

i? ʔaʔʔulaʔx<sup>w</sup> uʔ i? ntytyix

## RATTLESNAKE AND SALMON

**Disclaimer:** Property of the OIB Language House and the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, 2021. This document is for educational purposes and is not meant for distribution.

captik<sup>w</sup>ʔ is our oral history that speaks of a time when there were no humans, only animal people. They roamed the land and were very dangerous. In this captik<sup>w</sup>ʔ rattlesnake and salmon, it explains how rattlesnakes, wolves and salmon were transformed into what they are today.

q̄sapi? ntytyix i? snili?tns tq̄l̄tkms s̄x̄wnitk<sup>w</sup>. ntytyix sl̄x<sup>wa</sup>?sp?us t sx<sup>w</sup>tyaq<sup>w</sup>t.

Long ago Salmon's home was high atop the Kettle Falls cliff. Salmon was a brave warrior.

i? swynumtx tk̄m̄il̄x<sup>w</sup> cm̄ut l̄ ql̄sp̄il̄x tm̄x<sup>w</sup>ulaʔx<sup>w</sup>. yʔat i? sq̄l̄tm̄ix<sup>w</sup> ʔm̄inks ixi i? q̄l̄sp̄il̄x.

In the Kalispel territory lived a beautiful woman. All the men wanted to marry this Kalispel woman.

ntytyix nstils "iksm̄r̄im̄m̄ ixi i? tk̄m̄il̄x<sup>w</sup>". ixi uʔ x<sup>w</sup>uy k̄l̄ q̄l̄sp̄il̄x tm̄x<sup>w</sup>ulaʔx<sup>w</sup> uʔ ili? sk̄<sup>w</sup>l̄sp̄l̄st̄wix<sup>w</sup>m̄ uʔ waȳ ʔx<sup>w</sup>up.

Salmon thought "I'm going to marry that woman". He went to the Kalispel territory and started a war. He won.

ixi? cx<sup>w</sup>uysts i? st̄ak̄mix k̄l̄ s̄x̄wnitk<sup>w</sup>. i? st̄ak̄mix ʔm̄inks ntytyix aʔi? swynumtx, t̄i k<sup>w</sup>il̄ i? sk̄<sup>w</sup>ʔusts.

He then brought the woman back to Kettle Falls. The Kalispel woman loved Salmon with his handsome red face.

yʔat i? sq̄l̄tm̄ix<sup>w</sup> ʔm̄inks̄l̄x ksp̄ul̄st̄s̄l̄x ntytyix aʔi? ʔm̄inks̄l̄x ksk<sup>w</sup>iʔs̄l̄x i? naʔ<sup>w</sup>nʔ<sup>w</sup>s ntytyix. naʔ<sup>w</sup>m̄ l̄ut t̄a cm̄istis̄l̄x ʔxkinm̄l̄x mi kics̄l̄x i? snili?tns k̄a nwist i? s̄x̄wnitk<sup>w</sup>.

All the men wanted to kill Salmon so they could take his beautiful wife. But they didn't know how to get to his home high atop Kettle Falls.

kíkát í ntytyix í? snili?tns cmut ǵa?ǵ?ula?x<sup>w</sup>, í? ǵǵǵap. ǵa?ǵ?ula?x<sup>w</sup> kimś ntytyix, ǵminks kspulsts ntytyix. ǵə wisk<sup>w</sup>ulm í? ćqilns ili ǵǵapntis ntytyix í csya?qns.

Living close to Salmon's home was Rattlesnake. He was an old man who hated Salmon and wanted to kill him. When he finished making his arrows, he shot Salmon in the head.

ntytyix ya...ǵwt tí cnlq<sup>w</sup>us. í satitk<sup>w</sup> ki suk<sup>w</sup>t í? sqiltks. í? naǵ<sup>w</sup>nǵ<sup>w</sup>s ćq<sup>w</sup>aq<sup>w</sup> uǵ ćq<sup>w</sup>aq<sup>w</sup>. ka?ǵis í? nćicn cyayaǵa?stsəlx í? tkǵmilx<sup>w</sup> uǵ uk<sup>w</sup>səlx ntytyix í? naǵ<sup>w</sup>nǵ<sup>w</sup>s kí í? snili?tnsəlx uǵ k<sup>w</sup>anxnsəlx.

Salmon tumbled from the cliff into the river and his body floated. His beautiful wife cried and cried. Three wolves were watching Salmon's wife. They kidnapped her and took her to their home and made her their slave.

lk<sup>w</sup>ut í? snǵaǵ<sup>w</sup>ts ntytyix uǵ ǵlap í ǵpna?x<sup>w</sup>cnita?k<sup>w</sup>. q<sup>w</sup>miwt ili? ćǵak<sup>w</sup> uǵ ćspula?x<sup>w</sup>. tí kmax scím.

Salmon floated far down stream and landed on a sandbar. He laid there for a long, long time until he became nothing but bones.

k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>xəna? tcx<sup>w</sup>uy uǵ kakici?ś ntytyix í? scmćims. tali? nyx<sup>w</sup>pils k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>xəna? aǵi? ntytyix í? yilmix<sup>w</sup>ms.

Mouse found Salmon's bones and was very sad, because Salmon was his Chief.

k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>xəna? k<sup>w</sup>ka?li?sts kí snpulxtn uǵ naǵ<sup>w</sup>s t ntytyix sq<sup>w</sup>uct. k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>xəna? mćǵtis ntytyix í? scmćims t ntytyix sq<sup>w</sup>uct x<sup>w</sup>a?śǵǵǵalt.

Mouse snuck into the camp and stole some salmon oil. He rubbed and rubbed the salmon oil onto Salmon's bones for many days.

ǵə ǵayxaxa?əǵx<sup>w</sup>ǵal ntytyix... ǵə k<sup>w</sup>ck<sup>w</sup>ctwilx ntytyix ili? əǵplak<sup>w</sup> kí śǵ<sup>w</sup>nitk<sup>w</sup>. ǵə əǵkicx kí í? snili?tns í? naǵ<sup>w</sup>nǵ<sup>w</sup>s tí k<sup>w</sup>.

After much time Salmon came back to life... When Salmon got stronger, he went back to Kettle Falls. When he reached his home, his beautiful wife wasn't there.

ntytyix x<sup>w</sup>uy kí ǵa?ǵ?ula?x<sup>w</sup> í? snili?tns. ǵə kicx, kǵnixlms ǵa?ǵ?ula?x<sup>w</sup> cnk<sup>w</sup>nim... “way ǵǵapntin ntytyix... way ǵǵapntin ntytyix”.

Salmon went to Rattlesnake's home, and from outside he could hear Rattlesnake singing... "I shot Salmon... I shot salmon"

ntytyix n?u?xw í ?a?x?ula?xw i? snili?tns. ?a?x?ula?xw yipwiks ntytyix u? k?isəs i? scnkwnims... "kn nyxwpiis way' ?lal inyilmixwm".

Salmon entered Rattlesnake's home. Rattlesnake saw Salmon from the corner of his eye and changed his song. "I'm so sad that my Chief is dead".

ntytyix kwis i? əcwa? u? kciksəs ?a?x?ula?xw i? snili?tns. ntytyix xwtt?numt.. na?m? ?a?x?ula?xw kci?kna? u? ?lal.

Salmon grabbed a burning branch and set Rattlesnake's home on fire. Salmon jumped out the door, but Rattlesnake was trapped, and he burned and died.

tl ?a?x?ula?xw i? skw'ustns acqa? i? kw'wyuma? ?a?x?ula?xw. ntytyix cus i? kw'wyuma? ?a?x?ula?xw "tl ?apna? akskx'kwap u? lut aks'xwa?twilx".

From Rattlesnake's eye out came a smaller rattlesnake. Salmon told the smaller Rattlesnake "From now on you will remain this size and slither on the ground"

ntytyix xwuy ?a?usms i? na?wnxws u? kakici?s í i? ka?tis i? ncicn i? snili?tns.

Salmon went and looked for his beautiful wife and found her in the three wolves' home.

ntytyix ?xwntis asilmix u? i? naqs cus "xwuy k' a? c'c'ca' u? lut aks'plak"

Salmon killed two of the wolves and to the last wolf he said, "Go into the woods and don't come back."

i? ntytyix xwuysts i? na?wnxws k' i? sa?titkw.

Salmon took his wife and went into the water.

apna? i? ?a?x?ula?xw ckx'kwap u? lut ?a cs'xwa?twilx. i? ncicn lut ?a cxwuy' tl a? c'c'ca'.

and to this day Rattlesnakes slither on the ground and don't get very big and Wolves stay in the forest.

u? i? ntytyix ckwilx í i? siwtkw u? k'c'qiln í i? cəsyə?qns.

Salmon swim in the water and still have an arrowhead in their heads.

ixi? tı́ i? scnixltət t smi?may'.

It's the story we heard.

by sqa?ǰəǰinakk Sheri Stelkia and cnúk Jenna Bower