

Trading

Peter Lewis Paul

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1. Nèqt yùt sontihìw api-witimiyày, nsesõmitahàs tamà=hc ntoli, kòsõna kèq ntollùhk. Ntihinéhpon nkanèy, pisõwi-põmiyak. On nìt yúhtol pisüwi-põmiyákil cèl mocimahtétul. On nìt, ma-te keqsèy ntihìw...

‘One Sunday when I had been to church, I was wondering where I could go or what I could do. I had an old vehicle. It was one of those things that go by themselves—and stink. [laughing:] But I didn’t have anything...’

2. Malom=õte nìt ntolithásin naci-esüwoníkan. Téhpü èyi pehküwoskéssoss. On nìt nmacáhan wàht sehtayìw, liwihtásu utenéhsis *Hartland*. Nìt weci-mace-wesüwoniki.

‘After a while I decided to go and do some trading. All I had was a folding knife. So then I went out back of this little town called Hartland. That’s where I started in trading.’

3. Nõnùwak nìt ikõlisõmánok sehtayìw, on pèsq cenessì. Cèl nìt nkisi-pasqihìhpìn. Ntiyan, “Ma=te kèq ktihìw keti, keti-ésüwon... esüwònõmon?”

‘I knew some white people back there, and at this one fellow’s place, I stopped. I even had my dinner there. I said to him, “Don’t you have anything that you’d like to trade?”’

4. Ítom, “Cù, milíkon yùt èyi.” Ítom “Kìl=lu kèq èyyin?”

‘He said, “Sure, I have all kinds of things.” He said, “What have you got?”’

5. “Tàn téhpü èyi yùt pehküwoskéssik mihkutánis.”

“All I have is this folding knife.”

6. Om. Ítom, “Kèq=op=al yùt èyi, petàwõtík=op kmihkutákon? Cõké nsakíhtun.”

‘Hmm. He said, “What do I have here that would be worth about the same as your knife? Here, let me look at it.”’

7. Nmæssunõmúwan míyawíkon=õkahk mihkutákon. On nìt ítom, “Kmillon, kmillon nìsüwok ehemúwok.”

‘I showed him that it was in fact good a good knife. And then he said, “I’ll give you, I’ll give you two hens.”’

8. Ntíyan, “Tàn-öte.” On nìt ntesũwonõmawõtìnèn.

‘I told him, “All right.” So then we traded.’

9. Ítom, “Koti-esũwonòt nìkt éhemúwok yèt nokilo... Kótok íya wénuhc tütöpu, cù=al nìsũwok—u wecũwàw=ehtá=te.” Ítom, “Tiywà íhi, wapikiláhq. Nkoti-esũwonõmakunepõníhi, péskúwol ’cìw nìsu ehèmu.”

‘He said, “If you want to trade those hens... This other white man lives about two—oh, right handy.” He said, “He has these geese. He was going to trade them with me, one for two hens.”’

10. On=ehta nìt àpc ntoliphukèn níta. Ntíyan, “Kil=yaq koti-esũwonik wapikiláhqok.”

‘So then I drove on to that place. I told (the man there), “They say you want to trade some geese.”’

11. Ítom, “Ahà.” Ítom, “Kèq èyyin?”

‘He said, “Sure.” He said, “What have you got?”’

12. Ntíyan, “Nìsũwok miyawikũwok ehemúwok eywúkik.”

‘I told him, “What I’ve got is two nice hens.”’

13. Ítom, “Pèsq kmillon wapikiláhq, tàn=öte wòt welinũwot.” On nkísi-mkónan pèsq nekõmókil.

‘He said, “I’ll give you one goose, whichever one you like.” So I picked out a fairly large one.’

14. Ítom, “Tökèc=op wahkéhsũwok, yé wahkéhson màn wici-punõmòn wòt wapikiláhq kmòsõna=hp kuhúsis. Yùt ìyá, kótok yùt elõmawtòssok skítàp íyu kuhúsisol=op milũwánol ’cìw nìsu wapikiláhq.” Ítom, “Nìt=õlu kekèsk ankuwhomũwòt, cù kisi-esũwonõmúwa.”

‘He said, “If you would put a few—a little money with this goose, you would get a calf. There’s this other man down the road here, and he would give a calf for two geese. So if you put in a little extra,” he said, “you could trade with him for sure.”’

15. On nìt nmacephúken. Am=öte wòt wénuhc. Ma nonũwáwi.

‘So then I drove on. To this other white man’s place. I didn’t know him.’

16. Nconéssin. Ntíyan, “Ntíyoq wòt skítàp pápkiwòss eli=yaq=op -wesūwonòt kuhúsis ’ci nisūwok íyok wapikíláhqok, on pèsq=òte=lu wapikíláhq èywuk nil.”

‘I stopped there. I said to him, “This man down the road tells me that you would trade a calf for two geese, but I’ve only got one goose myself.”’

17. Ítom, “Ahà, [nt]esūwonik=op, tőkèc nisūwok, nisūwok iywòt.”

‘He said, “Yes, I would trade if you had two.”’

18. Ntíyan, “Nisūwok ntiywàwīyik, kénuk=òlu wòt pèsq kmillon. Àpc sòlahkiw, sòlahkì keqsèy om, wesūwonòmawòtíyoq, kekèsk=oc nil ktíyul. Ktankuwúmul.”

‘I said to him, “I haven’t got two, but I’ll give you this one. When we trade again sometime, I’ll have a little something for you. I’ll give you extra.”’

19. Ítom, “Tàn=òte. Nil ncossinūwa kuhúsis. Pèsq=òte èywuk, na tuciw ntotòlolùhk kcíhkuk. Ma nkisankeyuwàw. Ntéhpiitem=na ma ’kotūwankeyuwàwīyol. Ntahcūwi=na mōnúwa mōláqs.” Ítom, “Ktesūwònòmūl.”

‘He said, “All right. This calf is a bother to me anyway. I only have the one; and besides, I’m working in the woods. I can’t take care of it. My wife doesn’t want to take care of it either. I have to buy milk, too.” He said, “I’ll trade.”’

20. Ítom, “Pal koti-esūwonòt kuhúsis.” Ítom “Yùt=te íhic. Wòt àpc kótok skítàp wàht papkiwi-wíku ’tíhin nkanèy yèy, pisūwi-pōmíyak, mecimáhtek.” Ítom “Nòt nòt kwesōwònōmaq.”

‘He said, “Maybe you’d like to trade that calf.” He said, “Leave him right here. Another man lives up the road here a ways and has an old vehicle of some sort—the stinky kind.” He said, “He’ll trade it with you.”’

21. On nít nokka-nòkòlan wòt kuhúsis eli, eli-kòlatòkopísit pemsquítek. Nmacephúken. Malom=òte nmoskúwa àpc wòt éyit yùt pisūwi-pōmíyak.

‘So I left this calf behind, tethered in the field. I drove on. Finally I found this other fellow who had the vehicle.’

22. Ntíyan, “Ntíyoq wòt papkiw skítàp eli=yaq -koti-esūwonikīyon yùt...” Nomíhtun=na éhtek yùt [y]èy, pisūwi-pōmíyak íyok, ’qahakōnúmok. Ntíyan, “Yùt nít keti-esūwònōmon ’cìw kuhúsis?”

‘I told him, “This fellow down the road tells me that you want to trade this...” I had seen this vehicle of sorts, out in his dooryard. I asked him, “Is this what you’ve been wanting to trade for a calf?”’

23. Ítom, “Ahà.”

‘He said, “Yes.”’

24. Ntíyan, “Níl=ehta nòt tóké ntíywa. Ntopèlõma. Koti-esũwonikĩyòn, ktesũwònõmul.”

‘I told him, “I have it now. I own it. If you want to trade, I’ll trade with you.”’

25. Ítom, “Wolíye.” On nìt nmacéphan yúhtol kuhúsísol eyílit. On nìt nékom uckuwatõkúhsõlan, mácíyatõkúhsõlan wikũwak.

‘He said, “All right.” So I took him to where this calf was. And then came back leading it, and led it off to his house.’

26. Nìt=kahk nwesũwéssin. Nkisi-[si]tõpìlõmon yùt kisi-esũwònõm. Yùt acqìtu tokkìw, tokkìw yùt.

‘Then I went back. I tied up to this thing that I had traded for. I towed it from there to here.’

27. Àpc wespasahkíwik utének eliyày, on àpc nkisankúman kótok ìyá, wénuhc. *Well*, nisinsk cèl nàn kehsakisũwok ntolõnummákun. Nìt elí-mehcíyak=kahk=õlu yut yèy, wesũwonikewákon.

‘The next morning I went to town again, and I sold it again to another white man. Well, he bought it from me for twenty-five dollars. That’s how this thing ended, this trading.’