

Yéil K̄a T'á Shkalneek - Raven and the King Salmon

based on Raven Stories by Yakw̄xwaan Tláaa, Katherine Mills and translated by K̄eixwnéi

* [Song] *“Lishoogú át kanaylaneek” - You all tell funny stories.*

Narrator: Yá Yéil áwé neecht woogoot. Raven was walking around on a beach.
While he was walking around there he saw T'á. Yéi ayawsiḱaa wé Yéil,

Yéil: * “Aḱ éet yaan uwaháa. Aḱ éet yaan uwaháa.”

Narrator: It was jumping out there in the bay, that T'á. Yéi ayawsiḱaa wé T'á,

T'á: * “Aḱ toowú sigóo. Aḱ toowú sigóo.”

Narrator: Yéil was thinking about it then.

Yéil: “What can I do to that T'á to trick him into coming ashore?”

Narrator: Yéil went some distance and found a s'ow. Then he said to the T'á,

Yéil: * “Haadé k̄inees.aax! Haadé k̄inees.aax! Hey, T'á Listen here! This little s'ow is saying this about you: 'You got trashy gills.'”

Narrator: But the T'á didn't listen to him. Yéi ayawsiḱaa wé T'á,

T'á: * “Aḱ toowú sigóo. Aḱ toowú sigóo.”

Narrator: T'á was just jumping out there. That's when Yéil said to him again,

Yéil: * “Haadé k̄inees.aax! Haadé k̄inees.aax! Hey, T'á, this little s'ow is insulting you. Listen to what he's saying! Swim on in here!”

Narrator: But the T'á was just swimming out there. Yéi ayawsiḱaa wé T'á,

T'á: * “Aḱ toowú sigóo. Aḱ toowú sigóo.”

Narrator: At some point Yéil really hollered out,

Yéil: “T'á--aa! * Haadé k̄inees.aax! “T'á--aa! Haadé k̄inees.aax! Swim over here, to the shore so you can really hear what the little s'ow is saying about you!”

Narrator: Only then, T'á swam toward him. Yéi ayawsiḱaa wé T'á,

T'á: * “Aḱ toowú sigóo. Aḱ toowú sigóo.”

Narrator: Yéil couldn't believe it. T'á swam up on the beach. That's when he said to him,

Yéil: * “K̄ooshkadáan á! K̄ooshkadáan á! * Oh no! Oh no! I realized I have to go to the bathroom! I'll run up in the woods first.”

Narrator: Actually, he ran up to get a club from there. He grabbed one and then he rushed down to the beach and hit T'á on the head with it.

* [Song]

Aayátx'i - a boys lullabye (Dléigu) From Charlie Joseph –Kaal.átk'

Haa yahei, hee.eenaa.aa

Haa yahei, hee.eenaa.aa

Haa yahei, hee.eenaa.aa

Aahaa aheeya heeya hee.ei

Aa yátx'i, shanayxisht á

Aa yátx'i, shanayxisht á

X'een yátx'i, shanayxisht á

Xweixi tayís aa shanayxisht á

Narrator: But that T'á was too heavy for Yéil. The birds that fly in flocks are his grandchildren: K̄aatoowú, * Shoox', * X'éishx'w, * Woolnáx Wooshkák * and Ts'eigeinéi. * So then he said to them, to these grandchildren of his,

Yéil: “X̄áat yidashí. Help me. Let's pull it up here. We'll bake it in a pit under a x'aaan.”

Narrator: Well, then with the help of his grandchildren he digs a pit and says,

Yéil: “Run up in the woods! Bring down some X'aaal'. We'll put them on the bottom of the pit. We'll wrap it around the T'á. And only then we'll build a little x'aaan up on top of it.”

Narrator: Then the small birds started flying. * Then it was brought down, that x'aaal'. So Yéil asked them,

Yéil: “Where did you get the x'aaal' from?”

Birds: “In back of here, at the base of the hill.”

Narrator: This is when Yéil said,

Yéil: “From just back here?”

Birds: “Aaá. There’s a lot here. It’s really good. Why, what’s wrong?”

Narrator: And Yéil said,

Yéil: * “Ch’a ée! “Ch’a ée! That’s where my wife goes to the bathroom! Go get a different batch! Déix shaa kaanáx áwé yéi gaxyi.áat. You will go over two mountains. And only then will it be good.”

Narrator: So they started flying... * and the x’áal’ was left there for Yéil. That’s when he layered it in the bottom of the pit. Then he also picked up the T’á from there and he made X’aan around it. Before long the huge T’á was cooked.

Then... he ate it...

Yéil: * “Ax toowú yak’éi! Ax toowú yak’éi!”

Narrator: But he saved the tail. What did he save the tail for? He left only the skeleton there. So then he covered it over and rolled a tree stump on top of it.

Before long—well! they flew back with some new x’áal’. So he said to them,

Yéil: “Something awful has happened to us, my little grandchildren. This tree stump rolled over on our T’á. Tle hóoch’k’, hóoch’kix wusitee.”

Narrator: Yéi ayawsiḱaa wé Yéil.

Yéil: * “Ax toowú yankéekw. Ax toowú yankéekw.”

Narrator: And here the birds, they started crying, some of them. Yéi ayawsiḱaa

All Birds: * Xagáax. Xagáax.

Narrator: Kaatoowú was wiping soot from its eyes, which is why its head is black and they are white around their eyes.

Yéi ayawaḱaa wé Kaatoowú.

Kaa: * “Ax éet yataawaháa. Ax éet yataawaháa.”

Narrator: But Shoox’ sat too close to the x’aan and she scorched her belly and it became the color of x’aan. Yéi ayawaḱaa wé Shoox’.

Shoox’: * “Xat kawduwasáay! Xat kawduwasáay!”

Narrator: But Ts’eiginéi was trying to fly away from them. They were holding her back, really pulling on her feathers. Then Yéil grabbed her. He said to Ts’eiginéi,

Yéil: “While there are still salmon in the creeks, don’t fly down to the beach! Only when there are no more salmon in the creek, that’s when you’ll fly down to the coast.”

Narrator: Yéi ayawaḱaa wé Ts'eigeiní.

Ts'ei: * “Xat wuliteesh! Xat wuliteesh!”

Narrator: Then Yéil also said to Woolnáx Wooshkáḱ here,

Yéil: “You will always hop through holes. Wherever you fly, you’ll be hopping through holes.”

Narrator: Yéi ayawaḱaa wé Woolnáx Wooshkáḱ.

Woo: * “Xat wudixwétl. Xat wudixwétl.”

Narrator: And as for the X'éishk'w, Yéil is really combing the feathers on his head, combed each side up differently around his head. It's really fun the way that Yéil fixed up his feathers. Yéi ayawaḱaa wé X'éishk'w.

X'éishk'w: * X'áant Xwaanúk. X'aant Xwaanúk.”

Narrator: He fixed up all of those birds. That's how it happened. His grandchildren were the ones who worked for him. But then he didn't treat them right. He also instructed them in many ways. That's how it ends, this shkalneek.

That Yéil, he's still hungry. * Yéi ayawaḱaa wé Yéil.

Yéil: * “Ax éet yaan uwaháa. Ax éet yaan uwaháa.”

* [Song] “Lishoogú át kanaylaneek” - *You all tell funny stories!*

Legend

* = Sound cue

Highlighted line = ASL sign/puppet character