‘ ni·umi·tsoldi‘n taneba‘ wik^whəbələŋk⟩

“Then they all came flying together and ate because they were invited to the feast.”

b. ni wəpečitəwələtinə msiwi ni wəmitsolətin tənə=pa wik^whəpələk.

‘Then they all came flying to eat together because they were invited to the feast.’

8. a. ⟨ni·wa‘ gəl·u‘ səŋgəma‘ ni·yu‘ wawi·wuni·wi·‘ i·yu‘ ebita‘ida toləbə·‘⟩

“Then the Eagle was the chief of the birds, and close by here where he sat was the Turtle.”

b. Ni=wa Kəlo səkəma, ni=yo wawiwəniwi iyo epita aita Toləpa.

‘And Golden Eagle was the chief, and close by here where he was sitting was Turtle.

9. a. ⟨ni·wa toləbe· wikwu·nəmən unəs·ekwa·k^w ni·wətəmi·ktci·es·α`n kəl·uwa`l` yu`lil səŋgəma`l`⟩

“Then that Turtle took out his knife and he cut the buttocks off from the Eagle, this chief.”

b. Ni wa Toləpa [wə]wihk^wənəmən wənəssek^wak^w, ni wətəmikəciyesəŋ Kəlowal, yolil səkəmal.

‘Then Turtle took out his knife, and he cut off the rump of Golden Eagle, the chief.’

10. a. ⟨ni·wa` səŋgəma` ndawawəma`ls·wi·` gizi·təmi·ktci·azama`k⟩

“Even then the chief did not feel that his buttocks had been cut off.”

b. Ni wa səkəma ąta wawamalsiwi kisi-təmikəciyesəmək.

‘And the chief did not feel it when rump was cut off.’

11. a. ⟨ni·yuli`l et·ak·əŋgotci·l` kepti`n ni·udi·łα`n səŋgəma`l` “ni·aweni` eli·hogowα`n kəmaməs·ani` pəna`lgebəna`”⟩

“Then this man, the second chief, a captain, said to his chief, ‘Who then has done such a deed to you, belittling you? We are all insulted.’”

b. Ni yolil ehtahkəkočil keptin ni wətihlən səkəmal, “Ni aweni elihokowan? Kəmamessani-pəŋləkepena.

‘And a captain next in rank behind him said to the chief at that point, “Who has done this to you? We are brought low through mockery.’

12. a. ⟨ni· umoskwe`ldaməna` ni·ugi`zəlomana` toləba`l` wedjinłəhədi·`t⟩

“Then they all became angry and they laid a plan what to do to the Turtle so as to kill him.”

b. Ni wəmoskelətaməna, ni wəkisəloməna Toləpal weči-nhləhətit.

‘Then they grew angry, and they planned out how they would kill Turtle.’

13. a. ⟨ni·giste·` təlawe·` unaskasi·nə`⟩

“Thereupon, immediately they (prepared to) attack him.”

b. Ni kis=tte təhlawei wənaskahsina.

‘At once they began an inquiry.’

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14. a. ⟨negawa` toləbe·` ni·wikwuna`n yuhi·` awi·p`hona` ni·udəba`saħozi`n ebəgwa`tc i·da`k
“nələgwa` wədə`bas·ehwana`l`, nələgwa` wədə`basehwa`nal” ni·yu` nələgwa
wədəba`s·ehwa`nak⟩

“Then the Turtle took the feathers of the bird and fanned himself, for which he said, ‘Wing is his fan, wing is his fan,’ because he was using a wing as a fan.”

b. Ni=ka=wa Toləpe ni wəwihk^wənaŋ yohi awiphona ni wətapahsahosin, epək^wahči itak,
“Nələkwa wətapahsehwanal, nələkwa wətapahsehwanal,” ni=yo nələkwa wətapahsehwanək.

‘Then Turtle took the bird’s (tail) feathers and fanned himself, saying on this account, “A wing is his fan, a wing is his fan,” as he was fanning himself with a wing.’ [Spoken in a monotonous singsong tone.]

15. a. ⟨ni·wa’ Gluskəβe’ udi·lɑ’n wuza’si·zal’ “kəba’lalokε·` eli·təławeı·’ a’ida təmi’k·ətci·as·a’t səŋgəma’ nide’bəne` kənaskɑ’ŋgen·enɑ’⟩

‘Then Gluskabe said to his uncle, ‘By so doing you have done wrong, indeed, cutting the buttocks of the chief. For soon they will attack us.’”

b. Ni=wa Kəloskəpe wətihlən wəsahsisal, “Kəpalalohke eli- təhlaweı aita -təmikəčiasat səkəma. Ni tɛpəne kənəskəkənenə.

‘Then Kəloskəpe said to his uncle, “You have done wrong, cutting the chief’s rump this way. And soon we shall be attacked.’

16. a. ⟨ni·udi·`lən “ni·dji·na’wa dani·` kədlada’kanena`?”⟩

‘Then he said, “On account of it, what shall we do?”

b. Ni wətihlən, “Ni=či=nawa təni kətəlatahkənenə?”

‘And he answered, “So then what shall we do?”’

17. a. ⟨ni·udi·`lən pla wa’ses·enolitu`n yu abaz·i’k.”

‘So he said, ‘In the meanwhile I will build a nest in this tree.’”

b. Ni wətihlən, “Pəla wasəsse nolihon yo apasik.”

‘The he said, “First off, I will make a nest in this tree.’”

18. a. ⟨ni·geła' uwəli·tu'n wazəs·e' ni·udi·łá'n yuli'l wuza'si·zal'⟩

“tcespi·gwɔ;dawε·'”

“Then Gluskabe built a nest and he said to his uncle, ‘You shin up the tree.’”

b. Ni kehla wəwəlihton wasəsse, ni wətihłan yolil wəsahsisal, “Če spik^wətawe.”

‘Then indeed (Kəloskəbe) built a nest, and then he told his uncle, “All right, climb up!”’

19. a. ⟨ni·geła' toləbε·' ogwa'gwedji·spi·gwɔ;dawε·' ni·ndate'gəne' ugizi·spi·gwɔ'dawα'n

ni·udi·'damən “madji·łε·' gwagwα'nhekasi·α'n'.”⟩

“Then the Turtle tried to shin up, but he was not able to do it; not able to shin up; so he said, ‘Dull are my heel claws.’”

b. Ni kehla Toləbe wək^wak^weči·spik^wətawe, ni ąta tekəne wəkisi·spikwətawąn, ni wətitamən, “Mačihlek wakwanhəkasiąn.”

‘Then indeed Turtle tried to climb up, but he couldn’t climb up at all, and he said, “It goes badly where my heel claws are.’”

20. a. ⟨ni·wa' Gluakəbε' ni·wəni·malwenα'n toləba'l' ni·wədebake'n wa'zəs·ə'k'⟩

“Then Gluskabe took hold of him, the Turtle, and he tossed him up into the nest.”

b. Ni=wa Kəloskəpe ni wəniməłəwenąn Tolebal, ni wətepahken wasəssek.

‘Then Kəloskəpe took hold of Turtle by the tail, and he tossed him into the nest.’

21. a. ⟨ni·gi·zi·waz·əs·e'k ebi·hi·di't ni·ubedji·'dąławe'i· bagi·damə'n nəbi·'⟩

“And when they were in the nest they sat down to pass off water.”

- b. Ni kisi wasəssek epihətit, ni wəpeči- təhlawei -pakitamən nepi.
 ‘Then when they were seated in the nest, he came to need to pass water.’
22. a. ⟨ni·do·ləbɛ udi·`damən “a·ida! eli·gadawi·`bagi·da`k nəbi·`?”⟩
 “Then the Turtle said, ‘How am I going to urinate up here?’”
- b. Ni Toləbe wətitamən, “Aita! Eli-katawi-pakitak nəpi?”
 ‘Then Turtle said, “Hey! How is one going to pass water?’”
23. a. ⟨ni·udi·`ləgul· Gluskəba`l· “pə·zi·djikətci·ewi·` waz·əs·e`k.”⟩
 “Then Gluskabe said to him, ‘Extend your buttocks over the edge of the nest.’”
- b. Ni wətihləkol Kəloskapal, “Pašičikəčiewi wasəssek.”
 ‘Then Kəloskape told him, “Hold your hind end over the edge of the nest.’”
24. a. ⟨ni·gəla·`ali·mi·tcəwə`n nəbi·` amək·ai·wi.⟩
 “Then, accordingly, Turtle urinated water, which ran down below.”
- b. Ni kehla aləmičəwan nəpi amehkaiwi.
 ‘Then indeed a stream of water flowed down from a height.’
25. a. ⟨ni·we·wəla`n yugi`k nope·`sawe`n·owa`k ni· ke`ptin eləbi·`t spəmə`k ni·una·mi·hə`n
 toləba`l· wazəs·e`k⟩
 “Now the warriors discovered it (where Gluskabe and his uncle were hiding) and their
 captain looked up and he saw Turtle in the nest.”

b. Ni wəwewoləŋ yokik nohpewsewinnowak, ni keptin eləpit spəmək ni wənamihəŋ Toləbal wasəssek.

‘Then the warriors discovered them, and the captain looked up above and saw Turtle in the nest.’

26. a. ⟨ni·wedji·’ pi·’bmamə`·k ni·wəzə`·ŋkhelədji·ni·lə`n⟩

‘Thereupon, he shot an arrow at him and brought him down.’

b. Ni weči-pipəməmək, ni wəsəkhelačinihləŋ.

‘Then he was shot with an arrow, and he came on down, falling over backwards.’

27. a. ni·yu’ udi·damə`n “madji·djə·’s wələ’·mk·i·`tc” madjidjə’s wələ’mk·i·`tc”

‘Then he said, ‘Bad stooping coward, bad stooping coward.’”

b. Ni=yo wətitamən, “Mačihčohs wələkič! Mačihčohs wələkič!”

‘Then (the shooter) said, “The cowardly old dog will stoop like a wretch! The cowardly old dog will stoop like a wretch!’ [Pen. *máčihtohs* ‘a homely or ugly dog’ S244]

28. a. ⟨ni·ye`nəma to`ləbe pa`gəs·i`k ki·k nit·e udeli·wəni·lə`n ni·gwi`·lawasoldi`n ni·nda mskawəwi·`⟩

‘But where the Turtle fell on the ground there he disappeared, and they made a search for him but could not find him.’

b. Ni=iye nəmə Toləbe pakəssik kkik, ni=tte wətəli-wanihləŋ, ni k^wilawahsolətin, ni ətə mskawəwi.

‘But over yonder where Turtle struck the ground, he immediately disappeared, and then a search was carried out, but he was not found.’

29. a. ⟨ni·wa' gepti'n pabmi·gwi·lawas·i't⟩
 “And the captain hunted all about.”
- b. Ni=wa keptin papami-k^wilawahsit.
 ‘Then the captain hunted all about.’
30. a. ⟨ni·una'mi·tun se'ski·dju' we'lamkat·e`k ni·uda'kskamən ni·uməskawana' toləba'l'⟩
 “Soon he saw a bark vessel upside down. Then he kicked it over, and found the Turtle.”
- b. Ni wənamihon seskičo welamkahtek, ni wətakskamən, ni wəməskawəna Toləbal.
 ‘Then he spotted a birch bark vessel in a pile of sand, and he kicked it over, and they found Turtle.’
31. a. ⟨ni'ga təpəlomə'n nit·a'tci· eləmi·gi·zloma'n wedji·' metci·ne't'⟩
 “Thereupon they held a council over him and it was decided that he should die.”
- b. Ni=ka təpəlomə'n, ni=ttahči aləmi-kisəlomə'n weči-mehčinet.
 ‘Then a council was held about him, and it was eventually decided that he should die.’
32. a. ⟨ni·gepti'n udi·damə'n “tanedji·nawa' kdli·hə'nenə'?”⟩
 “Then said the captain, ‘What, then, shall we do with you?’”
- b. Ni keptin wətitamən, “Təni=či=nawa kətəlihənenə'?”
 ‘Then the captain said, “So what shall we do with him?’”
33. a. ⟨ni·wa' eta'k·ozi·t ni·udi·damə'n “kzəgu'sktahə'n·ə'dji·'”⟩

- “The second chief spoke and said, ‘We shall have to cut him up in pieces.’”
- b. Ni=wa ehtahkosit ni wətitamən, “kəsək^wəsktahəŋə=či.”
- ‘Then the second chief said, “We shall chop him up in pieces.”’
34. a. ⟨ni·wa toləbe·’ wədi·damə’n “nda’ ni·a ni·ləgowə’n.”⟩
- ‘Then said the Turtle, ‘Not me; that will not kill me.’”
- b. Ni=wa Toləbe wətitamən, “Aṭa nia nənihləkowən.”
- ‘Then Turtle said, “Not me will that kill.”’
35. a. ⟨ni·udi·daməna’ “negatci·’ kəme’t‘kasesən·enə’.”⟩
- ‘Then he said (the captain), ‘Then we shall burn him up.’”
- b. Ni wətitamən, “Ni=ka=či kəmetkasesəŋə.”
- ‘Then (the captain) said, “Then we shall burn him up.”’
36. a. ⟨ni·udi·damə’n mi·’na toləbe·’ “nda ni·n ni·ləgowə’n”⟩
- ‘Then again said the Turtle, ‘Not me; that will not kill me.’”
- b. Ni wətitamən mina Toləbe, “Aṭa ni nənihləkowən.”
- ‘Then Turtle said again, “That will not kill me.”’
37. a. ⟨ni·udi·daməna’ “nəgatci·’ ba’skədji·balə’n”⟩
- ‘Then they all said, ‘Then we shall drown him.’”
- b. Ni wətitaməŋə, “Ni=ka=či kəpaskəčəpaləŋ.”
- ‘Then they said, “They we shall drown him.”’

38. a. ⟨ni·wa' toləbε·' udi·damə'n mi·'na "ni·n ni·ləgu'n"⟩
 "Then that Turtle said again, 'That will kill me.'"
- b. Ni=wa Toləbe wətitamən mina, "Ni nənihləkon."
 'Then Turtle spoke again: "That will kill me.'"
39. a. ⟨nega't·e we'dji·ni·mi`p'hamα`k' ni·'l·ənasi'n' aida' nəbə's·i·zak⟩
 "Immediately they grabbed him to kill him."
- b. Ni=ka=tte weči-nimiphəmək, ni ələnahsin aita nəpəssisək.
 'Immediately he was grabbed, then hauled away, oh, to a little lake.'
40. a. ⟨ni·wedji·' αbodji·gelkε·'t·ek yuki·' edudna's·imα`k wa toləbε·'⟨
 "From the place where they dragged him the earth was torn up and furrowed, where they
 hauled him."
- b. Ni weči-əpočəkəkətek yo kki etotənahsimək wa Toləbe.
 'That is why the earth is dug up and turned over up to the point where Turtle was
 hauled.'
41. a. ⟨malα'mit·e yu nəbəs·ə`k ni·wədjau'paken·α` ni·wədali·mi·' ele·dji·ni·gədałα'n⟩
 "But at last, here in the lake, they threw him into the water, that Turtle; then he sank, his
 back down and belly up, like a dead animal."
- b. Məlamı=tte yo nəpəssək ni wəcawpahkenə, ni wətələmi-eləčini-kətahlan.

‘In the end, here at the lake, they threw him into the water, and he sank down with his back down and belly up.’

42. a. ⟨ni·yu’ onəs·ε·bε·nəmə’n nəbi·’ ni·gizi·’ pα’gowi·az·əs·ko` ni·wədj·i·’ nodα’dəbewi`n nəbi`k·⟩

‘But he riled up the water with his paws, and then when it was all muddy he poked his head out of his shell from the water’

b. Ni=yo wənəssepənəmən nəpi, ni kisi-pαk^wi-asəsko, ni oči-notəpewin nəpik.

‘Then he riled up the water with his paws, and when it was completely muddy, he poked his head out of the water.’

43. a. ⟨ni·ugα’galowe`n “oho< >u· ki·ləwα,wa’n kəda’k·i·wα` kəni·ləgonα’ ni·’ni·a` ndak·i·’ ndan·i·ləgowα’n”⟩

‘and then he cried out, ‘Oh ho! as for you all, your earth kills you, but as for me my land does not kill me.’”

b. Ni wəkaqələwen, “Ohou! Kiləwəw ən kətahkiwə kənihləkəna, ni nia nətahki əta nənihləkowən.”

‘And then he cried out, “Oho! Well as for you all, your land kills you; but as for me, my land does not kill me.’”

44. a. ⟨ni·si·’psak nnoda’wαnα` kedwi·tci·ba’gətces·i·`t toləbε·’ nega’t·e ugwi·ldasoldi·nα’ yu’gik nope’usewi·`n·owak ni· məgəna’n owa’ aweni·’ netαwikαmogwi`t`⟩

“Then the birds heard him, that Turtle, by the noise of his screeching, and they rushed upon him, these warriors, and they chose one that was an expert diver.”

b. Ni ssipsak wənotawaŋə ketawi-čipakəcesit Toləbe, ni=ka=tte wək^{wilətahsolətiŋə} yokik nohpewsewinnowak, ni məkəŋəŋ owa aweni nehtawi-kamək^{wit}.

‘And then the birds heard Turtle as he started to screech, and right away these warriors set about to attack him, and a certain one was chosen who was an expert diver.’

45. a. ⟨nimskawa´n məde´welê`⟩

“They selected the loon.”

b. Nimskawaŋ mətewihle.

‘The loon was called in.’

46. a. ⟨ni·uga´mkolitawa`n⟩

“Then this one dove down for him.”

b. Ni wəkaməkolihtawaŋ.

‘Then he dove down for him’

47. a. ⟨yulil´ ni·səda eli·gamogwi´t

“When he had done this the second...”

b. Yulil nisəta eli-kamək^{wit}.

‘He dove after him a second time.’

48. a. ⟨nsəde´waiye·´ ni·uməskawa´n toləba´l´⟩

“and the third time he found the Turtle.”

b. Nsəteweye, ni wəməskawaŋ Toləpal.

‘The third time, then he found Turtle.’

49. a. ⟨ni·wədji·kpana`sehi·di`t malami·ki·k nega´ wa´ səgwəsk`taha´n toləbe´⟩

“And thereupon they threw him ashore out upon the ground, and they knocked him dead, the Turtle,”

b. Ni weçi-kpənahsihətit məlami kkik, ni=ka wa sək^wəsktəhən Toləpe.

‘Then they hauled him up onto the shore, whereupon Turtle was chopped up into little pieces.’

50. a. ⟨ni·ume´təbəgəs·i`n ndatlo´kəga`n.

“and that is the end of my story.”

b. Ni wəmehtəpekəsin nətatlohkəkan.

‘That is the end of my character’s story.’