

Taquka'aq Arnaq - Bear Woman

by Clyda Christiansen

Niugtaarliit cuumi taquka'aq-ruq alingnartuq allringumek carlialek; pisuillrungakut taugna.
They always said before that a bear with one cub is dangerous; you're not supposed to hunt it.



Tawa-lluq mal'ugnek carlialek, pingayunek alinganililuki taquka'araat.
And so those with two or three cubs are not as dangerous of bears.

Awa petta, una arnaq wiingan...
So then, this one woman and her husband...

Winga pisuryartaarluni arnaq tamarpian "Ayaa, pill'uni."
Her husband would always go out hunting and each time the woman (said), "Catch something."



"Pill'uni, tailluni."
"Come and catch something."

"Pitami tailluki home"
"Bring some catch home."

Nek'rkak isuwirsugluni caqinek, saqul'aasugluni.
He went seal hunting or something, or duck hunting for food.



Pettam qayani qinerlluku tailluni-llu home.
And so (later) she would look for him in his kayak, wondering when he would come home too.

Awa-ruq petta awa'i taiqiaingami pitnirluni.
But then, when he came he stopped bringing any catch.

Tailuni angilluni petta awakan wiinga akigagluku pitiniluni
But when her husband came and returned, he didn't have any catch.

Mal'uk caqaipe [unintelligible] awa'i.
And so those two had nothing...



Awa taaten calilunek'ruani cali kiluni pisuryarluni.
And then he did something where they were at and he was off to go hunting.

Taillit cestunilu [unintelligible] awa'i put'ickam petta nulira niuglluku.
They came ... and so the songbird tells the wife about it.

"Aipan-ruq iqlluraten aiparpet. Aipan tekitganaken qayagun ika'ut qumulan- qumulanruarani.
"Your darn partner is lying to you. As your partner comes by kayak to that outcropping there...



“Caniyanun tep’ranaken tawagun pitganaken aqumyatukina tawa’ut kaingan qumulunan.”
“As soon as he gets near, as soon as he lands, you go sit over there on top of that little hill.”

Tang’rhniqulluq ciqlluaquq tang’rciqan puwirluni tawaken qumulunam qainganek.
She keeps an eye out for when the sod house is emitting smoke, watching after that from on top of that little hill.



That’s that point, a point.

Taugna qaingagun qainganek tang’rciqan tepllaq puwirciquq.
From high above, if you see it, that one will be smoking, sending off a good scent.



Tawani-ruq mal’uk arnak minartek pitallerminek.
Right there, he was giving his catch to those two women.

Awa-llu petta tailuni ellpenun angilluni niulluten pitniriluni.
And so he is coming to you, he will go back and tell you he didn’t get anything.

Pitallini taugkugnun arnagnun tunkegluku.
He would give his catch that he gets to the two women.

Awa-llu taugkuk arnak pitarlliik asircarluki uksugkamen lliilarluki.
She wonders what catch those two women were getting ready for winter, putting food up.



Put’ickam tawa niutkacami tawani aqumrarluni.
The songbird says that’s all she should do over there is just sit and wait.

Pettam taquka’arem caken ellin aqililuku aqumrarluni.
And so the bear (woman) just sits there across from it chewing.

Unaiyuncarluku.
She was softening up something.

Allrak-qaa caqiq ellin nalluyautaqa.
Maybe, I forget what it was.



Nat-qaa? Taquka’arem allrak-qaa unaiyulluku tapi just like a plastic caqirllria.
Hmm? I forget what bear (woman) is chewing as she makes it into something soft like a plastic.

Cali una uswillrani cali akinilluku tuki atukutarlutek.
And for her child she chewed it so that those two were going to use it.



Taquka’araullutek tawani.
Those two were going to become bear.

Kum'gluni aqumrarluni kingan tawaken niugkauka caqik tauguk.
She was sits there, mad. At his place after that she'd tell him something about those two.



Arnak tekiluni tawa wiinga tawaken tang'rhniqluku kana'i
After that she arrived at the two women, keeping an eye out for her husband down there.

Tekican aswarwiqlukek tauguk applukek qai-cali wiignan pitai tuulartartaarluki; kum'gluni
When she arrives, she is mad and confronts those two and asks why her husband always takes his catch to them.

Tawaken petta ciqluami asulilutek tauguk arnak kum'gluni taugna arnak.
Nearby the sod house, those two women were getting the pot set up.



Angasua taugna tuuluku ciqluam iluani iterurluku kem'gam pettam eglluku kuagkwarluku kana
kuagluku.
She carried her partner into the sod house where she threw the (woman's) meat to burn her up.

Tuquluni cali angasua nuuyan nanganran ikugluku.
She died and her partner hid and when she stood up she finds her.

Cali itwigluku ciqluam tawa'ut iluanun eglluku kenermen.
And she came into the sod house and threw her into the fire there.



Kenermen gainiq tawa'ut asumen nalluwaqa.
Into the fire from on top to there into the pot, I don't know.

Awa'i petta aqumlluku awa tuqullukek.
And so she sat by those two that she killed.

Tamak'gta arnak tauguk.
Both of those two women.

Pettam aqumllukek ciqluam caniyunun aipaa.
And so she sat one beside sod house and then the other one.



Aipaa uka'ut-raq caniyani cali aqumllukek. Aqumarkwarkaiukut tawani.
Beside the other one, a little bit over, she sat those two. She made them sit up over there.

Pettam ellin nuuyaluni ciqluam tunwanun.
And then she hid behind the sod house.

Taugna akilirluni tuumiaqlluku cali carliani, carliani niuglluku nepaicaqlluku.
Across from that she was holding her baby, and she tells the baby to be quiet.



“Taata taikan taatamek allrak atatan aprtarllumaluki.”
“So when your father comes, maybe your father will ask for them...”

“Taata-ruq taikan taillkina qelltailuten.”
“Your darn father when he comes, you peel him (tear him up).”

“Nepaicaqlluku.”
“Be quiet.”

Ika-ruq petta awa’i igwarluni tailuni.
Way far over there so he came into sight.

Ayaa, qayaq tekisngaruakainerluni.
Ah-oh, the kayak arrived full of what he had caught.

Pitcimaluni pisuryat, pisuryat awa’i caqinek.
He must have caught lots of catch, his catch was almost everything.

Awa, cuglluni kana’ut ukuk arnak nani et’aartek.
And so, she looks down there to where these two women live.

Tawa’ut culurtuq. Culungan...excuse me.
He was heading toward the shore. When he landed on the beach...excuse me.

Culurcami petta niugkaiyalukek kita-ruq taitek.
He called out as he landed on the beach to those two to come on right now.

Iwartegnaki pitani-qaa?
(He wondered) why they didn’t go get his catch?

Pek’tsugkunatek taugkuk, tawani aqumalutek.
Those two were not working, they were just sitting over there.

Qaugcinek kayayarallukek.
He called to them many times.

Qayu-llu? Qayu-llu tain’itstek taquyarlukek?
What’s going on? How come those two don’t come (he wondered)?

Uuc’sngatuk qal’irluni. Qal’irluni tupagluni.
They are cooked and he screams out. He screams and is frightened.

Tamarta kangirciquk ucungauk you know.
All at once he understands it that they are cooked, you know.

Ucungulukek giinakek tuqumalutek.
Their faces looked like they are cooked and they were dead.

Tawaken nulira tekiguarluni ciqlluam, ciqlluam tunguanek.
After that his wife just reaches the sod house's, the sod house's rear.

Suumaciwitun pitguarluni cestun, "Gua'i gui."
As a person now, she comes out (and says), "Here I am."



Kesiin taugna akilillan tuumiaqlluku. Tuumiaqlluku paniyani. Tuumiaqlluku.
Except she was carrying something she was chewing on. She was carrying her daughter...

Awa'i wiini piluku, "Gua'i-ruq iqlucem."
And so her husband called out to her, "Here damn it, you fool."



"Ika'unek tang'rciqamken iqluurlua.
"Even from over there, I see that you keep telling me lies.

"Pitnerniluten, ukuk arnak pisurtekllukek."
"You were saying you didn't catch anything, and you were hunting for these two women."

Taugna petta all'uku taquka'arem amia.
And so she put on the bear's skin.

Taquka'arem amia all'uku. Taquka'arualuni. Taquka'aruqlluni amiq.
She put on the bear's skin. She became a bear. The skin made her a bear.



All'aminek. Cali paniyani taugna amianek cali all'uku.
After she put (her bear skin) on, she put a skin on her daughter, too.

Cali taugngcuk taquka'aruqlluni.
And that little one she became a bear.

Tawaken niuglluku, "Gua'i, iqlucilekwanek!"
After that she said, "Here (you go), you cheat!"

Nallunillciqan, caqtarluku aipani awa'i.
When he recognized her, she just tore her partner apart.



Tawaken taaten irungq'rni. Angutum quliyanguawitaqikut quliyanguartuq.
After that she had has legs like that. That old man when he would tell a story, he tells a story.

Yaarai, Yaarai, Jackie Sava-mek aprtaakai-tanem amlertut?
Yaarai, Yaarai, wasn't that what lots of people called Jackie Sava?

Ellturai Kal'uni. Amlertut ellturai. Jackie Sava-mek apangq'rtaallria.
His grandchild in Karluk. He has many grandchildren. Jackie Sava was his name.



Alutiit'stun pettam Yaarii, Yaarii Alutiit'stun aprtaakai.
In Alutiiq Yaarii, Yaarii that's what they called him in Alutiiq.



Taugkum tawa'i quliyanguawitaakaikut unigkuanek.
When he would tell a story it would often be a legend.

Taru, iqllukunateng allrak gua'i. Alingnarn'itaarat allrilumek carlialek taquka'aq.
And then, maybe they don't lie here. They are always the scary ones, a bear with one cub.

Mikllun- mikwinek nitak'gka pisurnillkii.
When young, I listened as a small one about what he wasn't going to hunt.



Taquka'aq taugna allrilumek carlialek pianeq suugemek tang'rasqami akiani petta.
That bear with one cub looks right at a person over there.

Ukut...the fur...cestun apraluki Alutiit'stun...cului. Qaa? No culut is feathers.
These ones...the fur...how do you call them in Alutiiq...its fur. Really? No "culut" is feathers.

Anyway, nangartaarniluki. They stood up. They stand up or something.
Anyway, they stand up. They stood up. They stand up or something.

Tawa pettam kuingtaarniluku taqutaarkunaku suk.
Because he keeps walking and doesn't pay attention when he sees a person.



Taaten all'anganek tuqumaluku.
Like that when she put on (the skin), she killed him.

Carlani canimini et'sluku. I've seen a bear like that...allringuq carlialek.
Her baby is beside her there. I've seen a bear like that...one cub.

(They) don't look at the people...



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