

Raven Cooks the King Salmon

Told by Austin Hammond / Daanawaak, 1977 Translated & Transcribed by Paul Marks, 2012



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Ts'itskw



kaatoowú



x'éishx'w



ts'eiGéeni

The Raven did a lot of good things, and what the Raven wants to get he figures out what it will take to get it.

The birds got fooled. We have to watch what people say and what they could do. Some of them act real proud of themselves.

The birds never looked like they did but after the Raven got done with them that's the way they are now.

Through this story we learned how to cook the fish.

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Tlingit Vocabulary

• Yéil Raven

aasgutú forest

• x'ús club

• T'a King Salmon

• s'oow té green stone

• ts'itskw birds

• <u>x</u>'áal' skunk cabbage

kook hole

• <u>x</u>'áan fire

• <u>k</u>aatoowú chickadee

• <u>x</u>'éishx'w Stellar's jay

• ts'ei<u>G</u>éeni magpie



Yéil got real angry.

He jumped up and he grabbed one of the little ts'itskw by the tail and threw him, so now he has a long tail.

And another he grabs by the hair and throws him too.

And the last one is crying and rubbing his eyes so he got circles around his eyes.

Once they left, Yéil dug a hole (kook) in the ground. Yéil put the <u>xáal</u>' in the <u>kook</u> then he put the fish in the <u>kook</u>. Then he put the rest of the <u>xáal</u>' on top of the fish. Then he put the gravel on the top. Then he fixed the fire (<u>x'aan</u>) to cook it. Once the fish was cooked Yéil ate the whole fish. The ts'itskw had not come back yet—they were still getting the <u>xáal</u>'.

Once they got back **Yéil** asks , "Where did you go?"
"Well we went where you told us to go- over the two
mountains. We got some <u>x</u>áal'."

"'Gee you sure slow. I think that fish is already gone."

They look and sure enough nothing is left- just the bones (s'aak) of the fish. Just the tail is there. So the ts'itskw got angry. They began crying and crying. So the ts'itskw start accusing Yéil, "You ate the salmon while we were gone. Just left the s'aak for us."



The Raven (Yéil) went up into the forest (aasgutú). He went there to get a club (x'ús'). The king salmon (T'a) is way out in the ocean.

Yéil begins by saying to T'a, "You should hear what this little thing is saying about you. This little green rock (s'oow té) is saying that you sure are dirty. And your mouth- it sure is black. You sure have a big mouth!"

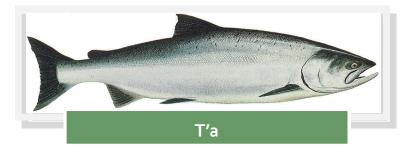


The fish got angry and he began jumping toward shore. T'a was so angry that he jumped right on that rock. Yéil ran over to T'a and he clubbed him with the $x'\hat{u}s'$.

This is how Yéil killed that king salmon.

So when the birds (ts'itskw) noticed what Yéil had done-killing T'a - they all went by the Raven.

Yéil says, "Go get some skunk cabbage (\underline{x} 'áal'). Bring some \underline{x} 'áal' so we can cook this king salmon. So the \underline{ts} 'itskw flew to get the \underline{x} áal'.





Yéil asks, "Where did you get this xáal'?

"Just right up there,"

"No, we can't use this xáal'! That's where my mother was buried!"

This is why **Yéil** told them, "You go over two mountains. There you will find good <u>x</u>áal'."

So they left the <u>xáal</u>' they brought to <u>Yéil</u> - they left it behind. So the three <u>ts'itskw</u> left to go where <u>Yéil</u> said to go for the good <u>xáal</u>'.