xunyavpíkvah
The Story of Tan Oak Acorn

Told by Lottie Beck (No date)
To William Bright[11]

1. **kári ithívthaaneen tó oththárish, xás paxunt´ppan tá kun'íffar.**
   They are creating (literally, laying down) the world, and the acorns come to grow.

2. **pamukun'ápxaan tá kunvíikvunaa.**
   They are weaving their caps.

3. **chêech ík vúra kupthíththeesh.**
   "You must finish weaving quickly."

4. **xás vúra tá kunyáavha.**
   And so they hurry.

5. **xánpuut káru xánthiip itheekxarámva vúra pákunvik.**
   Live[12] Oak and Black Oak weave all day and all night.

6. **xás chêech kunípthith.**
   And they quickly finish weaving.

7. **xás tá kunkariháyaachha.**
   And they are all ready.

8. **yáas xunyêep tá kunpíppeer tikárihahum nik.**
   Then they tell Tan Oak, "Are you ready?"

9. **nuu tá núpthith panunúpxaan.**
   "We've finished weaving our caps."

10. **xás xunyêep uppíip naa yáas áachip kóo nivíiktih.**
    And Tan Oak says, "I've just woven it half-way."

11. **xás kunippêer manâa vúra tá núpsaamkir.**
    And they tell her, "Perhaps we're leaving you behind."

12. **xás uppíi pûu, vaa vúra níthxuuneesh, kárumaník áachip kóo tuvíkkahitih.**

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[11] In *The Karok Language* (UC Berkeley: Berkeley), pp. 224-227. I have altered the past tenses of Bright's English to conform with the present tense which is used by the teller in Káruk.
[12] "Live" replacing Bright's "Maul."

And she says, "No, I'll wear it this way, (though) the fact is that it's only woven half-way.

13. **yaxxéek vúra ní kunxússeesh xuntáppan tu'íffar.**
"They'll know (literally, 'think,') that Tan Oak Acorn has come to grow.

14. **kíri naa vúra kích yaas'arara'îi na'áamti káru táppas neekyâavish.**
"May mankind eat me alone and take care of me!"

15. **víri îifuti tá nunívyiihma pakáan kun'íffeesh, vúra vaa uthivkêetih.**
So, sure enough, they arrive where they are going to grow—she accompanied them like that.

16. **xás kinipêer chími kiivyíhish.**
And they are told, "Gather together."

17. **xánpuut kípa fâat pamúpxaan káru xánthiip.**
Live Oak and Black Oak have beautiful caps.

18. **xás xuntáppan kunipêer hûut iim u'íinati kúth papu'ipthíththaheen pamípxaan.**
And they say to Tan Oak, "What's the matter with you that you haven't finished weaving your cap?"

19. **xás uppiip uumkun itheekxarámva kunvíiktih.**
And she says, "*They* are weaving day and night.

20. **kóova kíri kanéepshaamkir.**
"They wanted so much to leave me behind.

21. **ayu'âach kanaxxússeenti kâanimich.**
"It was because they are thinking, 'She's poor.

22. **hôoy íf yaxxéek yaas'ara'îin kunxússeesh húut.**
" 'Mankind won't think (about her) in any way.'"

23. **xás yaas'ara'îin kunipêeer, iim kumá'ii pa'ára u'íinahaak i'áamtiheeshap, vaa kúth puharíxxay xúrihitiheesh.**
Then Man told her, "For your sake, when people exist, they will eat you, because of that they will never have hunger.

24. **iim pa'avahéeshiipheesh.**
"You will be the best food.

25. **káruma ník apxanyâamachas tá kunpithxunátiihva, yaas'arara;îin pu'ithváaftiheeshap.**

The fact is, (the others) wear pretty caps, (but) Mankind won't have much use for them.