

YIXGITSIY VINAQ'A XIDIQ'OTL

How Raven's Eyes Became White

Chapman 5d, 115-118

The storyteller is not named

Yixgitsiy dina ngilanh dong ghiqal deloy ghottheqh.
 Raven man he was when he was mountain beneath.
 paddling
 Detsan' ts'in' ghiqal ixuxuyil tritr xundighe'o teq'avon
 Being hungry he was and then stick sticking up shore
 paddling
 yighun' nineqanh. Yinil'anh. Tr'edha tuxvel vithichith.
 up to he paddled. He saw it. Behold net is tied to it.
 Tr'edha, legg viye longh.
 Behold fish in it many.

Yitots'in' tr'iyē yilayh dit'odz didrogg[~] xuyil
 So then in canoe he put behind before also
 them himself himself
 niyilayh. Yitots'in' didrogg[~] dhidloy ihonh[~] lit'aq ts'in'.
 he put them. And then in front they were he ate raw.
 of him

Ginithdon'. "Axaxildik," inedhinh. "Ginasdon', dogidinh,
 He got full. "Well," he thought. "I'm full, thanks,

ginasdon'," inedhinh. Yitots'in' yiggiy ti'ogg ilchet.
 I'm full," he thought. And then that paddle he took.

Nitithiqanh. Ghiqal edi^v dran. Ixuxuyil che tritr
 He started He was all day. Then another stick
 off paddling. paddling
 xundighe'oy iltthonh chenh. Yighun' nineqanh. Tr'edha,
 sticking up he saw again. To it he paddled. Behold,

tuxvel che vithichith. Che niyinili'anh. Tr'edha,
 net another is tied to Again he examined it. Behold
 it.

legg viye longh. Go yilchik ts'in' dit'odz tr'iyē
 fish in it many. This he took and behind him in canoe

yilayh didrogg[~] xuyil. Yitots'in' yiluxdong' didrogg[~]
 he put it before him also. And then some of them before him

dhidloy ihonh lit'ag ts'in'. "Axaxildik," inedhinh.
they are he ate raw. "Well," he thought.

"Dogidinh ginasdon'."
"Thanks I'm full."

Yitots'in' xunił'anh aduggi xuyii xunił'anh.
And then he looked up then he looked.

Ixuxuyii yix xultthonh yix xuneg. Yix xo'egh xilivizr
And then house he saw house fine. House beside dry whitefish

doghidelo. Yitots'in' yix xudineyo. Tr'edha dina qul.
were hanging. And then house he entered. Behold person none.

Xilivizr yil yix dhidlo. Tr'edha dałts'in dina yix
Dry whitefish also (in) were. Behold on this person house

da' neg yil tilith~ da' q'oded niq'oidalin da',
parka fine too ground- parka new women's parka,

tl'ux tal neg yil, nołchidl neg yil. "Xidanh anh?"
grass mat fine too, bag fine too. "Where is she?"

inedhinh. Q'agh ngi'in tthantithiyo. Ngi'o xudoy xuts'in'
he thought. Back there he went out. Out there door- from

ngi'egh xunił'anh. Xunił'anh ixuxuyii ting ilthonh
outside he looked. He looked and then path he saw

deloy q'idz. Yitots'in' yixi tithititr titl'iggok
mountain upon. And then there he strutted he started running

ngiduggi. Ngidugg xildik gitthilq'i xadhiyo. Xunił'anh.
upward. Upward then on top he went. He looked

tr'edha, gag longh ting xuq'idh. Tetth'ok ye gag
behold berries many trail beside. Basket in berries

dhidlo. Nilq'adz q'u'iliggoyh dina axa xunił'anh.
were. Back and he ran about person for he looked.

Ixuxuyii tr'edha niq'olonh neg gag niha. Yighun'
Then behold woman pretty berries was To her

nineyo yitots'in' yighiddh q'idz yilyii. "Gila, one,"
he went and then her shoulder he grabbed. "Hey, come,"

yilne. Daline' inedhin~ts'in'. "Inagh!" yilne.
he said But she didn't want to. "No!" she said to him.

"Ngo gag nisadi," yilne. "Nit'uxdi tr'al iy," yilne.
"Well berries I am she said. "Later on," she said.
picking,"

Dalíne' vighiddh q'idz xeting'. "Gila one," yilne.
But her shoulder he held. "Come on," he said to her.

Xidigał yiye xudighilningh. "Diva tsitl anh!" yilne.
Finally he made her angry. "What a rascal!" she said.

"Gila ngideyan' ngitthing siyix xuts'in' noningidoyh,"
"Okay, only you down my house to go back,"

yilne. Viye xudolningh eyigginh niq'olonh. "Gila',"
she said. She was angry that woman. "Okay,"

yilne. "Ngitthing siyix sideva~ tedol," yilne. Digigag
she said. "Down my house for me wait," she said. Her berry

tl'el axa yitots'in' Yixgitsiy gigag nixiyitithighanh.
string with then Raven berries they began to pack back.

Niq'olonh yil nigixitithighanh. Ngitthing yix "Gila"
Woman and he began to pack them Down house "Now,
back.

digganingi'ot," yilne' niq'olonh. Yitots'in' ngiyigg
untie it," she said the woman. So down

niyine'onh. "Nginh nginighul xu'enast'oyh," yilne.
he put it. "You for you I will dance," she said to him.

Yitots'in' niq'olonh gatathdle':
And then woman began to sing:

(The song in Chapman's transcription:)

"Ikna', ikna', a'kcaito.
Ikna', ikna', a'kcaito.
Akca' tcūgu'n hūgū',
Ūññū' ya vwūga'n hě.
m m m."

"Gila' ngidedik," yilne. "Nginh nginitl-'anh ts'in"
"Okay, now you," she said "You to see
to him.

xu'at," yilne. "Ey'," dighene'. Q'u'altlux~ts'in'
I want," she said. "Yes," he said. Jumping around

gatathdle':
he began to sing:

(The song in Chapman's transcription:)

"Tliki'n gakah'hl, tlik, tlik,
Tliki'n gaka'hl, tlik, tlik."

"Ngigileg tr'ot'ix," yiine. "Nałtr'itl," yiine.
"Your song is no good," she told him. "Close your eyes," she told him.

"Chiq," yiine. Yitth'in dotugg xughun'iliggok tili
"Squeak!" she said. His legs between she ran through ground squirrel

ngilanh ts'in'. Yiyix xudon'iliggok~ ixuxuyil xulooy
being. She ran down into her and doorway
house

xudon-gidałtsitl.~Ngiduxsin che xadhiyo yolq'at ngiyiggi
she closed up. On top again he went smoke- downward
hole

xunił'anh. Eyigginh niq'olonh viye xudolningh. Tthaggiladz
he looked. That woman was angry. Ashes

nałch'ux tigitth'og axa yiyix gititlghul. Yitots'in'
hot ladle with up at she threw. And then
him

vinaq'a~ xudiq'otl.
his eyes became white.

HOW RAVEN'S EYES BECAME WHITE

Note: No other versions of this particular Raven story have been noted in the material we have surveyed thus far. Raven's characteristics of thievery, gluttony, and lust are common elements of the "trickster" Raven stories. There are several other stories current in Alaskan folklore in which a ground squirrel woman successfully tricks an intruder.

When Raven was a man, he was paddling along at the foot of the mountains. He was hungry as he paddled, and then he paddled up to a stick which was sticking up on shore. He looked at it. There was a net tied to it. There were many fish in it.

So Raven put them into his canoe behind himself and before himself. And he took the fish in front of him and ate them raw. He got full. "Well," he thought, "I'm full, thank you very much, I'm full." And then he picked up his paddle. He started off paddling. He paddled all day. Then he saw another pole sticking up. He paddled up to it. There was another net tied to it. He looked at this one. There were many fish in it. He took them and put them in the canoe, behind him and in front of him. And then he took some in front of him and ate them raw. "Well," he thought, "thank you very much, I'm full."

Then he looked up, and looked around. Then he saw a very nice house. Beside the house dry whitefish were hanging. So he went into the house. On the wall of the house were hanging a fine new squirrel-skin parka, a woman's parka, and also a nice grass mat and a nice bag. "Where is the woman?" he thought. He went back outside. From the doorway he looked around outside. He looked around, and then he saw a path going up the mountainside. He strutted off down the path, running up the hill. Up and up he went, to the top. He saw a lot of berries beside the path. The berries were in a basket. He ran back and forth, looking for the person. And then there she was, a pretty woman, picking berries. He went up to her and grabbed her by the shoulder. "Hey, come on," he said to her. But she didn't want to. "No!" she told him. "I'm picking berries. Maybe later," she said. But he held on to her shoulder. "Come on," he said to

her. Finally he made her angry. "What a rascal!" she said. "Okay, you go down to my house by yourself," she told him. She was angry, that woman. "You go down to my house and wait for me," she said. So Raven began to pack back her berries, using a string [around his forehead, to support the basket]. He and the woman began to pack them back. Down at the house, the woman told him, "Now untie it." So he put it down. "Now I will dance for you," she said. And the woman began to sing. [Here a song is sung.]*

"Okay, now you," she said to him. "I want to see you now." "Okay," he said, and jumping around, he began to sing. [Here a song is sung.]**

"Your song is no good," she told him. "Close your eyes," she told him. Then "Squeak!" she said. She turned into a ground squirrel and ran between his legs! She ran down into her house and closed up the doorway. Raven climbed up on top and looked down through the smokehole. The woman was angry. She picked up a ladle full of hot ashes and threw them up at him. And thereupon his eyes became white.

*The song is apparently in Central Yup'ik; the first two lines may be Ikna, ikna, aqsaitu[q] 'That one, that one, has no belly'. The remainder has not been identified clearly.

**This song may be an imitation of the sounds made by the squirrel ("tlik") and perhaps by the raven ("giquai?").