

Yéil khaa Ganook's Heeni
Raven and Petrel's Water



Told by Frank Dick Sr. in Tlingit in 1983
Transcribed and Translated by Fred White, November 2012
Adapted for the classroom

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Raven and Petrel's Water

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Tlingit Vocabulary

Yéil	Raven
Ghanóok	Petrel
Goon	Spring Water
Héen	Water
Natá	Sleep
Tláakw	Hurry
Gán ká Yeigí	Smoke hole Spirit
Xháan	Fire
S'éikh	Smoke
T'óoch'	Black
Éil ká	Ocean

Long ago no one had any héen.

No one had any héen because Ghanóok kept all of the héen for himself.

Ghanóok guarded the héen day and night.



Ghanóok kept all of the water for himself.

Yéil heard Ghanóok's héen was a spring.

This irritated Yéil and so he travelled there in his canoe.

He travelled to visit Ghanóok, his brother-in-law.

Yéil walked up to Ghanóok and said, "I'm just lonely, my brother-in-law, just lonely. I have come to see you. It's just lonely being alone."



Yéil walked up to Petrel and said, "I'm lonely, my brother-in-law, just lonely. I have come to see you..."

Yéil began to fuss over his brother-in-law.

When Yéil finished feeding his brother-in-law he said, "Let's lay down, my brother-in-law and tell stories to each other. Just any little thing."

So now, Yéil has his mind set on putting his brother-in-law to sleep.

Ghanóok is finally so tired he can't keep his eyes open.

Yéil said, "Don't go to sleep my brother-in-law. I am lonesome for you. This is why I have come to visit you. I am going to be leaving pretty soon."

After some time Ghanóok fell asleep. Then Yéil rushed over to the héen. He pulled the cover off and started to drink as much as he could.

“Hurry, hurry, hurry!” thought Yéil. Right when Yéil was flying up towards the smoke-hole, Ghanóok woke up.

“No!” Ghanóok screamed out, “Grab him, my smoke-hole spirit!”

That is why the smoke-hole sprit grabbed White Yéil. It grabbed him and he was stuck.

Yéil was hanging in midair. He was stuck in the smoke-hole.

Ghanóok had no mercy for his brother-in-law. He decided to build a fire under him.

Ghanóok built a big fire. He made Yéil beg for mercy. After Yéil begged every which way, Ghanóok let him go and he escaped through the smoke-hole.

Ghanóok built a big fire.



Yéil was white before Ghanóok built that fire under him. The sap wood smoldered and smoked. The soot from the fire made Yéil turn black as he was being held in the smoke-hole by the spirits.

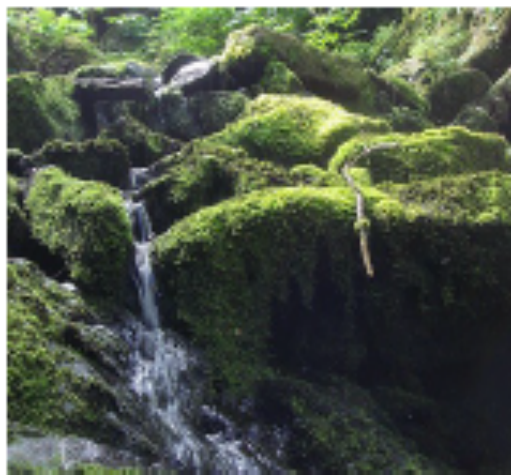
From up north and to the south Yéil flew.

To the north the Copper River was created. On the other side, the Alsek and Taku Rivers came to be. Yéil created all of the rivers.

The héen that dripped from Yéil's mouth became the small streams.



Yéil created small streams.



When the héen that dripped from Yéils mouth became too much for him he let it all go

Yéil let the héen go and it became the oceans.



Then Yéil flew off on another adventure.



Gunalchéesh, Yéil!

Flesch-Kincaid level 4.3



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