

NILTRETH VEGHAYE

Wolverine's Brothers

Chapman 10, 162-166.  
Told by Simon Kizik's mother.

Qay xuyozr xudhi'onh deloytux. Giliggi yozr ye  
Village small there was in the One family  
mountains.  
geixsnalin chilqay xividadr yil xelanh. Ggagg yan' dixil'anh  
five people men their with there were. Animals only they hunted  
younger sister  
ghinoy. Legg antr'ixuxineg q'odeche~ nigighun dinaye  
caribou. Fish they knew not because wolf people  
nixidelanh. Ngi'egh^ tritr ni'onditidhi'oy q'idz^ ghinoy  
they were. Outside wood stretched across upon caribou  
dhith xut'a che^ longh. Getiy longh ts'in' dixal'anh.  
skins very also many. Really many they got.  
Yitots'in' iit'et ghinoy nelang yan' xilnonh. Xividadr  
Then still caribou meat only they ate. Their sister  
yitongo noyal. Xidigal ngichox ts'i didiyog. Xidigal  
meanwhile was Finally big she became. Finally  
growing.  
xu'igheyo eyigginh xividadr. Veghaye xildik dixalne,  
she reached that their sister. Her then told her,  
puberty older brothers  
"Axaxildik yantr'itiditl'eyh hingotux tthitidhehol ts'in',"  
"Now we dress for hunting while do not go outside,"  
xalne. "Go yix tr'iditl'itth'e hingo gila' ttheting  
they said. "Here house we live while now outdoors  
q'ungidoyh te yil xingiho," xalne. "Ngo, Digguddhinh~  
you go water also get," they said. "Now one observing  
puberty rites  
tthasrodil hingo ttheting q'ughedogan," xalne. "Tthuxdi~  
we go out while outside do not go," they said. "Alone  
xeyan'~ dhedo~ ts'ixuyan'." Xidigal xiyh nonxudidhit.  
only stay only," Finally winter came again.

Edixiyh~ dixulingith.~ Yitots'in' dixiyatadhine'. Ixuxuyil  
 The winter was long. Then they began to say Then  
 that to her.  
 xuyodititl-'an' anh niq'olonh. "Ndadz xo'in disixin'ne  
 she began to think that woman. "Why do they say so  
 to me  
 seghaye?" inedhinh. "Tthiniso da' ndadz sre' ditasnel  
 my brothers?" she thought. "I go out if what I will I do  
 wonder  
 dixo'in go disixin'ne?" inedhinh. "Idivenhditux ixudz~  
 because this they say to me?" she thought. "Every day the same  
 of  
 sixin'ne," inedhinh. Xidigał "Tthitasoł," inedhinh.  
 they tell me," she thought. Finally "I'll go out," she thought.

Say  
 Say  
 go

Che tthanxitithidatl veghaye. Yitongo q'on-gidilqon'  
 Again they went out hunting her brothers. Mean- she was sewing  
 while  
 go niyinelo tthitadhiyo. Ngi'o tthitadhiyo. Yit natadhit.  
 that she put down she went out. Outside she went out. There she stood.

dh-pf

Ixuyil inedhinh, "Goła' tthiniso dałine' go de'ist'a' ts'in',"  
 Then she thought, "Well I went out but now I'm all right,"

inedhinh. Q'agh<sup>v</sup> xudon'idiyo yit tathdo'. Ixuyil chē q'agh  
 she thought. Back she went in there she sat. Then again back

tthantithiyo. Gidhitltth'onh ixuxuyil nedhodi xuts'in'  
 she went out. She heard some- then far off from  
 thing

gazralyayh gidhitltth'onh ts'in'. Yitoyiggi ngiyiggi yix  
 someone was she heard. Right away inside house  
 singing

xuts'in' xudon'idiyo.<sup>v</sup> "Ngo ndadz xo'in sre'~ go disixin'ne  
 to she returned. "Well why I wonder this they said to  
 me phrase  
 seghaye?" inedhinh. Viyeq'it yil vi'idituq~ naljit ts'in'.<sup>^</sup>  
 my brothers?" she thought. Her heart also beat being afraid.

Gidhitltth'onh. Tr'edha gazralyayh. Tr'edha di'ezre'  
 She listened. Behold someone was Behold her own name  
 singing.

idetth'onh. Tthantithiyo<sup>v</sup> chenh.<sup>v</sup> "Digguddhinh,~ gila'  
 she heard. She went out again. "Digguddhinh, come

xudonedoyh," gidetth'onh. Yitoyiggi tso q'idz~ dodhiyo.  
 go in," she heard. Immediately cache upon she climbed.

Niltreth dhith<sup>v</sup> ditl'ighal longh<sup>v</sup> iy<sup>v</sup> ilchet. Yitux  
 Wolverine skin bundled many those she took. Among them

nixolyax. Ngizrenh xildik vigho' yil dengath liq'uł  
 she searched. Pretty then fur also long white

ts'ixuyil getiy ngizrenh ilchet. Yix yiyil xudon'idiyo.  
also very pretty she took. House with it she went back in.

Yitots'in' te nadhil axa niyidiltriil. Nilq'adz  
Then water warm with she wet it. Both ways

yiyil tiniyh. Yitots'in' che tthantithiyo. Tthan'idiyo da'  
she stretched it. Then again she went out. She went out when

veghaye xiviting xuniil'anh. Ts'ixuyil xiltthonh nigighun  
her brothers their trail she saw. And she saw wolves

gelixsnal. Yiggi xiditl'itth'e ts'in' gixidalyayh~ "Aye...."<sup>^</sup>  
five. Down they were sitting and they sang, "Aye...."  
song omitted

Chenh "Digguddhinh~ aye~...." ^ Xudon'iliggok najit ts'in'.  
Again "Diggiddhinh aye...." She ran back being afraid.

Niltreth idanyighiditl'itrit~ da' xuq'i. Idanyighiditl'iniq  
Wolverine she wrapped around her- parka as. She pulled it around  
self herself.

ixuxuyil vidhan tr'axudhi'onh.~ Yitots'in' dinolchidl ye  
then her neck was bare. Then her workbag in

nixolyax. Ixuxuyil dantl'idik hiy' ilchet. Dit'osin'  
she searched. Then a striped piece she took. Her back

xanyitlqut. Yitots'in' che dadz del'anh. Chenh  
she put it as Then again thus she did. Again  
a patch.

idanyighiditl'iniq. Ixuxuyil ngichogh athdlat. Che dinolchidl  
she pulled it around Then a big it became. Again her workbag  
herself. thing

ye nixolyax. Niltreth ghe' neg iltthonh. Didho yighelo.  
in she searched. Wolverine teeth fine she saw. Her mouth she put them

Nondiyitl'iyoy eyiggiy niltreth da' vighe' yil.  
She took off that wolverine parka teeth too.

Tthantitl'iggok. Tr'edha nilggudzdi xodil. Xiyiltthonh.  
She ran outside. Behold nearby they were They saw her.  
coming.

Yiggi xiditl'itth'e che gixatathdle'. "Ayeq ya, ya yaq ya,  
Down they sat again they began to "Ayeq ya, ya yaq ya,  
sing.

ho. Digguddhinh~ itqa ho." Xudon'iliggok. Niltreth da'  
ho. Digguddhinh itqa ho." She ran back. Wolverine parka

nondolcheth. Vighe' yil didho nighelo. Axaxildik yix  
she put back on. Teeth too her mouth she put Then house  
back in.

nilchentitl'iggok niltreth ngilanh ts'in'. Ngiduxsin  
she ran around in a wolverine being. Up on top  
circle

xoxitathdatl. Nilq'adz nigixenitlgetth xidighe' axa.  
they went up. Apart they tore it by biting their with.

Yitongo nilchengahiligguk eyigginh niq'olonh niltreth  
Meanwhile she ran around in that woman wolverine gh-pf

ngilanh ts'in' xivitux tthe'eitlux. Niltreth. Xiviting  
being among them she leaped. Wolverine. Their trail

titl'iggok. Yitots'in' xiyinił'anh ts'ixuzro. Yix che  
she ran to. Then they looked only. House again

xuyexighedatl. Xeyiq'i tathdatl' yitots'in' naljit ts'in'  
they went in. They followed her then being afraid

ghaktlił. Di'odz nilggudz xiyitl'oghidil. Ting xothq'idh  
she jumped. Over nearby they followed her. Trail alongside gh-pf

didlang chux xundighe'o. Yitlyil. Ngidiggi didlang q'idz  
spruce big stood. She grabbed Upward spruce on  
onto it.

xitl'iggok. Xiyighoyix xizro gits'anghidil. Ngidiggits'i  
she ran. Beneath her only they encircled. Upward

xiyinił'anh ts'ixuzro. Ixuxuyil digitthigits'igh  
they looked only. Then her hood

yadz tidhi'onh. "Seghaye," xilne, "Gila' ghinoy uxlayh~tux  
she pushed back. "My brothers," she said "Now caribou you kill when-  
to them, ever

soxo gichot xuzro niguxlayh," xilne. Ixuxuyil  
for me guts only leave," she said. Then

xiyighontithidatl. Yitots'in' nonghidiyo niq'olonh.  
they left her. Then she came down woman.

Yitots'in' idedig gidegh tadhio.  
Then she too went away.

## WOLVERINE'S BROTHERS

Note: In the old days, girls at puberty were forbidden to look outside, lest they bring bad luck to men who were hunting. They observed many other rituals and precautions as well. In the following story, a foolish Wolf girl is transformed into a Wolverine when she fails to behave properly; the wolf is an honorable creature in myths, and the wolverine is always a villain.

There was a small village in the mountains. A family of five men lived there with their younger sister. They just hunted for game, for caribou. They didn't know about fish, because they were wolf people. Outside on the drying racks were many caribou skins. They really got a lot of them. And they ate nothing but caribou meat. Meanwhile, their sister was growing up. Finally she became big. She reached puberty. Then her older brothers told her, "Now, do not go outside when we are dressed for hunting. Go out for water only when we are staying here in the house. Now, Digguddhinh, do not go outside while we are outside. Just stay alone." Finally winter came again. The winter was long. They were telling her those things. And then that woman began to think. "Why do my brothers tell me that? I wonder what would happen if I did go out, that they should be saying this to me?" she thought. "They tell me this every day," she thought. And finally she thought, "I'll go out."

Her brothers went out hunting again. Meanwhile, she put down what she was sewing, and went outside. She stood there. Then she thought, "Well, I went out, but I'm all right." She went back in and sat down, and then she went out again. She heard something, like someone singing far off. Right away she went back into the house. "I wonder why my brothers said that to me?" she thought. Her heart pounded in fear. She listened. There was someone singing, and she heard her own name. She went out again. "Digguddhinh, go in!" she heard. Immediately she climbed up on the cache. She took a bundle of wolverine skins and looked among them. She took one that had long, light-colored fur and went back into the house with it. She wet it with warm water and stretched it both ways.

Then she went out again. When she went out, she saw her brothers' trail. And she saw five wolves. They were sitting down and singing, "Aye... Digguddhinh aye..." She ran back in fear. She wrapped the wolverine skin around herself like a parka. When she pulled it around herself, her neck was left bare. She searched in her workbag and found a piece of striped fur. She put it on her back as a patch and put the skin back on. It became big. Again she searched in her workbag and found some fine wolverine teeth. She put them in her mouth. Then she took off the wolverine parka and the teeth and went back outside. There they were, coming nearby. When they saw her, they sat down and began to sing again, "Ayeq ya, ya yaq ya, ho! Digguddhinh itqa ho!" She ran back. She put on the wolverine skin again, and put the teeth back in her mouth. Then she ran in circles around the house in the form of a wolverine. They climbed up on top of the house and tore it apart with their teeth. Meanwhile, the woman ran around in circles, having turned into a wolverine, and she leaped among them. She ran up the trail. They chased her, and being afraid, she jumped. Beside the trail was a big spruce tree. She grabbed onto it and ran up the spruce tree. They encircled it beneath her and looked upward. Then she pushed back her hood. "My brothers," she said to them, "from now on, when you kill caribou, leave only the guts for me." Then they left her. Then the woman came down, and she too went away.