

# Seagull Steals the Sun

(Ellen White, Ruby Peter, Thomas E. Hukari 1977)

Adapted by yutustana:at 2019

A Coast Salish Story

## qen' thu qwuni 'u sum'shathut

Narrator: This is a legend. It was told a long time ago. The sun used to be close, his *Sxwuy'em tun'a sqwil'qul nan uw' wulh hith. Sum'shathut stutesulh* place was not far away. And he used to visit his friends. The Creator told the *Uwu cukwus, suw ne nuc'uw'txwum's siye'yus. Xeels cusutum Thuw'ne'ulh mustimuxw*

sxwuy'em tun'a. sqwil'qwul c'u 'u.  
kwun'a 'nan 'uw'wulh hith. Stutesulh thu sum'shathut 'uwu' cakwus thu shi's.  
Suw'ne' nuc'uw'txwum's 'u thu siye'yus.  
Cusutum' cu' thuw'ne'ullh mustimuxw 'u thu xeels,

Creator: You people fish, always fish and take the salmon scales off. These will be your guard, they will guard your house.

Kwukwuy'ukw ceep, yath ceep 'uw'kwukwuy'uk unsuw' qutlum'shulup thu c'ul'c's  
thu sceelhtun.nilh ce' 'un'lumxutun.

**THIS WILL BE HAPPENING IN THE BACKGROUND: (drumming and singing)  
the people are fishing - taking the salmon scales off, placing in buckets.**

**People invite the sun to come to their homes. He goes in backwards.  
Sun sprinkles himself with scales**

Narrator: The sun never kept his eyes all the way open.  
'Uwu ce tle' kws 'nans 'uw'yuxun'eqt.

**The sun looks at something (a house/person) and it burns up (or we show  
something that has been burned by the sun)**

**The sun goes into many different houses/visits with many different people  
Seagull is alone and not seen visited by the sun**

Seagull: then I will take over lighting the world from my father  
'I' 'uw' xwu'een' thu xwusth'et ukwstuxw thu skweyul

Seagull acting out how he wants to be the sun - his friends ignore him  
The sun goes into peoples houses to eat  
Women and children are taking the fish scales and placing them in buckets.  
The canoe is full of fish.  
Seagull takes fish from the canoe and scales  
Seagull places scales by his door  
The people are watching him in wonder

People: Is he going to invite the sun?  
'A-a-a-, tle'ushun yuxw, tle'ushutum yuxw thu sum'shathut?

Seagull cooking and inviting the sun

Seagull: Come my father, eat.  
'Mi 'ewu 'u tunu men. ulhtun

Sun: Yes. He is not my son.  
Hee. 'uwu qa' numun'ees

Sun arrives at seagulls door, sprinkles with scales  
Walks backwards into house

Seagull: Come here sit down.  
Mi' ewu, xwucenusum.

Sun sits down on the ground sprinkled with scales  
Seagull is cooking the fish, sun sits on the scales with eyes mostly closed  
Seagull puts food in front of sun

Sun: Where is the flavouring you add to this?  
Ni' 'uncu kwethu tuw'quqa'tuxw. 'U tu'inulh

Seagull: the bladderwrack is in the box (gesture to box) I am very busy. Go get it, sir, go.

Sun'uw' kwthu qwaqwuqw 'u thu xthum. 'I' cun 'nan 'uw titiy'xw. Nem ch kwunut  
si'em, nem'

The sun goes to look in the box

Sun: Oh, it is way down in the bottom.

A-a- na'ut tlitlup

Sun: Oh, I cannot get it, sir.

A-a-a- skwey kwu nus kwunnuxw si'em

Seagull: Oh, I am very busy, sir. You try and get it.

A-a- a 'i cun pe 'nan 'uw'titiya'xw, si'em. 'Uw' ta'thut ch kwunut.

Sun goes over to box, seagull sneaks up behind him and closes the box

People: It should be daylight.  
'Mi ce' wulh thekwul

People: The door must have been closed. It is so dark.

'I' 'uwu kws xwtqetuns thu shelh. Uw' ni' wulh tlim' 'uw'ste 'ew'niis xwutlec.

The people burned torches to do their daily activities.

Narrator: The seagull's door was open. And the sun was nowhere.

-a-a-a 'e'ut 'uw'shxwuy'ixw thu shelh. 'Uw'uwute' 'u thu sum'shathut.

The people looked for the sun, the women and children cried for the sun

People: What happened? Did he die?

'Uw'niis ctamut, ni' yuxw cu qay?

Narrator: Their eyes were half shut

'Uw'n'iis thithupnexw

TIME PASSES SONG

People are crawling, using torches, seagull flies into things, their eyes are half shut, people feel bad

People: We are so pitiful. We should find our friend.  
'Nan 'uw' wilh xwutsas. Suw'qt kwthu sye'yuct

People wander around looking for the sun

Raven: I think I know where your friend is. I will go look.

Shtewun cun ni' cun 'uw'stal'stuxw nem' cun ce' suwqt.

Raven goes looking for his friends.

People: help us, we are so pitiful  
Cewuthumu . thixwum ct

Narrator: Raven calls his ant friends.

Raven: Dear friends, please help us.  
'Nan cun 'uw thithuxwuthutnamut cewut, cewutal'xw

Ants: yes, we will help you.  
Hee... cewuthumu ct

The ants squeeze through into seagulls house.  
Seagull is talking to himself.

Seagull: I am the one that lights my way.  
Hay cun 'uw' sthuthi, hay 'uw'sthethukw.

People are carrying wood, walking in the dark, crawling around

The ants were watching him. And the seagull went to the box again.

Seagull: Are you listening, Dad?  
Ni' u ch xw'iyun'em' men

Ants: Oh the sun is in that box.  
Ni' 'uw' sun'iw 'u they' xthum

Seagull opens the box a little - the suns light shines out  
The ants slid down and went back through the little holes  
They go to ravens house

Raven: Ah, the ants are here.

'Aaa, 'uw'wulh te'lucul'

Narrator: He shined a light on them and they came in.

Nem thekwutum wulh mi-i-i- hun'nuw'

Ants: We saw our father the sun he is in the box.

Ni' ct lumnuxw kwthu men sumshathut ni' 'uw 'sun'iw 'u kwuthu xthum

Raven: Oh, thank you, thank you. We will get him.

A-a-a- hay ce:ep qa, hay ce;ep qa. Ha' ct ce' kwunnuxwus

Ants: Oh, fine. We will look after your family

A-a-a uy' lu'lum'ut ct ce thun shuweli

The ants went home. And the raven went out.  
He went to the beach and stood there looking out at the water

Raven: Oh, my dear my sister, sea urchin, I am very hungry for you.  
But I also want you to help us.

A-a-a- nu sye'yu nu shxw'aqwa xixwu. I cun nan uw kwey utl nuwu'  
'I' nu stli kw un' cewutal'xw

the sea urchin appeared. She came walking up out of the water.

Sea Urchin: Oh, my dear.

A-a-a-a tunu si'em

Raven: When I eat you, beat me up. We can help save the sun.

Ha' cun ce' wulh lhuyxthamu. Cewuthumu tu sumshathut

Sea Urchin: I am happy to help you

I cun pe iyus 'i' cewuthumu utl nuwu

Narrator: And he ate her.

Suw ulhtuns

The raven breaks the shell in half and lays half of the shell outside seagulls door.  
He lays down close to seagulls house  
The seagull is being beat up by the sea urchin inside his belly.

Raven: (screaming) Help me! Help me! I am suffering!

A-a-a- cewatham'sh cewatham'sh 'nan cun 'uw wulh xhiliwu.

The seagull opens his door a little to see what's going on  
A little light shines through.

Seagull: What is the matter with you?

'I ch ula ctamut

Raven: I am suffering. Look at my belly.

Nan cun uw wulh xhiliwu. Lemut thunu kwul'u

Narrator: His belly was indeed very bloated.

'I thulh tlim uw' shplupa thu kwul'us

Raven's belly is bloated and making loud noises as the fight goes on.

Raven: I am really suffering.

'I cun uw'wulh xtiliwu

Narrator: And the seagull remembered that the raven helped him with all kinds of things.

Thuw nilh qwuni yath uw cecuw'utum''utl spaal 'u thu tuw muk 'al tuw'stem

Seagull goes towards raven  
He steps on something sharp.  
He jumps and screams and lands on the other half of the sea urchin spines.  
He jumps from one foot to the other, screaming in pain.

Seagull: (screams)

Raven: What is the matter with you?

'I ch alu ctamut

Seagull: What did you do to me? Help me now, help me.

'I ch alu custam'sh na'ut wulh

Narrator: The raven sat up and dragged the seagull close to the door.

'Umut thu spaal 'i' ni' 'uw tuw'xwkwastum thu shelh

Seagull: Take your knife, do you have your knife?

Kwunuat kwthu un shuptun. 'I u ch uw'kwun'em' u kwathnu shupatun

Raven: Oh I have.

A-a-a-a "i' cun

Raven takes his knife and pries the little slivers out of his feet.  
Then the raven's hand slips.

Seagull: You cut me!

I-i-i ch wulh tlicutham'sh

Raven: Oh, it is too dark. It is too dark for me to see.

A-a-a-a 'nan pe 'uw'tlec. 'Nan 'uw'tlec kwu nus lumnuxw

Raven drags the seagull inside close to the side of the box  
Raven tries to see the slivers - but it's still too dark

Raven: I cannot see the slivers.

Skwey kws lumnuxws scuqwshe'n's

Seagull: Well, open the box a little bit more.

Tuw' qu'et pe xwse'euxut thu xthum.

The raven lifts the lid a little more  
Then he tries to take the slivers out again.  
Again his hand slipped.

Raven: Oh, I just cannot see. It is too dark. I cannot see. It is too dark.

O-o-o-o 'nan pe 'uw' skwey kwu nus lumnuxw. 'Nan 'uw'tlec

Seagull: I am almost dead. Go open the box.

'I cun wulh culel q'ay. Nem. Ihu tuw'xwyuxwut thu xthum.

Raven opens the box and goes back to seagull and starts prying the slivers out.

Seagull: (Screams. Screams.) Oh, you are cutting me.

O-o-o-o ni' ch wulh tlicutham'sh

Raven: It is too bright now, that is why I cannot see. I will close the box.

Ni' 'nan 'uw' xwusthethukw, nusni' nan 'uw'skwey . i cun xwqpequtus

Raven goes to the box.  
He gets there and opens it instead.

Raven: Ok, my dear friend. Now get out.

Hey' si'em' nu syey'yu . nilh 'un' suw'utlqul

Narrator: He helped the sun, who was very weak

Ni' cewutum thu sum'shathut ni' thulh wulh xwumeen.

Raven: If I die then I die

Ha' cun qay 'i' 'uw qay.

Narrator: He took the sun and he flew through the hole where the smoke goes.

Kwunutus thu sum'shathut sus nem' 'uw' lhakw nem' clhaqwthut tunanulh  
shqwuwqe

Raven: you go way up there. Do not stay close anymore, do not keep coming here.

Nem' ch huye' ' uwu ch 'miuxw tle stutes

Sun: Alright, Thank you, thank you. I will stay way up there.  
Look after yourselves. Look after yourselves.  
A-a-a hay ch qa, hay ch qa. Cun ce kwu'ulh'uw' ni' cun ce' 'u tunanulh.  
La'lum'uthut ceep la'lum'uthut ceep

The sun goes back up into the sky. The people have light again.  
The people cover their eyes.  
The people do their work with their eyes covered for a few days  
The people do their work without covering their eyes.

Narrator: That is a legend. The sun was a very close friend of the  
people. And then the seagull got mad and did that, saying that he was so bright.  
He wanted to be the light of the world.

Narrator: It is done.

Nilh kwu'elh sxwi'em "uw tlim 'uw' sye'yus thuw ne' ulh thut sumshathut 'i' ni'  
wulh 'u they teyuq thu qwuni ks xutus kws tlu's 'uw puq stl'i's kws 'uw' nilh shsthethukws thu  
skweyul.

Ni huy