

Macaq pettam Iraluq - The Sun and the Moon

by Clyda Christiansen

They used to talk about telling stories, you know, [for a] pastime.

Their pastime was telling stories.

Unigkua'at, they called them, fairytales.

Legends, they call them, fairytales.

Ayaa, cali ukuk gwani quliyanguiskegka: Macaq pettam Iraluq.

On my, and then here is a story about these two that I was told: the Sun and the Moon.

Macaq, una gua'i arnaq.

This sun here is a woman.

Arnaun'itaaqiit Macaq uqnarsaqluku (laughter).

They say the sun is a woman because it is hot.

Una Iraluq nukallpiaq.

This Moon is a man.

Kesiin una Macaq sister-ra. Una Iraluq brother-ra.

Except this Sun is his sister. This Moon is her brother.

Brother and sister. Yeah, sister and brother.

Macaq is the sister; Iraluq is the brother.

The Sun is the sister; the Moon is the brother.

Una arya'aq cuumi elliin—

This girl in the past—

suu'ut cuumi suu'utamallriit eprinateng.

the people before the way they used to live they were very clean.

Una arya'aq aqumasau'uskan

This girl when when she got her first menstruation (and was sitting in or sequestered)

—I don't know if you understand that, you know.

Patulluku arnauskan—you understand that—patulluku petta.

When becoming a woman she would be sequestered—you understand that—like closed off.

Awa'i kiiyan et'slluku epriyutnati.
And so she would be there alone until she was clean.

Awa'i petta, taugna arya'aq patulluku.
Now then, that girl she was sequestered.

Ciqllu'ami-naa et'aa'umaluteng. Ciqllu'ami allakaan patulluku.
They must have been in a sod house. In the sod house by herself she was closed off.

Amlerluteng ciqllugait allrak.
I suppose there were lots of sod houses.

Tawa'ut kiiyan patulluku epriyutnati, pettam neregkwarluku tawani, *you know.*
Alone she was shut off until she was clean, and she could only eat their by herself, you know.

Tawani maqirkuarluku.
There she bathed.

Kesiin aulirnatí anegkwarkunaku.
Only when she stopped (her cycle), only then could she be let out.

Awa'i petta una tan'uraq,
And so this boy,

tan'urarem taugna *sister*-ni allrak tamarluku.
the boy maybe he had lost his sister.

Niu'utegkunaku, cuumi ellin niu'utanillkait uswiillra'ateng.
Nobody told him about her, because they didn't tell children (those things).

Tamarluku niu'utegkunaku. Kesiin, taugna tan'uraq nat-naama *sister*-ra (alqara). (3:15)
He lost her and he wasn't told. Only, that boy didn't know where his sister was at.

Awa'i pettá kuingnermini allrak taugna tan'uraq,
And so perhaps that boy while he was walking,

taugna nallunriarlluku arya'aq tawani patusngauq.
he found the girl who was closed off over there.

Kesiin nalluluku ellin *sister*-ra.
Only, he did not know that she was his sister.

Awa'i takutaarluku.
And so he would always go check on her.

Nallugkuarluki suu'ut unugmi, unugmi *late*, takularluku.
He didn't let people know he would check on her at night, at night late.

Kesiin nallullutek, *you know*, sister-qullutek brother-qullutek.
Although those two did not know they were sister and brother, you know.

Tang'rutegkunatek, tamlegluni, tamlegmi.
They could not see each other in the darkness, in the dark.

Awa'i takutaarluku, caqimek pikarq'lluku.
So he would check on her, and he would bring something for her.

Awa'i atakuku petta tek'iullutek, asi'ingan.
A little while later, those two had a chance to do it when she was better (done menstruating).

Pettam, tekiut'kacamek aningan taugna anluni,
And then, after they had a chance to do it (got together) she went outside.

Awa'i, sister-ra pettam taugum tang'rluku, *you know*, ellin wiiwani.
And so then he sees she is his sister, you know, as he is circling [orbiting].

Nalluluku wiiwani tang'rurguimaluku taugum Iralum.
She is ignorant as he circles, and then she sees that the Moon see her (for who she is).

Awa qikulutek.
Now they are ashamed.

Qikiwakarllutek uniyullutek.
And they (two) are very ashamed and they separate from each other.

Allriluq east agluni, allriluq west taaten uniyullutek.
One goes east, one goes west, that is how they part from each other.

Qikilutek, aglutek.
Those two are ashamed, and so they go.

Tekiutan'ituq [nerua?] taaten.
They never get together like that after that.

Tang'ruteriuq, *you know*, nallullutek.
She sees, you know, those two did not know it.

Nallukuku ellin brother-ra, sister-ra.
Because she did not know he was her brother, and she was his sister.

Pettam anngan, tawaken arya'aq taugna litaqlluku ellin sister-ni.
So when he went out, from there after the girl learned that she was his sister.

Awa'i qikiwakarlutek uniyullutek.
Now those two were very much ashamed and they separate from each other.

Macaq-gua arya'aq. Una Iraluq tan'uraq.
The sun here is a girl. The moon is a boy.

Yeah, unigkua'utaaqait'kut.
Yeah, they always used to tell legends.

That old man used to come...Geez, there was all kinds [of stories]!

Kesiin, nalluya'utanka-ruq ilait.
Except, I forgot the other parts.

Recorded by interviewer Jeff Leer, June 3, 1997 (tape 97.1b, about 1/7 through tape)
Rough transcripts by Jeff Leer, ANLC, July 17, 2000
Edited transcripts and translations by Candace Branson and Alisha Drabek with Florence Pestrikoff, 2013
Produced by the Native Village of Afognak through a National Park Service Tribal Heritage Preservation Grant