

Piece of a timber figure
falls off. Man who
picked it up has
to marry owner or

die

THE SACREDNESS OF HALÁIT PARAPHERNALIA

Informant: H. Clifton, Hartley Bay.

At a great haláit gathering at Old Village of the gitg.á?ate there were many haláits from Kitamat, wetstá, lamdu and gitxále taking part and many guests.

One of the haláit performers carried a small figure while she was dancing, and during her performance the arm of the figure became detached and fell into the lap of a spectator who was not an initiated member of the nulim group. This man went out, and told the head of his house what had happened and that he had hidden the broken arm of the figure.

The head of the house went to the woman who had danced with the figure and told her what had occurred. She came to the young man and said: "You have taken a very sacred part of my dancing figure and now there is only one way in which you may survive. You will have to marry me and become a member of this haláit, and in this way your life will be spared."

This the young man did, and he was spared.

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