

"MAGPIE AND THE MOON"

AND - KÚ	MOON - ALXÁYX
BASKET - ÁNPSH	MOONBEAM - ALXÁYXMI LÁKAYXIT
BEAK - WÁPTAS	MOONLIGHT - ALXÁYMI LÁKAYXIT
BIRD - KAKYA	NIGHT - STS'ÁAT
BLACK - CHMÚK	ONE DAY - NAXSHI ɛKWÍ
BLUE - LÁMT	PURPLE - LÚMT
BROWN - LÚCH'A	SECRET - SHUKÁT
COTTONWOODS - XÁP'XAP'ASH	SHORT - KÁYWA
COTTONWOOD TWIGS - XÁP'XAP	ÍLKWAAS
CROW - A'A	SKY - TÚUXAN
DAYLIGHT - XÁYXIT	STAR - XASLÚ
EVENING - ANÁSHKITAN	SUN - ÁAN
EVENING STAR - XASLÚ-YAY	SUN - ÁANYAY
FACE - TPÍSH	SUNDOWN - ANÁSHT
FEATHERS - WÁPTAS	SUNRISE - XÁYXIT
FIELDS - TÍICHAM	TAIL - TWÍN
FOOL - CHILWÍT WAPSÚX	TEARS - ɛP'Úɛ
FRIENDS - XÁYMA	THREADS - WISXÁWAS
HIGH BRANCH - XÁP'XAP ÍLKWAAS	TREE - ÍLKWAAS
JACK RABBIT - WÍLALIK	TRICK - SAPTÁYÁKSHA
JACK RABBIT - WÍLALIKYAY	VALLEY - TÍICHAM
LEAVES - APÁXAPX	WHITE - PLÁSH
LITTLE - IKSÍKS	WOMEN - ÁYAT-
MAGPIE - ÁY'AY	YAKIMA PEOPLE - TÍINMA

"MAGPIE AND THE MOON"

BY NANCY CHAPMAN

(FOR LENA OWENS)

ONCE MAGPIE (ÁY'AY), WHO LIVES IN THE COTTONWOODS (XAPXAPÍLKWAAS) AND FLIES ACROSS THE BROWN (LÚCH'A) LOWLAND FIELDS (TICHAM) LOOKED AS BLACK (CHMÚK) AS A CROW (A'A). MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) ALSO HAD A TÍL (TWIN) AS SHORT (KÁYWA) AS CROW'S (A'A). BUT ONE DAY (EKWÍ), MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) GOT TO TALKING WITH JACK RABBIT (WÍLALIK) WHO TOLD OF CAPTURING SUN (ÁAN), AND MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) DECIDED HE, TOO, WANTED AN ADVENTURE TO BRAG ABOUT. MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) THOUGHT AND THOUGHT ABOUT HOW HE MIGHT BE MORE DARING THAN JACK RABBIT (WÍLALIK). AT LAST MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) HAD AN IDEA. "I WILL GO AND HARNESS THE MOON (ALXÁYX)," MAGPIE VOWED. THEN SURELY THE YAKIMA PEOPLE (TÍINMA) WILL TALK ABOUT MY DEEDS.

TOWARDS EVENING (ANASHTIKAN), MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) FLEW TO THE TOP OF THE TALLEST COTTONWOOD (XAPXAP ÍLKWAAS) IN HIS VALLEY (TÍICHAM). PRETTY SOON THE SKY (TÚUXAN) CHANGED FROM BLUE (LÁMT) TO PURPLE (LÚMT), AND MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) GREETED EVENING STAR (XASLU KWLAAWIT). MAGPIE STRETCHED HIS BEAK (WÁPTAS) TOWARD THE STAR (XASLU), BUT HE COULD NOT TOUCH IT. "OH, HOW WILL I CAPTURE THE MOON (ALXÁYX) IF I CANNOT EVEN REACH A LITTLE (IKSÍKS) STAR (XASLU)?"

WHILE MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) THOUGHT ABOUT HIS PROBLEM, THE NIGHT (STS'AT) BECAME AS BLACK (CHMÚK) AS HIS FEATHERS (WÁPTAS). "PERHAPS I WILL NEVER BE FAMOUS LIKE JACK RABBIT (WÍLALIK)," HE MOANED. MEANWHILE, MOON (ALXÁYX) HERSELF HAD BEEN SNEAKING UP BEHIND THE BUSHES.

MOON (ALXÁYX) HAD BEEN LISTENING TO MAGPIE'S (ÁY'AY) THOUGHTS AND HAD DECIDED TO PLAY A TRICK (SAPTÁYÁKSHA) ON HIM. MOON (ALXÁYX) CAST HER BRILLIANT WHITE (PLÁSH) BEAMS FROM COTTONWOOD (XAPXAP ÍLKWAAS) TO COTTONWOOD (XAPXAP ÍLKWAAS) FORMING A BEAUTIFUL LATTICEWORK NET. MOON' (ALXÁYX'S) NET HAD THREADS (WISXÁWAS) AS FINE AS THE BEADING THREAD (WISXÁWAS) OF THE YAKIMA WOMEN (ÁYAT), AND MOON (ALXÁYX) COULD PULL HER MOONBEAM THREADS (WISXÁWAS) VERY TIGHT. MOON (ALXÁYX) WAS GOING TO LET MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) GET SO CLOSE TO HER THAT HE COULD BATHE IN THE LIGHT OF HER FACE (TPÍSH). HOWEVER, MOON'S (ALXÁYX) FINE NET WOULD CAPTURE MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) AND LEAVE ITS WHITE (PLÁSH) MARK.

MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) SHIFTED ON THE HIGH (XAPXAP ÍLKWAAS) BRANCH AND SAW WITH A START THAT ALL THE NEARBY TREES WERE DRENCHED IN MOONLIGHT (ALXÁYXMI LAKÁYIT). "OH, BUT MOON (ALXÁYX) HERSELF MUST BE CLOSE. I WILL BEND THESE COTTONWOOD (XAPXAP ÍLKWAAS) TWIGS SO THAT THEY PIERCE AND HOLD HER WHEN SHE COMES TO MY TREE."

MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) STRIPPED LEAVES (APIXÁPX) FROM THE BRANCHES, AND MADE THE TWIG ENDS SHARP BY USING HIS BEAK (WÁPTAS). SOON MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) HAD A CIRCLE SHAPE OF TWIGS, ALMOST LIKE A BASKET (ÁNPSH). SURE ENOUGH, MOON (ALXÁYX) ROSE SO HIGH SHE CAME TO HIS TREE (ÍLKWAAS) AND RIGHT INTO THE BASKET (ÁNPSH) PRISON MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) HAD MADE.

MOON (ALXÁYX) CRIED, "OH, MAGPIE (ÁY'AY), I AM CAUGHT. YOUR TWIGS ARE PIERCING MY FACE (TPÍSH). YOU HAVE CAUSED ME INJURY. COME NEAR ENOUGH TO SEE MY TEARS (EP'ÚE)."

FOOLISHLY, MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) DID. HE HOPPED OVER TO THE TWIG TRAP AND LEANED CLOSE TO SEE MOON'S (ALXÁYX'S) TEARS (EP'ÚE). AS HE DID, MOON (ALXÁYX) ROSE FURTHER, AND PUSHED THE UNLUCKY BIRD (KAKYA) OFF HER PERCH, AND HE FELL INTO HER MOONBEAM (ALXÁYXMI LÁKAYIT) NET.

HADN'T BEEN THE VICTOR, FOR THAT NIGHT (STS'ÁT), THE MOON (ALXÁYX) CAME BACK AT PRECISELY THE RIGHT MOMENT.

TIME (WIYÁEKWI) WAS IN BALANCE. GRASSHOPPER (T'IT'SH) AND COYOTE (SPILYÁ) WENT ABOUT IN THEIR PRESCRIBED TIMES--GRASSHOPPER (T'IT'SH) WORKING (KÚTKUTSHA) DURING THE DAYLIGHT (KÁYXPA), AND COYOTE (SPILYÁ) DILIGENTLY AND THANKFULLY WORKING (KÚTKUTSHA) DURING NIGHTTIME (STS'ÁTPA); AND NEITHER HAD THOUGHTS ABOUT LETTING FOOLISHNESS (PALÁYWIT) ECLIPSE GOOD (NÍIX) REASON AGAIN.

"HA," EXCLAIMED MOON (ALXÁYX), "DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD TRAP ME? DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT I, TOO, KNOW THE STORY OF HOW JACK RABBIT (WÍLALIK) TRAPPED SUN (ÁAN), AND HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYONE CAPTURE ME?" WITH THAT, MOON (ALXÁYX) SNAPPED HER INTRICATE NET SHUT, AND MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) WAS BOUND FAST.

"OH MOON (ALXÁYX), I AM SORRY NOT TO HAVE RESPECTED YOUR POWER. MUST I STAY HERE FOREVER? MY FRIENDS (XÁYMA) WILL SEE ME NO MORE AND SAY I HAVE DIED LIKE A FOOL (CHILWÍT WAPSÚX).

"WELL, MAGPIE (ÁY'AY), ARE YOU TRULY SORRY?" ASKED MOON (ALXÁYX), WHO WATCHED HER FEATHERED PRISONER STRUGGLING IN THE BRIGHT BEAMS.

"YES, MOON (ALXÁYX). I AM TRULY SORRY. I ONLY WANTED TO BE WELL THOUGHT OF AT YOUR EXPENSE," ADMITTED MAGPIE (ÁY'AY).

"IF YOU REALIZE IT IS NOT GOOD TO BRAG WHEN YOU HAVE INJURED SOME-ONE ELSE, THEN I WILL FREE YOU," SAID MOON (ALXÁYX). SO SHE DID.

MOON (ALXÁYX) ROSE FURTHER IN THE SKY AND LOOSENED HER SILVER THREADS (WISXAWAS) AND DREW THEM HIGH INTO THE SKY AFTER HER. MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) WAS LEFT BEHIND IN THE BLACK (CHMÚK) NIGHT (STS'ÁATPA) AND HE DECIDED IT WAS GOING TO BE HIS SECRET (SHUKÁT) ABOUT HOW MOON (ALXÁYX) CAUGHT HIM.

ONLY, WHEN DAYLIGHT (XAYXIT) CAME, HIS FRIENDS SAW HIS FEATHERS (WAPTAAS) HAD BEEN BLEACHED WHITE (PLÁSH) IN PLACES. AND ONE THING ELSE, HIS TAIL (TWÍN) HAD BEEN TANGLED BADLY IN THE MOONBEAM (ALXÁYXMI LÁKAYXIT) NET AND HAD STRETCHED WHEN HE HAD TRIED TO PULL IT FREE.

"YES, FRIENDS," MAGPIE (ÁY'AY) ADMITTED. "SOMETHING DID HAPPEN TO ME BETWEEN SUNDOWN (ANÁSHT) AND SUNRISE (XÁYXIT). SINCE I LOOK DIFFERENT NOW, I CANNOT HIDE MY SECRET (SHUKÁT). I WILL TELL YOU MY STORY." AND HE DID.