

S A A B A N



S A A B A N *The Tsimshian and Europeans Meet*

Told by
Dorothy Brown, Gitkxaata

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Johnson Gordon, on behalf of his mother, Dorothy Brown
&
Wilfred Jackson, on behalf of the Ganhada of Gitkxaata

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Third in the Series, Suwilaay'msga Na Ga'niiyatgm,
Teachings of Our Grandfathers

The Tsimshian Language Series, Suwilaay'msga Na Ga'niiyatgm, Teachings of Our Grandfathers, was initiated and co-ordinated by Vonnie Hutchingson, First Nations Education Consultant for School District #52 (Prince Rupert). David Harrison, Director of Instruction, supervised the project. Funding came from the Ministry of Education for the Province of British Columbia, under a local initiatives program. The funding has been held in trust and administered by School District #52 on behalf of the Tsimshian Bands of Lax Kwalaams, Gitka'ata, and Lax Klan.

The First Nations Advisory Council of School District #52 has overseen the project from the outset. The council is composed of representatives from all those organizations and institutions concerned with the education of First Nations students in School District #52. Drafts of the work in progress were circulated among the Tsimshian Sm'oogit and Elders.

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for Tsimshian Children Present and Future

Adawx originally transcribed in Sm'algayax and English by John Dunn (1979), edited by Pauline Dudoward, John Dunn, Verna Helin, Ernie Hill, Vonnie Hutchingson, Susan Marsden, Beatrice Robinson, Marie-Lucie Tarpent, Mildred Wilson.

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Layout & Design: Alexandra Hass

Printed in Canada

*Dm ga gik matdu k'üülda
a'nuuyut gik'ot
adawx wila waalsis na wayt ganiiyatgm
wil gwit xsoo ndiniya nagwaadu waadas Saaban*

*Ada wil gisi dawldida gye'ets
ada wil gwit waaldida siwaatgadi Tgwilaxgiitaxs
'ni 'niwila a'ap'axt
ada wil uklakt*

*Yagwa dm uklakt
gyooksa wil hatlax'aws
ada l'atiky'ooga
da gilhawli*

*Ada tuutikda tagigyet
siwaatgadi sginsmts'mmuu
adat ama'niisda tagigyet
siwaatgadi giimst
ada gik dzaba gangan mak'oopsxan
om wil mikmoontga na'a'niisa giik
ada 'ni'ni tadm uklakt*

*First I will tell again something
I heard years ago
an adawx about what our ancestors did
when the grandfather of my father, named Sabaan, was
out in his canoe*

*They went away to the south
and they were around what they call Tgwilaxgiitaxs
(this is how I remember it)
and here they made a fire on the shore*

*As they were preparing to make the fire
they drifted along the edge of a sandy beach
and the leaves were falling
from the hills above*

*Now the people in the old days prized
what they call ear wax
and the people in the old days treasured
what they call cedar cotton
and they made sticks in pairs
which they fashioned from hemlock
and with these they made the fire on the shore*



28

Ada wilt ksigyetgada k'oolda na sginsmts'mmuut
adat wil txalthwaaldida gan
ada wilt wiliildida an'ont
adat wil txalwiliilda siwaatgadi giims

Ada wil haw gwa'a ta aam sga'nakt
"Ts'iits, Ts'iits" deya gwa'a
ada wil lu'am'aam gagoots dipgwa'a
matitaxs nts'iits'gat
tadm gwaalket
waal dawila ta sisip'ityaant
dawilt swant

La yagwa dm swandida dipgwa'a
da sa uks'niitsga gyet
da gyaaks
naa ta gyebn hawilo'ga
'litxas waal ligigoo da nlax'oot

Dawil luwamwantga gagoots dipgwa'a
ada wil tkidawt ligigoo
ada wil 'niis dipgwa'a ta wil logomk'ota gyet
ada wila bagayi ndeh dza wila huut
hatt'oxtga gilhawli

One man took out some of his ear wax
and put it on a stick
and then he rubbed it in his hands
and then he rubbed it into what they call cedar cotton

After a while it said
"Ts'iits, Ts'iits" the fire said
and they were happy
it spoke of its grandmothers
when it was burning
it started to smoke
so he blew on it

As he was blowing
the man suddenly looked out to sea
way out on the ocean
a sea monster was rising out of the water
something was on its surface, on the top of it

They were worried
when something was coming down from it
when they saw that people were disembarking
they looked for a place to escape
along the steep hillside



9B

Da'al dzagmwaay dipgwa'a
libagayt waal dm wila huut
ky'a'alpkwtaal

Da'al dii baxk'otit
int yaagat

Ada sgüü goo haldaaksa tagigyat
dzida wila luwanwantgat gagoot
ada wil luliksiksuuda ts'm ga'an'ont
ada wil 'ni'nii nagaawks
ta gik sa'amawantga gagoot

Ada wilt gididoxda K'mksiwah gwa'a
wilt hi 'waada K'mksiwah Gitkxaata
a siwaatgadit Tgwilaxgiitaxs
'nii 'niwila 'nax'nuudu waada gwa'a

Ada wil gididoxs dipgwa'a
ada wil 'nii goo wila waalt

Ada wila dii silaksis dipgwa'a
sm hatguuyda 'wii hato'opxat
ada wil sagwaalga lak

Then they were paddling ashore
they tried to escape
they fell back down

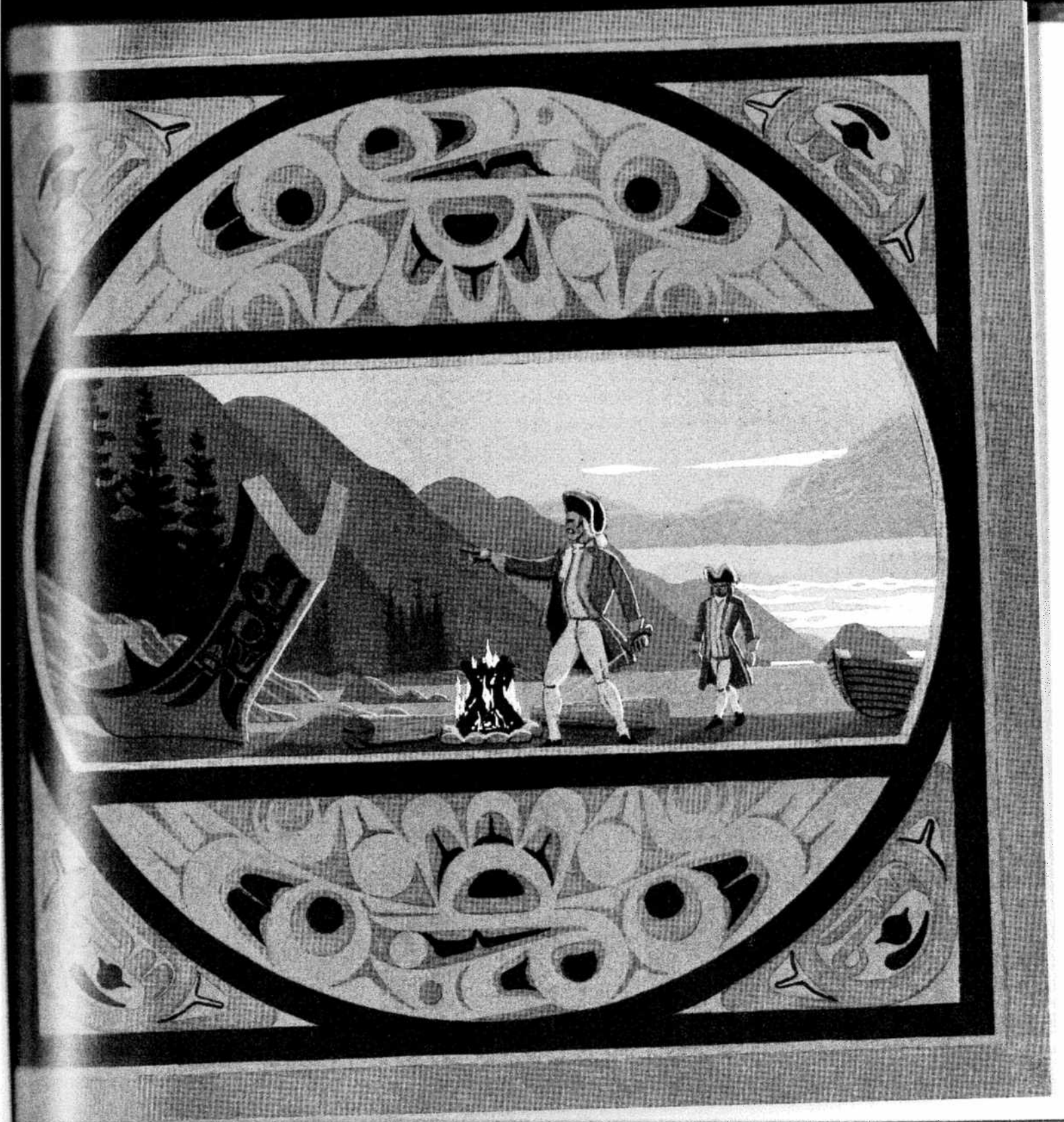
Then they were running up the beach
they were following them

The people in the old days had a medicine
for when they were worried
they would urinate into their hands
and rub it into their hair
and then they would be calm again

And then these white people caught up to them
the white people found the Gitkxaata
at the place they call Tgwilaxgiitaxs
this is the name I heard

And when they caught up
they watched what they did

And then these people made a fire
they struck hard along the side of a large scraper
and the fire began to burn



Ada wil al'algaxs dipgwa'a
ada gik uksdawta xsoo . . . boat
int dzagmdoga wüneeeya

Ada wil silaksis dipgwa'a
ta'ayt tooltida lak
ada wil wans dipgwa'a

Ada 'nii wil lik'adawt galdmt'uu'tsk lax lak
ada lik'adawta dzamt
ada wil gwaanksa gwii

Ada wilt gingiins dipgwa'a
amawandit
lut'itt'aatdida miyuupdida wil dm int txooxt
ada wil 'ligats'gadza siwaatgadit biloos

Deya dipgwa'a
"K'a ksda goot waal dm gabas dipgwa'a"
ada wila hawsga 'yuutaga'a
"Saaban, wayei! Luunksm xsaan gwa'a"
deya ga'a
"Ada tat 'lig'ats'gadza lo'kagyet"

And then they spoke
and they went down to the water to their canoe . . . boat
and they brought food ashore

And they made a fire
and when they had stoked it
they sat down

And they put a black pot right into the fire
they put it into the fire to boil
and then it cooked

And they gave them food
they had them sit down
they served rice for them to eat
and poured over it what they call molasses

They said
"What food these people eat"
and one of the men said
"Saaban, wayei! These are dried maggots"
he said
"And they have poured the rot of people over it"

"A dm gabm" deya ga'a
ada wil waals dipgwa'a
txooxgat

Gawdi gwii ta teexgat
ada wil gingiinda dipgwa'a da biscuit
anaay gingiint

Ada gik haws Saaban
"Lat gingiinmda anaay kabaa'lx" deya
ada wil doxt dii dipgwa'a

Ada wil gik goydiksa siwaatgadit hayooks'ontk
'wiiit'aa nika'nuunk
ada wil hawsga captain ga'a
ksgooxdida ta 'ni'niit sm'oogits dipgwa'a
waadas Saaban
"Here" deyagu gwasga'a, "Soap"

Dawilt haws Saaban
"K'amayt wilaay'anu K'mksiwabt" haw
"K'amayt sabuutga na waayu" deya ga'a

"Let's eat it" he said
and this is what they did
they ate

When they were calm again
they gave them biscuits to eat
they gave them bread to eat

And Saaban spoke again
"They have given us ghost bread" he said
and they took this also

And they brought something else they call 'for washing
hands'
big long bars
and the captain said
to the leader, the one who was chief
named Saaban
"Here" he said, "Soap"

Then Saaban said
"Already the white man knows me" he said
"Already he has announced my name" he said

*Ada gik wil k'i'lam 'wii t'uu'tsk
'wiileeksm t'uu'tskgu gwa'a
gik k'i'lamt*

Wai

*sgabuu matdu gwii
'nax'nuyyu wil ts'uusgu*

*Then he gave him something else, a big knife
it was a very big knife
that he gave him*

Well

*that is all I have to tell
that I heard when I was small*



98