iththâan uumkun va'áraarashanik paxuntáppan

Once Long Ago the Acorns Were People

(October 27, 1928. Told by Phoebe Maddux's mother.)

1. **iththâan uumkun va'áraaras-hanik paxuntáppan.**
   Once long ago the acorns were people.

2. **xás kinippêer chími kúvyiihshipreevish.**
   Then they tell them:[7] You are going to turn (into acorns).

3. **koovúr éek yâamachhasheesh pamikun'ápxaan.**
   All of your hats must be pretty.

4. **kári xás kunvíikvanaa pamukun'ápxaan .**
   And then they weave their hats.

5. **kunpiip: kóovúra ík apxanyâamachchas í(k) ku'íthxuunaatihveesh.**
   They say: "You all must wear good-looking hats."

6. **chimaxmáy vúra chéemyaach pakinipêer chími kívyiihshipriv.**
   Suddenly they tell them: "Hurry up and leave.

7. **káruma yaas'ára tu'íinish.**
   The fact is that humanity has come into existence."[8]

8. **xás uum xánthiip púv ipthíth pamúpxaan.**
   Black Oak has not finished her hat yet.

9. **xás vaa vúra u'ûussip pamu'asipxánnahich.**
   Then she picks up her big long Indian cup.

10. **káru uum xúnyav púva tákkuk.**
    Tanoak acorn has not yet cleaned off the projecting strands from the inside.

11. **púva tákkukhanik.**
    She did not trim it.

12. **xás vaa vúra úthxuunanik.**
    But she wore it just the same.

13. **u'ûuvrinani kich.**

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[7] Someone told them—some *ikxaréeyav* told them.

[8] They are coming to raise [or coming into existence] here on this earth.

She just turns it inside out.

14. **tóopthith uuma vúra.**
She has finished her hat.

15. **xás axváam kích uum vúra tupikyaanayâachha.**
So then only White Oak Acorn finishes out her hat good.

16. **tó optákkukmar .**
She has trimmed it off good inside.

17. **káru uum xánpuut uum káru yâamach tóokyav pamúpxaan.**
And Live Oak Acorn makes her hat nice-looking,

18. **kári xás xúnyav uppiip:**
Then Tan Oak says:

19. **kínnikini naa vúra xúnyav, ník áta vaa pananípxaan takúkkipux.**
"I want to be Tan Oak Acorn—I'll be the best acorns anyway though my hat isn't scraped.[9]"

20. **kári xás kunívyiihship.**
Then they all leave.

21. **ôok yas'ara'ithívthaaneen kuníyvaayramnih.**
Here they spill it onto *yaas'ára* [the humans'] country.

22. **kári xás kunpiip: yas'ara'îin nuu kinpáttatiheesh.**
And then they say: "Humans will eat us with a spoon."

23. **uumkun kár ikxaréeyavsahanik.**
They were ikxareeyavs too.

24. **uumkun paynanu'ávahkam veekxaréeyavsahanik.**
They were heavenly ikxareeyavs.

25. **apxáanak kunpavpíramnihanik xás pa'ookithívthaaneen kuníyvaayramnihanik.**
They turned their faces into their hats when they came to this earth.

26. **payváheem vúra kári apxansúruk pamukún'aav.**
Nowadays they still have their faces under their hats.

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[9] She was mad at *axváam*, *xánpuut* and at *xánthip*; she was jealous, and wished that humans would not use them much. She was mad at all three, but was maddest at *axváam* & *xánpuut* and prayed that humans would not use them much—she's black that *axváam*. *xánpuut* was good looking all over, good body & good dress. And *xánthiip* had striped body paint on, painted herself so nice: *uxúrippahi*, she is striped.

Summary and Commentary:

xánthiip uxúripahitihanik, was painted with stripes.

Once, when informant was a little girl, her mother told her: "Pick up those *xuntáppan* with white faces on, don't pick up those that don't have white faces, for those are rotten, because they are old."

véek kích i'íffiktiheesh pa'avtáahkoos.
Pick up one by one the white-faced ones.

xáyfaatik i'êechip suv usururúprinaahitih.
Don't pick up acorn that have (worm) hole in it. (Ct. *xáyfaatik immúutsip*, don't pick (dpi.) one by one (but all in a bunch).

Comments:

axváam is earliest acorn—it came when everyone was hungry. It is hard to pound up but people used lots of it—used to pound them when they were green yet.

The *xánpuut* is also hard to pound. They never soak *axvaam*. They do not use much *axváam* now. *xánthip* doesn't taste very good. They used to use it mostly for making bread: it sticks on the rock better than other acorns for making bread.

xúnyav always was the kind they used so much.

(See another version of the text on the Acorn Maidens dated January 1, [1929 and published in *Karuk Indian Myths*].)

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