1957

Seri text

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A TEXT  Submitted by: Ed Moser
Language: Seri
Informant: Roberto Thompson
Desemboque, Sonora Mexico
Date: April 16, 1957

1  ikka ?apr? iki k-6xoo-kaŋ. 1 Things outside with cl mk-run from danger-pl.

2 koŋkâak ?i-s-ko-i ?a s-čaar-ox-a?a. 2 People loc-pl-definite-pl we ft-leave-pl-uncrt. 3 ?a t-kW-čaar-ox-is. 3 We ft(plus nasalization)cl mk-leave-pl-then. 4 ?ant š 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.


12 t-?âmok-ma ŋîpipt i?ar? ik ir t-ōi t-yo-k-ma. 12 Pt-become dark-when each other together near pt-lie down-pl pt-uncrnt-say. 13 t-m-iiim-a, t-âsiin-t.


See end of text for abbreviation and symbol key.
interrog there interrog-be you-pl interrog-grab ? 19 ma ma-t-kW-im-a ?
19 You uncrt-interrog-uncrt-neg(nasalization)-sleep-pl ? 20 ?ant-pi-ma
i-t-am-ox yo-k-e. 20 Land-win back-when they-pt-talk-pl pt-uncrt-say.
21 or t-ōsa yo-k-e. 21 In this manner pt-speak(pl form) pt-uncrt-say.
22 ūka k-ašim ?a ū-ō-o-t. 22 Things cl mk-pretty we excl-find-pl.
23 konkāk rā-rāi?i?i?i?i k-i-š-t-i?i?a m-ii-t. 23 People real-looking so
cl mk-small-pl-uncrt we pt-find-pl. 24 m-i-/ś/-ii-i ro m-itāmoos-ox.
24 Pt-small-/pl/-small but pt-have whiskers-pl. 25 or t-p-ākta-ma ?apr
i-m-ik-mōkka. 25 In this manner pt-uncrt-look at-when outside they-pt-put-
pl. 26 ?apr i-t-ak-mōkka-ma, 26 Outside they-pt-put-pl-when, 27 i-t-āi-šl,
27 they-pt-make-pl, 28 i-tōaa-tx k? iīs-xox rā? i-nē iīs-xox t-a-tārō-ōi,i,
28 their-foot-pl the front side-pl and their-hands(pl form) front side-pl
pt-uncrt-scrape hard-pl, 29 ?āit k? ari-t-āmā-ma i-t-āalakx. 29 Blood the
30 Top of fontanel(claimed by the informant to be meaningless)-
pl place also pt-uncrt-scrape hard-pl. 31 kWār šir ?apr kōo-m i-šit-nōoš
rā? tār kW-ta-nār-ka 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 ?ōrā? t-āmē ?ant-pi-ma-r
?ari-m-aiyāy-āt-ka ?iti-t-aiyāy-āt yo-k-e. 32 Uncrt-pt-be gone land-
33 ?ōrā? t-āmē ūkā kāo-kā tārā? ko-m ikot kW-t-aiyāy-āt yo-k-e. 33 Uncrt-
pt-be gone things large-pl uncrt-the-long with them uncrt-pt-size-pl pt-uncrt-
say. 34 ūkā k-i-t ?āmēm k-īm-/ia/-xk ko-i ?ip-i/-t/-aa-ā 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-ākta-ma kWār ?askāa-x k-om iti t-a-āxka, 35 In this
manner pt-uncrt-look at-when then balasa-pl the-long on pt-mount(pl form),
36 rika ?ap'? kō-iitox ko-m i-t-ǎokw-tox-ma i-t-ǎa-it-ox yo-k-e.
36 Things outside be-long(pl form) the-long they-pt-kill-pl when they-pt-pl-eat-pl
pt-uncrt-say. 37 tokw-i-y-ái ki? tōŋ t-ayari-ma, k-śiis? ki-x 6 r t-əxəs
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, ¿ánt ¿aa t bópu!
38 My-brother year there excl-arrive! 39 rámxan siiktoks ki? tóño-má!
39 rámxan siiktoks(bush name) the excl-ripen! ho s-k-ǎaniipə-ət! ho ft-uncrt-
return-pl! h1 ô om-p-ákta ro kái ki-x tāsoo-xo n-t-iiin yo-k-e. h1 In this
manner uncrt-uncrt-look at but elder the-seated one-uncrt uncrt-pt-return
yo-k-e. h2 Hissing sound-uncrt-large-pl in front of place kyáxos(camp name)
called the in-beach-in-beach pt-arrive pt-uncrt-say. h3 ?askǎm k-ākox ə iti
i-x, h3 Balsa cl mk-large a on pt-be-seated, h4 h4 kōŋkāak ki? tâːr pak iti
t-ōi toktoima k? inoo t-əpp yo-k-e. h4 People the there some on pt-live(pl
form) uncrt the in pt-arrive pt-uncrt-say. h5 kwâ?əm əə ki-x kw-w-t-amfiiit
yo-k-e. h5 Female spouse the-seated uncrt-pt-inquire pt-uncrt-say. h6 oə
k-əm-p-ákta-ma kwâ-t-əməm-ox yo-k-e. h6 In this manner pt-uncrt-look at-when
uncrt-pt-say-pl pt-uncrt-say. h7 ¿ant ani ¿-i? ak tənít ano m-ii?. h7 Land
inside uncrt-live place tənít(camp name) inside pt-live. h8 əə̄nəʔə-t-əməm
t-ətar̂̂k yo-k-e. h8 Uncrt-pt-be gone pt-go pt-uncrt-say. h9 kwâʔəm ki-x ikāk
so tokw-t-i-x, šir t-inoka ¿ánt ak kw-ət-əpp-ma kw-ə?iisx šir ši kw-ə-s-ipəm
raʔa t-əməm-ma. h9 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-think-when. h0 i-t-ər̂̂k, i-škâpəʔa ak ani t-ərkim h0 Hə-p-
take, his-armpit place inside pt-put 51 ikii t-ətop̂̂p-ma kwipətx ak iti
kw-i-t-kāsər̂̂k yō-k-e. 51 with pt-become narrow opening-when side of ribs place
on uncrt-he-pt-tear pt-uncrt-say. 52 oə k-əm-p-ákta-ma ?atáí káoksrax šo
tok-t-i-ma, 52 In this manner pt-uncrt-look at-when cloth long a uncrt-pt-
be-when, 53 i-t-ədai, i-ət ki-x kw-i-t-kâsər̂̂k yō-k-e. 53 He-pt-make, his-head
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 Brother:  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
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 *stixtox (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 kyápox 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 ḏnit. 48 Soon he left it was said. 49 When the giant arrived at ḏnit, 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.