

## **Kashaya 'Crow'**

*Kashaya version told by Bun Lucas, 22 November 1989*

*Transcribed and translated by Gene Buckley*

*Audio file is cleaned up to remove false starts*

**mu· p<sup>h</sup>ala men duwení s'ihta ?ama· tol**

*This was back a long time ago in the land of the birds.*

**men ?domu ?ama šámaw**

*It's said (there would be) destruction.*

**mens'i·lidom mu ?á·la ya? micé·du camá·duc'ba**

*So Crow flew in and said,*

**ṭ'i· maya s'ihta bi?ama·tol maya kutól cic'k<sup>h</sup>e ?do**

*'All you birds here in the world, you will come together.*

**mihca máci tol ido maya kutól be·li nohp<sup>h</sup>oyíc'k<sup>h</sup>e**

*In four days you will gather here together in a group.*

**me? maya míhca maci tol c<sup>h</sup>o·wám ṭ'o**

*If you're not here in four days,*

**maya?k<sup>h</sup>e ?ama· pišudú ṭ<sup>h</sup>a?bámci?k<sup>h</sup>e ?do**

*bad things will happen to you,'*

**cedú ?a·la ?ému**

*Crow said.*

**maya s'ihta qáwi yya ?emu hlaw ido**

*'Even you little birds,*

**ṭ'i· duq<sup>h</sup>á? t<sup>h</sup>in ido maya**

*you all will not be lost,*

**micé·de· qali bák<sup>h</sup>e ya?**

*so says the heavenly being.*

**ṭ'i· ʔdó· maya be·li ʔiʔk<sup>h</sup>e cedú**

*You will all be here,' he said.*

**mens'i·li dom s'ihta qawi ʔe· ʔahšo\_ q'oʔdi caʔ mul**

*Then all the little birds looked closely at him*

**s'ihta baht<sup>h</sup>e k'ili can'wadun can'wadem**

*the big black bird flying around and around*

**mens'iba ʔdom ʔo· cibá· wa ʔa maʔu hcedu**

*and said, 'Oh, who is that?'*

**mens'i·li dom ku s'ihta baht<sup>h</sup>e min ya?**

*Then one fairly big bird,*

**ʔo· maʔu ʔa mu ʔa·la ʔem cedu**

*'Oh, that's Crow,' he said*

**ʔo· to ʔ'o da·t<sup>h</sup>e· mul ʔa·la**

*'I don't like that Crow.*

**ʔama dác<sup>h</sup>aci·du ya? mens'in ʔama· pišudu cic'i·du yac' e· mu**

*He's a thief and does bad things.*

**yal doʔyoʔt'a· yac' e· mu hcedu**

*He plays tricks on us,' he said.*

**ya ʔo p<sup>h</sup>ilac<sup>k</sup>he t<sup>h</sup>in**

*'We won't come.'*

**mens'i-li dom maʔu ʔul bet' ʔo q<sup>h</sup>o maci tol cama-du p<sup>h</sup>ala \_**

*Then two days later he flew back there again.*

**kihlaʔ s'ihta qawi yya ʔem ʔo c<sup>h</sup>ow**

*And the little birds still weren't there.*

**sibo-yi ciʔ tol p<sup>h</sup>ala cama-du-li**

*When he flew back on the third day,*

**biʔk'o· maʔyul ʔiw**

*just a few were (there).*

**mens'i-li dom maʔu mihcayi ciʔ tol**

*Then on the fourth day*

**kihlaʔ biʔk'o· maʔyul ʔiw**

*there were still only few of them there.*

**mens'i-li dom mu cahno dic'i-du yaʔ ʔa-la ʔe· mu**

*Then the messenger, Crow, said*

**ʔo· c<sup>h</sup>owe· maʔu s'ihta qawi yya k'ili yya ʔo cedu**

*'Oh, the little black birds aren't here.'*

**mens'in mayaʔk<sup>h</sup>e ʔama· ko·ko ʔ<sup>h</sup>aʔbamciʔk<sup>h</sup>e**

*'Because of your forbidden acts,*

**mayal be-li maʔa háʔda· šulatám<sup>k</sup>he ʔdo cedu**

*you will be hungry and sick here,' he said.*

**mens'i-li maʔu ʔihc<sup>h</sup>e dibucaʔk<sup>h</sup>e cedu-li**

*Then when he said, 'It's going to rain,'*

**hadu· s'ihta ʔemu ʔi· ʔen s'iba kutol cic'ba**

*all the other birds got together.*

**q<sup>h</sup>aʔdiw s'ihta qawi ʔel**

*They went after those little birds.*

**mens'i-li da· p<sup>h</sup>ilac'k<sup>h</sup>e t<sup>h</sup>in e· ya**

*'No, we won't come,*

**mi· ʔewam ma·caʔ maʔyul ins'e· ʔiʔk<sup>h</sup>e cedu**

*only the ones who'll be there will be there,' they said.*

**mens'i-li dom mihca máci tol ciʔli c<sup>h</sup>ó· kihlaʔ**

*Then when the fourth day came they still weren't there.*

**mulidomu ʔul ma·du cahno díc'i·du yaʔ ma·du**

*Then he came, the messenger came,*

**p<sup>h</sup>iʔt'an mu ʔa·la ʔemu micen'ba ʔdom**

*suddenly Crow said,*

**ʔo· c<sup>h</sup>o·we· maʔu s'ihta k'ili yya qawi yya ʔ'o cedu**

*'Oh, the little black birds aren't here.*

**mul \_ ʔa ma·cal mihciliʔ**

*I will do something to them.*

**ʔa soh ʔens'ip<sup>h</sup>i**

*I will just do this:*

**cahno pišudu wi ʔa ma·cal cahnoʔteʔ cedu**

*I will speak to them with bad words,' he said.*

**mens'iba dom bimáci ltow maya s'ihta qawi yya ʔe· mu**

*'So from this day on, you little birds,*

**ʔa· min p<sup>hi</sup>?t'a· yac' ido mayaʔk<sup>he</sup> [bus] ʔama· ʔ'i· mul hic'o· bik'uy'tan**

*someone who looks like me will eat up all your eggs,*

**mens'in maya kumiʔdaʔ mul s'ihta baht<sup>he</sup> p<sup>h</sup>ak'um'k<sup>he</sup> t<sup>h</sup>in inati**

*Because of that you will always try to attack that big bird,*

**q<sup>h</sup>ama nuwatac'k<sup>he</sup> cedu**

*and chase after it,' he said.*

**mens'i·li bimaci ltow men ʔama· ʔ<sup>h</sup>aʔbamciw**

*And so from that day on things have happened like that:*

**s'ihta qawi yya ʔem kumiʔdaʔ s'ihta ʔaht<sup>h</sup>iy ʔel q<sup>h</sup>ama nuwata·c'iyiʔ**

*the little birds always chase after the big birds.*

## English Version

Told by Bun Lucas, 22 November 1989

This is about the Crow, they call him Messenger. Crows are messengers to us.

So one day the Crow came and said, 'Ohh, all you birds in the land', he says, 'get together', he says. 'There's destructions comin, and so you wanna be prepared.' So they all did, they all behaved good, but the little black birds was askin around and so they said 'Who is this bird, this big black bird?' So one of the birds from the group said 'Oh, that's Mister Crow.' 'Ohh, Mr. Crow is no good,' he says, 'he only likes to do bad things for us and they just do bad things to the land, the crops. So we don't want him to be our messenger. Because we don't believe in him. So whatever there is, a few might come but some of us won't come.'

So this messenger came the first day, then he asked, he said 'Ohh, I don't see no little black birds here, just very very few.' So the second time he came he said 'They are still — there's no one here, little black birds are not here.' Third time he came they are still gone they're not here. And on the fourth day he said 'Now,' he said, 'this is the last day now, but there's very few birds here, and we've got to have them because the rain is comin and the flood's gonna be here, and there will be mud and there will be no food here. There will be no trees here, they will be all under water. And now you can't have a place to sleep (you know how they roost?). So after all they said 'Ohh, yes,' he said, 'Messenger, we'll go get them. We'll go and get those little birds, black birds.' But just few came. So he said 'All right,' he said, 'this is the last day, just very few minutes more, but I think that's okay because you people are good.' Then he said, 'From this day on,' he said, 'all — I'm talkin to you black birds,' he said, 'the little ones — from this day on there will be a big bird just like me,' he said, 'he'll be stealin your eggs, and they'll be eatin on your food and everything, takin it away from you. All you're gonna do from this day is chase them big birds.'

They're just peckin them and they wouldn't find no, you know, just, there wouldn't be no, I guess, no freedom like. So this is what the messenger said to them. And they really do that, the little birds. You ever see them little black birds peckin on the big birds? Especially that crow. That's the story that grampa would say. Make sure that you do the things what people say, spiritual people say, and do the things right so that your blessings will be with you. If you don't then you'll have a hardship all through your life, is what he said.