

## The Wives of Moon Stsptekwll

***Told by Sexwéylecken from Big Bar and Xgéttem. Documented by James Teit 1909, The Shuswap.***

*Reclaimed by the Skítchesten Elders 2015 (Daniel Calhoun, Leona Calhoun, Garlene Dodson, Christine Simon, Amy Slater, Julie Antoine, and Doris Gage). Checked and edited with Bridget Dan, Clara Camille and Cecilia DeRose, August 2016. Transcribed by Marianne Ignace.*

**Le q7éses-ekwe mut re mégcen ne kekéw te tmicw, tikwemtús re stéllt.s, cw7it re swucwt ell re scúyent.**

Long time ago the moon lived in a far-away country where it was always cold, and there was much snow and ice.

**Ne nekúlecw te tmicw kwemtús re sqwets.s. Nu7 re tsyémes tmúsmes te nuxwnúxwenxw te uqwiyéwst.s mete kwséltktens.**

In another land, where it was always warm, lived four sisters with their relatives.

**Re mégcen m-tégwenmens yerí7 te qelmúcw, sulltímcwes es emút.stems re sec7ítemc te núxwenxw.**

The moon visited those people and asked to marry the oldest sister.

**M-c7ú7tsentem te kwséltktens, m-yews re m-sle7s, m-kwens re núxwenxw, pelqílcwes te tmicws.**

The parents agreed, and they were fine with it; he took the woman and returned to his country with her.

**Q7é7es re slé7es re smut.s, ta7 put k stéllte7úys ne mútes re mégcen.**

For a while, she was comfortable because it was not too cold in the place where he was staying.

**Kémell nekú7 te sitq7 m-tsúns-ekwe re sem7é7ems, “me7 síxelc-kt ne tsítslem te tsitcw-kt.”**

But one day he told his wife, “We will move into our new house.”

**Yerí7 re s.tsítslem te tsitcw tské7es ne tsecpetkwénks re skikéye. Stexwtéxw te scúyent.**

His new house was in a cave in a glacier. Icicles hung from the ceiling.

**Le kítscwes ne tsítslem te tsitcw, re mégcen m-kúpens re sem7é7ems ne ckémtém m-yews re skípens re tsecpetkwénk.**

When they arrived at their new house, he pushed his wife inside and then locked the cave shut.

**M-llwélenses re sem7é7ems es ucw7úcw.s wel re m-qwtseq.**

He left his wife to freeze to death.

**M-pelqílç te kwséltktens, m-tsuns re m-qwtseq re sem7é7ems. Sulltímcwes re skélpems re úqwis te sec7ítemc.**

He went back to her relatives and told them his wife had died. He asked them to marry the next oldest sister.

**M-pelqílçwes ne tmicws, m-xíllt.ses tsílem te sec7ítemc te úqwi, m-llwélenses ne tsitcw wel re m-qwtseq.**

He took her to his country and did the same to her as he had done to the older sister; he killed her.

**M-pelqílçwes cúytsem te kwséltktens, m-tsuns re m-qwtseq cúytsem re sem7é7ems. Sulltímcwes es kélpems re úqwis te tklélem. M-ítqwenses tsílem te s7i7llcw.**

He again went to her relatives and told them his second wife had died. He asked them to marry the next daughter, and he killed her like the others.

**Re tseqwguçy te uq7úqwis te tsqwnuxwcén, tqweqwpe7ítsemens e stémes re skénems re sqélemcw.**

The youngest of the daughters, who had a lame leg, thought there was something wrong with the man (she was “creeped out” by him).

**Qwetséts m-xwéntes re kic met e mégcen, m-nes re tsqwnuxwcén te sqeltús es étsxems.**

As soon as her older sister left with the moon, the girl with the lame leg went to the mountain to train for powers.

**M-xexewílç m-wikt.ses es qwetsqténs re uq7úqwis, m-xepqenwéns m-késctem.**

She became powerful (wise), she had a vision about how her sisters got killed, and she found out what had happened to them.

**M-wi7 put re étsxems, m-tspelqílçwes re mégcen, m-tsútes, “m-qwtseq le tke7wit7 ten sem7é7em, tsutst-ken ens emúmt.sten re tseqwguçwi te7 stémkélç.”**

She had just finished her training when the moon came back, and he said, “My last wife died, I have come to ask to marry your youngest daughter.

**Re tseqwguçwi m-qwtséts mete sxélwes ne tsitcws, tsílem te xílmes le uq7úqwis.**

She went with her husband to his house, like her older sisters had done.

**Le cwesétes m-ptínesmes re mégcen tektenhé7e me7 pulst.ses re tseqwguçwi, “Neri7 yem me7 ícwentéten xwexwéytes re qelmucw te tsyem ne7elye ne qwetsúlecw, me7 kuklen es tsellte7úwis, wel me7 secscuyent, wel me7 xweyt xwexweyt re qelmúcw. “**

While they were still travelling, the moon thought what he would do, he would kill the youngest daughter, and then he would gain mastery over all the people that lived in the warm land, and he cause it to be bitter cold, and icy all over, so that all the people would freeze to death.

**Re nuxwenxw m-ullcw ne scuyent te tsecpetkwénk, m-emútes. M-tsexeyúyenses re tkmenks re tsitcw, xwent re skúlens es tsimt.s re texwtéxw te scuyent.**

The woman entered the ice cave and sat down. She stared at the ceiling of the house, and right away, she caused the icicles that were hanging down to melt.

**Tsexeyúyens re tkmenks re tsitcw, m-tsímtes, m-yews re stsimt.s xwexwéyt re tsitcw, wel re m7íxwes xwexwéyt re tmicw.**

She stared at the ceiling of the house, and it melted, then the whole house melted, and finally the whole country thawed.

**M-tcwi7ékstmes, m-qw7étses re tmicw, m-tsemtsímtes re swucwt ell re scuyent, tsílem te qéptsnucw.**

The south wind began to blow, the land warmed up, and all the snow and ice melted, making it feel like springtime.

**Tel ri7 yem re nuxwenxw m-ícwentésés re mégcen, m-kukwstésés re qelmúcw es ta7es es ucw7úcw.s, es ta7es es xweyt.s.**

And this is how the girl beat out the moon; she saved the people from freezing to death.