

"Narrative of Klaxkels."

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There was a time among the people that starvation was among them and there was a scarcity of animals for food and no fish. There was a man, a Gitslasay man Keko's a Gispowawada and his wife wintatk she also was a Gitslasay woman and was a Gankade. This man was worse off than any of the other people as he had no hunting place where he could go. He had to stay in the village and there he was starving.

When all the Gitksan! people went away
 to their hunting territories he could not
 The spring was just starting to come
 and the snow was just beginning to thaw
 So the man called to his wife, "come
 we will go and find a territory which
 will be our own." So they set out from
 the village and went down the river
 Ksiyən and was going to a country he
 had often seen and which he called
 Kso/gan'ul. } and so they started off.
 walen }
 q. } ? } That night they reached
 the mouth of the Gitksan river of Ksom-
 got and here they camped they were
 in sight of where he intended going
 to. When they had camped for the
 night the snow started to fall and as
 they were in an exposed place they
 remembered that across there were
 large spruce trees so they went across
 on the ice and got shelter there.
 So here the man made a house and
 the man became very sick and there

was no food and this made him grow
very weak. His wife went out & packed
wood and kept the fires going all the
time and she looked after her sick man
who was growing weaker all the time.
Spring was now coming on & everything
was thawing and the woman was down
at the water hole of the creek a hole she
had made in the ice. and she saw a great
number of small trout very small. The
woman thought a long while as to how
she could get these. So she went into
the woods & got a large quantity of
~~herb~~ roots and small shrubs. she
then made a very fine meshed basket
like trap which she lowered into the
water ("net") this took her one day
to make and when she had finished this
she placed it in the waters of the river
got wolgats. and left it over night
and when daylight came the woman
went down to the fish trap and she
saw there a number of small trout

she took this out and they ate this and every day there was always trout so then the woman made a larger trap in the same manner she had made this one and with this food the man's strength gradually returned and they now got larger trout from the fish trap. When spring was well advanced the woman went up the river and she saw the bones of salmon on the beach she went and made a big net and put it in the river here where she had seen the bones and they got many salmon. The steelhead and the ye. spring salmon as well as many large trout. The woman saw this was a good salmon country and the man was getting stiffer all the time and they now had dry many bundles of salmon. Another day the woman said to her inebriated husband "I am going up this river the ice is all gone I want to see what it is like further up." So

She went up, and she had gone some distance when she found a chip which had come from a tree and the woman looked at this and saw it was not the work of the beaver but seemed to have been split with an stone axe. The woman took this chip and returned to their house and the husband looked at it and said, "There must be people living up above. This is not the cutting of the beaver." Not knowing any other people they thought that this was a Gitsalan people living on the head of this river so they set out to look for this village. They went in a course over the hills and then followed the river's course up walking all the time. They had gone a day when they saw signs of smoke coming from tops of the hills. They knew they were getting close. So they camped here and next day when they set out they saw the houses at Larksedin. There were

many houses on each side of the river
 and the people did not go up in daylight
 and when it came dark the man
 and his wife went down into the village
 and came into one of the houses he
 happened to come into the house of
 miss kiltk gisp. giludzau. and being a
 gispowudwada, told the people where
 they were from and how long they had
 been travelling about. miss kiltk then
 took the man as his nephew and the
 woman who was a ganhada became
 the member of the miss kiltk's ganhada
 house. The people had up to this time
 no knowledge of the Skeena River.
 until they were told about it by the
 man & his wife. This village was
 close to the big Beaver dam and this
 monster Beaver had dammed up the
 lake so that the river Klaxk's was
 only a small stream. The people
 in going to the lake would go up onto
 the hills and avoid the big beaver

at the main side of the dam was much
 salmon and this was why the people
 wanted to get rid of this big beaver.

So they planned on destroying the dam
 and they started in breaking the dam
 and lowered the waters of the lake and
 when this happened the waters deepened
 and became swift in the river and
 the best hunters from among the gilydzaw
 came and waited on a spot which the
 big beaver would have to pass. The
 laxskik people on one side and the
 fispawndwada on the other side.

When the Big Beaver felt the waters
 of the lake receding it came out of the
 dam and swam down the river which
 was no very deep. The men on each
 of the river speared it and then they
 struggled among themselves as to who
 should pull it to the shore. The fispawndwada
 men were the stronger and were pulling
 the Big Beaver in when the wife of
 the laxskik man (niasgamdzis) ran

over to her brothers the *Sispawwada* was a
 man and called out "*dam/ss/damgaos/*
 "I am going to take the head *{ will/get the head }.*
 of your kill." When she said this she
 cut the spear of her brother and then her
 husband pulled the Big Beaver over to
 his side of the river and that is why
 they use the Beaver as a crest. Had the
Sispawwada been able to pull this in
 they would have used it as a crest. This
 big beaver had human faces in each
 paw and on its tail and along its back
 and was so shown when carved on a
 pole at $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. The following
 spring a man by the name of *stogion*
 a *taxskio* man went up into the
 valley to go hunting. He went up into
 the hills and when he was nearing his
 hunting grounds a groundhog called out
 to him, "iy, iy". This was a bad
 sign and showed that his wife was
 unfaithful to him and this the ground
 hog was telling him. Knowing now that

he would have no luck in hunting, but
 he went on and he could get no game
 So he went back to his village and
 when he was near he waited till night
 came and when all the people were
 asleep he came into his house and
 there was his wife lying asleep with
 her lover, sunets a *gis p w u w a d a*
 man which made her unfaithfulness
 all the more unworthy because her lover
 was of the same phrahey and a relative
 of hers. The man was angered and while
 sunets was asleep killed him and took
 off his head and put it over the door
 and the woman woke and ran away
 after this *sta gi w a n* went away going
 up into the hills the woman returned and
 saw only the trunk of her lover's ^{body} left -
 so this she took and buried and
 she went away. When she buried this
 body she buried right under sleeping
 place and no one knew of it. sunets
 had now been gone two days and no one

knew where he had gone to and then the gispawud wada people sent a woman over and said "Go over and see what happened sansts make preience of burning fire" so the woman took a pitch torch and went into the house and said "My fire went out and I want to get a light." So saying she entered and put her torch in the fire and lighted it while she was doing this she looked about her and saw nothing and she then went slowly to the door when she came to the door she stood and look around again and a drop of blood fell on her hand. She went out and saw it was blood and she now wanted to return into the house she knew that it was long past the season for drying salmon so that it was human blood she was sure. So when she got to the river which she had to cross. She stumbled and fell and her torch went into the water

So she came into the house again
 and said "I don't know what is
 the matter with me I fell into the
 river and my torch went out," So
 she dried herself and put her torch
 in the fire when she went out, she
 looked up over the door and there
 she saw the head of sunsets hanging
 from the rafters. She told the
 Gispowudwada chief and he was
 very angry. So that night they prepared
 to attack the larstik village and when
 all were asleep attacked it and killed
 many. The Gispowudwada chief
 then called out saying, "that is enough
 we do not want to kill all the people"
 so they ceased and they made peace
 but many of the larstik took to flight
 and went on down the river and took
 refuge among the other Tsimshian tribes
 and niasxks, larstik went on
 among the Git'ans and Xiyop
 went to the Gispawlots.