

Narr. The Woman left to her Fate

Zimacord R

A nephew of a former ka'ots [gisp] was married to a niece of niisq. e. l [laxskik]. One winter the people ran short of food and went on a hunting trip. She had a little grease stored in the bladder of a mountain goat, which she sucked at each stop. After 4 days the grease was gone. They were at the canyon of the ksomyt river. She put moss in the bladder to make it appear full. When all the food was gone except one half salmon they sat down and sang a dirge ^{the half of salmon} niisq. e. l k'ot, cooked and divided the salmon, and called for the grease. They were angered to find only moss, and beat the woman and deserted her, brading her and leaving her in the wrecked camp. They put out the fires, but a sis-in-law saved a spark in a sea shell and left it (and after the others had left she came back and started a fire & freed the woman).

The gisp went on up the ksomyt to timberline and ka'ots hunted, without success. The youngest bro and his dog went up the mountain of ganagwiyeuk. The mountain opened up, revealing many groundhogs which he killed. The crevice closed as he left. Wearing his snowshoes right to the door (to show he had made a kill) he returned and divided up the meat. He had cached enough to last them until spring.

In spring they started back toward Robin Village q. lak. A young man determined to find out what had happened to his elder bro's wife.

The deserted woman warmed herself at the fire, made a shelter of wreckage. Day by day, animals ~~and~~ and birds would come close to her which she killed for their meat and skins. She made a canoe, a headdress, and a special garment of caribou hide:

q. d. a' t's na- l. u. d. o. g. a' d. o. t "garment of her who suckled
garment | of ⁱⁿ ^{sucker} ^{from} bladder

grease from the bladder."

The young man saw smoke, then a large house, inside of which was a woman. She looked strange, spoke in a strange tongue, and threatened him with ~~the~~ bow and arrow. He recognized her by a scar over her eye. Finally she realized she had been helped by a *nax nax*, spoke to him, and prepared food. They married.

They returned to the village. He announced he had been to the Tsetsaut country and had brought back a Tsetsaut wife, and the woman danced in the manner and clothing of the Tsetsaut. Her former husband recognized her. She then revealed herself.

On account of this event, the territory was given to the house of *ha'ots* [?] why?