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Seri text

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A TEXT Submitted by: Ed Moser

Language: Seri

Informant: Roberto Thompson
Desemboque, Sonora
Mexico

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1 mk'aka ?apr iki k-oxo-kaŋ. 1 Things outside with cl mk-run from danger-pl.

2 konk'ak ?i-š-ko-i ?a s-sāar-ox-a?a. 2 People loc-pl-definite-pl we ft-
leave-pl-uncrt. 3 ?a t-kW-śśär-ox-is. 3 We ft(plus nasalization)-cl mk-
leave-pl-then. 4 ?ant ʃ iki t-itoix, 4 Land a with pt-return(pl form).
5 ?ant i?fin ko-ŋ konti/-m/-aa-t. 5 Land corner the-long go-/pt/-go-pl.
6 ?ant ko-ŋ kW-t-a-škaŋ, ?ant t-o-i, ?ast ko-n konti/-t/-a-t, 6 Land the-
7 ?âr pak ?ākii ri-t-a?ka-ma kW-t-a-škam-ma. 7 Water some where uncrt-pt-is-
when, uncrt-pt-arrive-pl-when. 8 tō' na-t a-t-a-kkö kōxx k? ino-t-a-škaŋ,
i-t-nāi-sił-ka. 8 Uncrpt-be gone female-pl two the with them-pt-arrive-pl,
they-pt-grab-pl-pl obj indictr. 9 koči ʃ ant-ox-kōaa-əŋ ko-m ani m-iik-možka,
9 High land-fall-pl-pl obj indictr the-long inside-pt-put-pl. 10 i-t-on-ək,
m-âaniipə-at. 10 They-pt-carry-pl, pt-return-pl. 11 ?âmə m-iškan ŋo i-t-
12 t-?ámokk-ma ?íipiit ʃ a-ʃ iki t-ō-oiti yo-k-ə. 12 Pt-become dark-when each
other together near pt-lie down-pl pt-uncrt-say. 13 t-m-iim-a, t-ásiiin-t,
l3 Pt-neg-sleep-pl, pt-laugh-pl, l3 i-?ámok ko-p iti t-ō-ii yo-k-ə. l3 cl mk-
become dark the-upright on pt-be-pl pt-uncrt-say. 15 or ʃ t-pakta-ma kon-kái
št oc otot t-oŋ 15 In this manner pt-uncrt-look at-when uncrt-elder a uncrt-
with them pt-lie down 16 or i-t-āi yo-k-ə. 16 In this manner she-pt-say
pt-uncrt-say. 17 ?-mái-xi ri-komka? ʃ iim-a! 17 Impv-be quiet-pl! Excl-
make noise! Impv-sleep-pl! 18 aš-ya ?aa t-ī? ma-ʃi t-anópaahim? 18 What-

See end of text for abbreviation and symbol key.
interrog there interrog-be you-pl interrog-grab ? 19 ma m-a-t-k[...]im-a ?
19 You uncrt-interrog-uncrt-neg(nasalization)-sleep-pl ? 20 ?ánt-pi-ma
i-t-ámr-ox yo-k-e. 20 Land-win back-when they-pt-talk-pl pt-uncrt-say.
21 or t-čša yo-k-e. 21 In this manner pt-speak(pl form) pt-uncrt-say.
22 říka k-ašiim ?a ř-čö?-t. 22 Things cl mk-pretty we excl-find-pl.
23 kopčák řařiřiř?o k-ři-t-ri?i ?a m-ři?-t. 23 People real-looking so
cl mk-small-pl-uncrt we pt-find-pl. 24 m-i-/š/-iiř ro m-řítammoos-ox.
24 Pt-small/-pl/-small but pt-have whiskers-pl. 25 or t-p-ákt-a-ma ?apr
i-m-řik-čokka. 25 In this manner pt-uncrt-look at-when outside they-pt-put-
pl. 26 ?apr i-t-ak-čokka-ma, 26 Outside they-pt-put-pl-when, 27 i-t-áři,-ši,
27 they-pt-make-pl, 28 i-tőaa-tx k? iš-čox řa? i-nři iš-čox t-a-tařoo-čiŋ,
28 their-foot-pl the front side-pl and their-hands(pl form) front side-pl
pt-uncrt-scrape hard-pl, 29 ?áit k? aři-t-āamo-ma i-t-āalask. 29 Blood the
uncrt-pt-seep-when they-pt-stop(pl form). 30 isărř yátoo-čkox ak mos t-a-
tařoo-čiŋ. 30 Top of fontanel(claimed by the informant to be meaningless)-
pl place also pt-uncrt-scrape hard-pl. 31 kwar šir ?apr kōo-m i-kit-nčoś
řa? tāw kš-ta-?n-ča yo-k-e. 31 Next thing outside be-long his-head-
brains(claimed by the informant to be meaningless) land-uncrt the uncrt-mix
their-hands(pl form) front side-pl and their-foot-pl the front side-pl and
top of-pl and that uncrt-pt-rub-pl pt-uncrt-say. 32 ?ořa?-t-eme ?ánt-pi-ma-?o
?aři-m-aiyang-ši-ka ?i-ti-t-aiyang-at yo-k-e. 32 Uncrt-pt-be gone land-
33 ?ořa?-t-eme řikka káč-ká tāra? ko-m ikot kš-t-aiyang-at yo-k-e. 33 Uncrt-
pt-be gone things large-pl uncrt-the-long with them uncrt-pt-size-pl pt-uncrt-
say. 34 říka k-ři-t ?aři-ma k-ři-/š/-xk ko-i ?ip-i-t-/ař-a yo-k-e. 34 Things
cl mk-find-pl camp cl mk-bring-/pl/-bring the-pl uncrt-marry-/pt/-marry-pl
pt-uncrt-say. 35 or t-p-ákt-a-ma kwar ?aska-x k-om iti t-a?axka, 35 In this
manner pt-uncrt-look at-when then balsa-pl the-long on pt-mount(pl form),
36 ṛika ṛap ḵoshi toko m i-t-āokw tox ma i-t-āa-it ox yo k-e. 36 Things outside belong (pl form) the-long they pt-kill pl when they pt-pl eat pl pt-uncrt say. 37 tokw-i-y-aïi kï tōm tayari ma k-išiï kï-x ȍ t-i-xe yo k-e. 37 Uncrt they pt-live (pl form) the far pt-size when, cl mk young the seated in this manner pt-say pt-uncrt say. 38 ?-inyaak, ?ant ?aa ṛ-ōopp! 38 My-brother year there excl-arrive! 39 ṛiřoan siiřox ki? ḵo-mâm! 39 ṛiřoan siiřox (bush name) the excl-ripen! l0 s-k-āaniip-r-at! l0 ft-uncrt return pl! l1 om-p-āktï rō kâi xi tâso xo n-t-iiin yo k-e. l1 In this manner uncrt uncrt look at but elder seated the one uncrt uncrt pt-return pt-uncrt say. 42 kōt-ōo-kâ kōi?itái ak kâxox ṛapâ?kâ a-?-n-āröx t-āpp yo k-e. 42 Hissing sound uncrt large pl in front of place kâxox (camp name) called the in-beach in-beach pt-arrive pt-uncrt say. 43 ṛaskâm k-āako xi iti t-i-x, 43 Balsa cl mk large a on pt-be seated, lâi kōŋkâak kï tâar pak iti t-ōi toktoima kï ìnôo t-āpp yo k-e. lâi People the there some on pt-live (pl form) uncrt the in pt-arrive pt-uncrt say. 45 kâm āi xi kâw t-āmït yo k-e. 45 Female spouse the seated uncrt pt-inquire pt-uncrt say. 46 or t-p-āktï-ма kâito t-ōm-r-ox yo k-e. 46 In this manner pt uncrt look at when uncrt pt-say pl pt-uncrt say. 47 ?ant ani ?-ii ak ṛnit ano m-ii? 47 Land inside uncrt live place ṛnit (camp name) inside pt live. 48 ṛôōna y-?-ëmë t-ātâr yó k-e. 48 Uncrt pt be gone pt-go pt-uncrt say. 49 kâm xi kâkâ lô tokw t-i-x, šîr t-inoka ?ant ak kâw t-āpp ma kâw a?ëšx šîr šî kâw s-iâp kâtï t-âmë-ë-ma. 49 Female the seated spouse a uncrt pt be seated thing uncrt come land place uncrt pt-arrive when uncrt pt-string bow thing a uncrt ft good uncrt pt thin when. 50 i-t-ō, i-škâprï ak ani t-ârkim 50 He pt take, his armpit place inside pt-put 51 kii t-otop-ë-ma kâw ōpâtx ak iti kâw i-t-âkâr yô k-e. 51 with pt-become narrow opening when side of ribs place on uncrt he pt tear pt-uncrt say. 52 or t-p-āktï-ма tâi kâoksrax lô tok-t-i-ë-ma, 52 In this manner pt uncrt look at when cloth long a uncrt pt be when, 53 i-t-âï, i-šit xi kâw i-t-kâair yô k-e. 53 He pt make, his head
the-seated uncrt-he-pt-wrap around once and tie pt-uncrt-say. 54 k'agm åa
ra? i-ki-/s/-iit ra? ko-i, šir i-lit i-kšair ki-x ñnn ak ani t-akin.
54 Female spouse and things small/-pl/-small and the-pl, thing his-head
uncrt-wrap around once and tie the-seated inside place inside pt-put. 55 ?ant
š iki t-in yo-k-æ. 55 Land a with pt-go pt-uncrt-say.

This data, transcribed directly from the informant's interrupted discourse,
lacks the continuity of a taped text.

KEY to symbols and several abbreviations:
( ) enclose a comment
/ / enclose an infix
cl mk class marker
uncrt uncertain

Free Translation

1 They Who Go Away Mad

1st Brother: 2 We're going to leave these people. 2nd Brether: 3 Let
leave them then. 4 They left, 5 and went to Lower California. 6 They made
shore, disembarked, and went to the mountains, 7 when they arrived where
there was some water. 8 Soon two women came along, and grabbed them. 9 Too
rolled them up in the tops of their skirts. 10 They carried them, and re
turned. 11 They arrived at camp but didn't say anything. 12 When it got
dark they lay down together it was said. 13 They didn't sleep, and they
laughed. 14 during the night it was said. 15 Then an old woman who was
lying there 16 spoke to them in this manner it was said. 17 Shut up.
There's too much noise! Go to sleep! 18 What's grabbing at you? 19 Why
don't you sleep? 20 The next morning they told about it it was said. 21 They told it like this it was said. 22 We found pretty things. 23 We found such tiny real-looking people. 24 They are small but have whiskers. 25 Then they brought them out. 26 After they brought them out, 27 they prepared them, 28 they scraped the soles of their feet and the palms of their hands, 29 when blood seeped out they stopped. 30 Also they scraped their fontanels. 31 Next they rubbed whale brains mixed with salt into their palms the soles of their feet and their fontanels it was said. 32 Soon they were getting bigger every day it was said. 33 Soon they were the size of the giants it was said. 34 The ones who found them and brought them to camp married them it was said. 35 Then they mounted balsa boats, 36 when they killed whales, they ate them it was said. 37 After they lived there for a long time, the younger brother spoke out it was said. 38 Brother, the year is almost over! 39 The waxan sikhox (bush) is bearing fruit! 40 Let's go home! 41 But it happened that the elder brother returned alone it was said. 42 He disembarked (on Tiburon Island) in front of San Esteban Island at camp kyâxox it was said. 43 He was seated on a large balsa boat, 44 he arrived where some of the people were it was said. 45 He inquired about his wife it was said. 46 Then they told him it was said. 47 She lives at camp ñnit. 48 Soon he left it was said. 49 When the giant arrived at ñnit, the giant's wife's new husband strung his bow as he thought to protect himself. 50 The giant grabbed him, and put him under his arm 51 when he squeezed him, he squashed open the man's side it was said. 52 It happened that there was a long cloth, 53 he arranged it, and tied it around his head it was said. 54 He put his wife and children inside the headband. 55 He left it was said.