Coyote and the killer stone

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This text is an excerpt from a longer recording made by Ellen Saluskin. It was mostly translated by Virginia Beavert, and mostly transcribed by Sharon Hargus (with Virginia’s help in places).

The footnotes are for the most part explanatory comments that were made by Virginia when she first translated the recording.

Length of excerpt: 0:10:13.

Áw iwínana íiii, pá’ína— pat áwna, “kwnák iwá
now he went (so far) they= told him there there is
pshwá, k’áank ishchátpa.
stone blocking trail
‘Then he went so far, and then they told him, “there’s a huge stone, right in the center of the trail.’

Kwnákpat t’áaxw tún ánixa.
there=they everything give it
‘People give this stone all kinds of gifts.’

Páysh cháwnam mún áwyawaawnkíktí kuum cháw tún
maybe not=you ever will go around it then=you nothing
ánita.
will give it
‘You don’t go around it and never leave a gift.’

Háa’agnum áw kwnák tún áwiníchaníta, t’épí áw
must=you now there something will leave pl. for no matter now
tún.
anything
‘You must leave something there for that stone, it doesn’t matter what.’
'People give it a wife, or a horse.'

'They give it all kinds of costumes.'

'And it's all piled up by that stone.'

'But you'd better not pass it without giving it something.'

'That's what his sisters told him.'

'It’s close to where they’re celebrating with your turd.'

'Then what they’re telling him upset him, made him angry, Coyote.'

'As he was going along then he suddenly saw it, oh, that’s it, that’s the thing.'
Anakūsh %xwimix tiichámpa, p’ushtáypa nch’ípa, kw’akxít áw
just like high on ground on hill on big that must be now
iwá páysh kw’ínk ash’ikwin pánxá.
it is maybe that aforementioned that which me you told me
‘Way up there on a big hill, that must be that thing that you were telling
me about.’

Áwyam kú tún áwyunikta kwnák.
then=you something will drop it off there
‘They say that I have to leave something there (as you pass by).’

Túnxashit aukú ánitaxnay?
what-I wonder then could give it
‘What am I going to give that thing?’

Áwnash kú cháwk’a wá tún.
then=I no longer have anything
‘I don’t have anything left.’

Íiïkwín iwyánawuyuša.
there he came to it
‘Then he came upon it.’

Íi, k’úsi ákashtksha kwnák.
oh horse its is tied up there
‘Oh, he has a horse tied up here by it.’

K’úsi áwa, ku áyat, tmáy.
horse it has and woman young girl
‘He has a horse and a woman, a young girl.’

Kwnák áwa áyat kw’ínk, ku k’úsi akáshktsha
there it has wife that aforementioned and horse its is tied up
kwnák.
there
‘That’s his wife, and the horse is tied there.’
Kwaŋatpat awkú áwyanya táuman
must be=they then gave it while walking some people
kw’iŋk.
that aforementioned
‘That must be the gift that people gave him as they went by.’

Ku áwik’uksha wapáwat.
and its are piled up costume
‘And on the side there was a pile of costumes.’

Wapáwat áwik’uksha, t̰́’áaww tún wapáwat, káatnam íchi
costume its are piled up all kinds of costume long this
twináushush tamáhayki.
headress hanging down
‘The costumes were piled up, all kinds of costumes, a long eagle feather
headress, all the way down the back.’

Kwt’iŋk áwa.
that kind of thing it has
‘That’s what he has.’

Ku áwa t̰́’áaww tún k’pìt-timá shíshíx ɪk’ám, wapáwat áw
and it has everything beadwork nice pl. moccasin costume now
íchi ikush.
like this
‘Then he has everything, all the costumes are solid beadwork.’

Kwnák áw áwi’ik’uksha kw’iŋk.
there now its are piled up that aforementioned
‘It’s all piled right there.’

Pat awkú áwyanyshayka ikush túnma.
they= then gave it while walking thus people
‘And people just left it as they went by.’

Awkú iwyálwixga ku “áwx, shálawy.”
then he arrives and (sigh) tired
‘Then he came up to it and gave a big sigh, “I’m tired.”’
Awkú iwíshegliza awkú kw’álk patúl.
then he coveted one’s pl. then that aforementioned things
‘Then he began to covet the (rock’s) things that he saw around there.’

Awkú iwilyakíyiixamsh awkú Spílyáy.
then he put on leggings then Coyote
‘Then he put on the leggings.’

Táatpasíixamsh buckskinmí.
he put on tunic of buckskin
‘He put on the buckskin tunic.’

Tákmaíxamsh awkú, pinúniixíxamsh awkú.
he put on hat then he dressed himself up then
‘Then he put on the war bonnet and made himself look good.’

Tl’háaxw shíx pinákuza.
all well he makes himself
‘He groomed himself well.’

Áw iwínawanwa áyatnan kuunák.
now he went up to girl that
‘Then he went up to the girl.’

Ku ánxá, “áwna.
then he said let’s go
‘He said, “let’s go.”

Áw míshnam íchi íkush ayayásh kúšha awkú íchna
now what=you this thus stupid are doing then here
lá’ayksha. Túyay?
are sitting here leisurely why
‘You’re sitting here acting stupid. What for?’

Kutya pshwá iwá.
then actually rock he is
‘He’s just a rock.’
Kuum awká mísh kw’ánk pxwísha
then=you then something that aforementioned are thinking
tán pshwá íchi lá’ayksha kwnákw kuum kwnáxi something rock this are sitting leisurely there and=you there too
awká ímech’a ayíksha?”
then lowly you are sitting
‘Then you see this rock here, and then you’re sitting by it?’

Mísh ikú— “áwna, ayayáshwishaam, áwna.”
let’s go are acting dumb=you let’s go
‘Let’s go, don’t act so dumb, let’s go.”

Áw ináxawna, áw ináxawna, áw. now he invites her now he invites her now
‘Then he just kept urging her and urging her to go with him.’

Áw t’áaxwíshktx awkú múími cháw wiyat pshwá now entirely-must be then already almost stone kw’ánk iwitxanashayksha awkú áyat that aforementioned are becoming then woman kw’ánk ku kúshXi kw’ánk k’úsí. that aforementioned and similarly that aforementioned horse
‘This woman was gradually turning into stone, and so was the horse.’

Áw miskilú átxanaa k’úsí kw’áxi kw’ánk. now barely his became horse again that aforementioned
‘Then he began working on that horse, and it barely came back, and began to have horse-life.’

Pshwák’azash awkú múími iwáyka wílk anakúsh pshwá rock-must be then already it crossed half just like rock itxánashaykxa kw’ánk k’úsí. it was becoming that aforementioned horse
‘I guess that horse was almost turning into stone.’

Áw, íchi itamántatíxamsh awkú áwinaxama awkú oh this he’s leading this way then he comes to it then tamítamágwísha wyak’lágyaw kw’ánk k’úsí. is forgetting taking steps that aforementioned horse
‘Then he started leading that horse away, but it didn’t remember how to take a step.’

“Íi, míshnamtxat awkú?”
hey what’s wrong with you then
“Hey, what’s wrong with you?”’

Wapáwalitya awkú iwá.
decorated actually then it is
‘But it was still costumed.’

Áw íchi áyatk’a kw’ánk.
now this woman that aforementioned
‘Then (he turned to) the woman.’

Miskilúki áw pátwana áyatin.
reluctantly now she started to accompany him woman
‘She reluctantly went with him finally.’

Awkú íchi ishapáwasha awkú áyatnan ánachnik, wát’ugchnik pách
then this he made ride then woman behind in front he
iwásha awkú.
he rode then
‘Then he put the woman on the horse behind him.’

Awkú paxásuwihaykxayksha awkú.
then they’re riding away down then
‘Then they rode down.’

K’úsi kw’ánk ináníinixayksh awkú ku áyat
horse that aforementioned he carried one’s away then and woman
ku wapáwat t’h’aaw.
and costume all
‘He just took the horse and the woman all the costumes away.’

Aaaaaawkú, papanátixayksh.
(finally) then they started to climb away
‘Then they started to climb up.’

1It had stiff legs.
Thus they started to climb away
'They started to climb up like that.'

At that time he heard a sound this way
(rolling sound)
'Then there was a sound, a rolling sound.'

Now it’s audible
'He heard the sound.'

He would hit that horse
'He would hit that horse.'

He would hit and not he made it run that aforementioned horse
'The horse wouldn’t gallop when he would hit it.'

Not similarly that aforementioned woman no
'It was the same way with that woman.'

Then stone then half already they are
'They were already turning into stone.'

He threw himself down then Coyote right away then
'Then Coyote jumped off (the horse).'

He started to run then there then that his is horse
'Then he just ran and left the horse and the girl.'
Iwilá’uy awkú iwágyti.
he started to run then he ran
‘He took off running.”

Awkú iwilá’uy íiiikwí íwí’ílpsh.
then he ran that far he ran to the top
‘Then he ran clear to the top.’

“Cháwtya mül íwí’ízmsh íchil íchí.
not ever it speeds up this way here this
“He can’t roll up this mountain.’

Áwxtat ishaláw— itáakwlimta íkwlak
now-must be it’ll do this and that this way there
ishaláwimta íkwülimta tì’íks.”
it’ll get tired this way it’ll get stuck this way soon
‘He’ll get tired, he can’t roll up this way, he’ll get stuck.”

Kwálik awkú ikátkw’alatixamsh awkú
from that place then he suddenly started walking this way then
ìwáayki.
slowly
‘Then he just started walking slowly.’

“Íiiií, íchíl,” ilicháwíga, “íiii íchíyat áw múmí
oh here he looks back oh this now already
wú’ilpírmsh.”
it’s speeding to the top
‘Then he turned around and looked, “oh, there he is, coming right up to
the top.”’

Íkw’ak iwilá’uyxá íííí iwáhaykxa.
there he starts to run down (indicating distance) he runs down
‘He ran downhill again.’

2ilicháwi- from alacháwi-
Páwi-, páwi- iwílápaxa ákwuni izátamaynaka k'úuílpa.
he swerves that way he fell into in hole

‘He swerved off to the side, into a hole.’

Páwayiwnaxa íchna kwnlík pshwáyín, yúuuum, kuuni that way it quickly passes him here that rock way over
k'úul lpa.
in hole

‘That rock passed him over and rolled down on to the bottom.’

Ilápatutixa áw “áiii, chyawáw.
he rises up now oh bad

‘He rose up and said “oh, (you) bad thing.’

Ískawskausaas inách’a míshtxtxash kwa tún pšwíshana
it’s scaring=me poor me what for something was thinking
míshnash áwyayts’usa.
whether=I am afraid of it

‘He’s scaring me around, thinking I was afraid of him for some reason.’

Áwlas tl’áks íkush áak ákutá.
now=I soon thus that will do to him

‘Now I’ll do that to him.’

Áw áak yáanwa iwáygti míin.”
now that forever he runs somewhere
‘Just let him take off and go where he’s rolling.”’

Awkú itkw’anátítixamsh awkú
then he started strolling this way then
iwýáволptaytxamsh áw, iiíikwin.
he’s walking and singing this way now all the way there

‘Then he started strolling on down, singing his song.’

Ch’ilú’ ikák’inuwxá áw múmi íchi
quickly glancing back he suddenly sees now already this
wí’ílpshamsh kw’áxi.

it’s speeding to the top this way again

‘Then he looked back, and sure enough, there he was again, coming at him.’
Iiiit! Iwilá’uxxa áw.
oh he starts to run now
‘Then he took off again running.’

Kwa kú túpan awkú áak pinánicha kúuk.
don’t know in what then that he hid himself at that time
‘I don’t remember what it was he hid himself in.’

Ánach’axi pátwapatyá páwiikwshtika.
again it chased him it missed him
‘When it chased him it missed him.’

Áwayxtyá awkú wiyat.
it went away then far
‘And it went/rolled far away.’

Kúuk awkú kwálk itká’ayka awkú, “áwnash
at that time then there he sat up then now=I
wyáts’xsaplisa.”
am going along defecating and asking
‘Then he sat up and oh, “I’m going to ask (my sisters) again.”’

Áwpatl áwawk’ana awkú átsha.
now=they reprimanded him then younger sisters
‘Then his sisters really reprimanded him.’

“Táynam tún ìkw’ak ákwíiinisha th’áaxw tún táatpas,kapú
why=you thing that are bothering one’s everything tunic coat ìkw’ak?
that
“Why are you disturbing his things?’

Th’áaxw ówikwyh’kanik.
all take one’s (pl.) off quickly
‘Take it all off.’
Cháwnam mún itxawshpúnta háaynam t'Hí mún not=you ever he will stop with until=you soon some time 
ìlh 'yawíta." will kill 'He won’t stop chasing you until he kills you.”

Awkú kwulák iwísaptatpasíxa túl ìkw’ak. then that he’s dressing pl. thing that
‘Then he started dressing something that was sitting there, put the costumes on it.’

Shápála’aykxa awkú ákwuni tináynaktkan iláwalaptsísha he made it sit then there to west it’s looking off into distance wildcard awkú. then
‘Then he made that thing sit there all dressed up looking to the west.’

Áw t'Háp awkú piníłmamaykxa awkú p'ilk. on his own then he hides himself then he
‘Then he hid himself.’

Iwáyxtixa awkú. he runs away then
‘Then he ran away.’

Íííikwín áw, pshwá kw’ínk iwámsh, awkú way over there now rock that aforementioned it’s coming then iwáyxtishamsh iwilá’ywashamsh. it’s rolling towards him it’s starting to run this way
‘Way over there then that rock was just rolling towards him.’

Ku áwyak’innxa “ìchìgash áw p'íngxí then it saw him while moving this-must have now he again ispilyáywishana ichna.” he was acting like Coyote here
‘Then it said, “oh, this is where he must have been acting like Coyote.”

12
He went past that dummy that he made.

He didn't do anything to it— that was his plan.

Then the rock came down.

Then it chased Coyote.

Five times like that he chased him.

‘There’s this deep canyon and there’s a river there.’

I’m going to run right straight down into that water, long distance down.’
Kwnák awkú th’iks itʰúwpíwihaykfíta akw’ak pshwá
there then soon it will jump down that way that rock
kw’ünk chíshpa iwítamáwinkkíta.
that aforementioned in water it will swerve off
‘That’s where that rock is going to roll down and he’ll just roll right over
the ledge, won’t be able to stop.’

K’ush awkú kú iwíl’aiyná nnnnnnnn akwín awkú,
then then he took off running (indicating effort) there then
anakwnák kw’ünk chísh awkú iwá imíti iwánasha,
where that aforementioned water then there is down it’s flowing
nch’í wána.
big river
‘He just took off and ran with all his might, then right towards where this
big deep river is flowing.’

Kwnák awkú i— pinítzatamáxaapa akush tnánpa.
there then he threw himself in between thus at cliff
‘Then when he got down there he threw himself in between two things at a
cliff at the foot of the mountain.’

Kwnák pawiikwshtiika pawatikáshiinima twín.
there it missed him it stepped on one’s tail
‘Then he missed him (while it was passing him), but it rolled over his tail.’

Pawiikwshtiika awkú áłpwiliika awkú akwín
it missed him then it jumped past him into water then into that
chíshyaaw kw’ünk pshwá.
into water that aforementioned rock
‘It splashed into the river.’

K’pút akush pshwá plásh.
round thus rock white
‘It was a round, white stone.’

Áłpwiliika awkú.
it jumped past him into water then
‘It jumped right past him into the water.’
Íkwín awkú įntwanayka awkú “íkwnaknam áw yánaw:váta, there then he called after it then there=you now forever will be chūshpa, in water

‘That’s when he called after it, “from this day forward, that’s where you will stay forever, in the water.’

Cháwnam mún tún wáta kw’aalí. not=you ever anything will be dangerous being

‘You will no longer be a dangerous being.’

 Háaynam awkú ka’áw pashúkwaashata tínnaa anakú required=you then although they will know people when pákwitata íkwnak iwá spiyáy, they will walk there there is place where Coyote made prediction

‘Or maybe when they go by sometimes those people that know will say that’s where there is a prediction.’

Kuum awkú tún pawi-áah, cháw, íkwnak iwá then=you then something (correction) no there there is kw’aalí pshwá kwénk. dangerous stone that aforementioned

‘That’s where that dangerous stone is.’

Ku tún pawyánizata awkú. and something they will give while walking then

‘Sometimes they might drop by and give you something.’

Cháwnam mún H’áaxwnan tínnaa anakwÁ ikwikítata kuum not=you ever all people as many as will walk by and=you awkú kwänänák átwapinta.” then that many will chase around

‘You will no longer chase around those people that passed you by and didn’t give you anything.”’

Kwnák áw itánawika Spiyáy. there now he predicted Coyote

‘That’s the prediction Coyote made right there.’