

A Man Tells Off His Boss

(Told by Mercy Doxtator to Karin Michelson on June 6, 1994)

(1) Ú-wa? yá-ya?k tshiskaha-wí· ká· awáhihte?, né· ka?iká tsi? náhte?
Now six when again it brings y'know strawberry, it's this that what

i-kélhe? a-kka-látu, aknulhá· yukkalatuní ka?iká, né· wí· n
I want I would tell a story, my mother she has told me a story this, so it's

tshiwahu-níse? ká·, né· kyuhte wí· ka?iká aknulhá· onulha?ká
a long time ago see, it's supposedly this my mother her late mother

tekyatahnútlahkwe? né· teyutateshnyé·u tsi? nΛ né· tshiyakawΛheyú n
the two were sisters it's she has cared for her since then it's when she has died

aknulhá· onulha?ká, ya-wét kwí· né· kwí· ka?iká aksotká
my mother her late mother, it's like so it's this my late grandmother

tekyatahnútlahkwe?, né· kwí· ka?iká lóna?, kátsha? ok wí· nú·
the two were sisters, so it's this man and wife, somewhere

Ukwehuwé-ne nihninákle? ká·, o?sluní-taku kátsha? ok nú·
at the Native people's the two reside y'know, among the white man somewhere

nihoyo-té· ka?iká lo-né· ká·, né· s kati? wí· nΛ sá-lawe? nále?
he is working this spouse see, well then it's when he got home then again

wahathlolyáni? n tsi? niyo-lé· nihona?ku-níhe? ka?iká n lónhahse?
he told all about it how far he makes him mad this he hires him.

(2) Tyótkut thok náhte? lolihwatsháli ká·, tsoyok nahté-shu?
Constantly something he has found fault see, all different things

yah te?tkaye-lí· tsi? nihatyélha?. (3) Né· s kati? wí· nΛ sá-lawe? khále?
not it is not right what he is doing. Well then it's then he got back and

(1) Today is the sixth of June, the time of the strawberry, this story I want to tell, my mother told me this story, it was a long time ago, I guess it was my mother's late mother's sister, she cared for her [my mother] when my mother's late mother died, so like this was my late grandmother's sister, so she and her husband, they lived somewhere on the Reserve, her husband was working at some white people's somewhere, well then when he got home he would tell all about how much this guy who hired him was making him mad. (2) He was constantly finding fault with something, all these things that weren't right what he was doing. (3) So anyway then he would get home and

waʔshakohlolyániʔ lo·né· káh, kháleʔ kwí· oná waʔakono·lú·seʔ waʔí·luʔ
he told her all about it spouse y'know, and then she tired of it she said

yakáʔ, “tutahetshatátyahseʔ s kwí· neʔ káh, a·hetshlo·lí· tsiʔ yah
reportedly, “you should answer him back right, you should tell him that not

teʔtisaʔnikuhliyó tsiʔ náhteʔ yá·niheʔ.” (4) Wahá·luʔ yakáʔ kaʔiká
you are not content that what he belittles you.” He said reportedly this

lokstáha, “tutakata·tí· ná kiʔ náʔú·waʔ.” (5) Ná kwí· né· tú·skeʔ
old man, “I did answer back actually this time.” So then it's truly

yakoneh·lakwá·u kaʔiká n lo·né·, náhteʔ uhte né· oná a·hakwe·ní·
she is amazed this spouse, what possibly it's now he would be able

a·há·luʔ n oʔsluniʔké·ne yah seʔ tehahlúkhaʔ. (6) Ná kwí· waʔí·luʔ
he could say white man's way not too he doesn't speak. So then she said

yakáʔ thiká n akokstáha, “náhteʔ katiʔ wahsí·luʔ, náhteʔ wahetshlo·lí·.”
reportedly that old woman, “what well then you said, what you told him.”

(7) “Waʔkí·luʔ kiʔ, ‘You German’.” (8) Thok né· ní·kú thiká
“I said actually, ‘You German’.” That's only it's how much that

lonúhteʔ ká·, ná wá·lelheʔ ná kwí· né· tú·skeʔ wahohloliʔkó· thok náhteʔ,
he knows see, then he thought so then it's truly he told him big something,

yah seʔ né· náhteʔ só·tsiʔ tehawá káh. (9) Tho katiʔ wí· kaʔiká
not too it's anything too much he hasn't said y'know. Well that's this

niwakkaló·ta tsiʔ náhteʔ yukkalatuní aknulháh.
the kind of story I have that what she has told me a story my mother.

(10) Tho katiʔ ok wí· ní·kú.
That's then only how much.

he would tell his wife all about it, and then she got tired of it, she said, “you should talk back to him, right? you should tell him that you are not happy that he keeps saying things to put you down.” (4) The old man said, “I did answer back this time actually.” (5) So then truly his wife was amazed, what could he possibly say in English, no way he could speak any [English]. (6) So then the old lady said, “Well what did you say? What did you tell him?” (7) “I said, ‘You German!’” (8) That's all [the English] he knew, he thought then truly he told him off something big, [but] he didn't really say anything too much. (9) Well that's my story, the story my mother told me. (10) That's all then.