

**Traditions of the Kwikwasut̓inuxw**  
**T̓sekame' "Head-Winter-Dancer"**

**(Tradition of the Clan Wi'wo'masgam told by T̓suxt̓sa'es, a Mamalilikala, a descendant of this clan).**

A'udzilelagalis Too-Large was living in the upper world with his wife. Now, Too-Large was very downcast. He spoke to his wife, and said, "Let us go to the lower world, that we may see it".

His wife replied "Do you know about your name? You have the name Too-Large, you will be too large a Chief in our lower world?"

Then Too-Large said, "Just let us get ready to go". They put on their Thunderbird masks and came flying through the door of the upper world.

Then they sat down on the large mountain Xakwikan, which is named Split-in-Two, and they saw a river at the foot of the mountain. Too-Large said to his wife, "Let us go down from this mountain and look at the river down below". They flew down, and sat down at the mouth of the river. There they saw a man working at the beam of his future house. The man spoke to them, and said, "Oh friends! I wish you would become people, that you may come and help me make this house".

Too-Large lifted at once the jaw of his Thunderbird mask, and said, "Oh brother! We are people".

Too-Large asked the man "What is your name, bro?" The man replied, "My name is 'Namukwalisala Only-One-on-the-Beach".

Too-Large and his wife took off their Thunderbird masks and they ceased being birds. Only-One-on-the-Beach asked their names. Too-Large said, "My name is Too-Large in the upper

world, but now my name is T̄sekame' Head-Winter-Dancer in this lower world. "And I am T̄sekaga Winter-Dance-Woman".

Only-One-on-the-Beach was glad when he knew their names. "Thank you for meeting me! Now go on, and you also build a house for yourselves". Head-Winter-Dancer asked, "Bro, where is a good place for building a house?" Only-One-on-the-Beach said, "Go to Mit̄apdzi. There is a good hill site there".

Head-Winter-Dancer asked that Only-One-on-the-Beach should take them to Mit̄apdzi. So Only-One-on-the-Beach launched his canoe and Head-Winter-Dancer and Winter Dance Woman went aboard the canoe. Then the man paddled, and arrived at Mit̄apdzi.

Head-Winter-Dancer and Winter Dance Woman built a house on the hill site with the help of Only-One-on-the-Beach. When their house was finished they now saw many salmon jumping in the mouth of the river at Mit̄apdzi.

Head Winter Dancer went to take wood of the red cedar to make a salmon trap. While Head-Winter-Dancer was working, he heard the sound of a voice speaking on the beach of his village. "Oh friend, Head-Winter-Dancer! Is it you?" Head-Winter-Dancer answered at once and said, "Yes, it is I, friend K̄anik̄ilakw. Thank you for meeting me". Now Head-Winter-Dancer had on his head a large head ring with a man in front, and he had around his neck a large neck ring with men's heads attached. K̄anik̄ilakw said, "I am told that you, Head-Winter-Dancer, are not an ordinary man, that you are a man of supernatural power". Head-Winter-Dancer said, "Indeed, you said so." "Let me try you with my magic power", K̄anik̄ilakw said while he pointed at him with his first finger. A hole at once appeared under the eyes of Head-Winter-Dancer. Head-Winter-Dancer said, "Oh friend! It is wonderful. You are indeed a man of supernatural power". Then Head-Winter-Dancer healed himself and said, "Oh friend K̄anik̄ilakw! Now take care! Let me also do the same to you". He said while he pointed his first finger at him.

A hole appeared between the eyes of K̄aniḱilakw. K̄aniḱilakw said, “Oh friend! It is wonderful. You really have supernatural power also”. K̄aniḱilakw put the palm of his hand to his forehead and it healed up at once.

Now, K̄aniḱilakw had been standing all this time in his canoe with two other men. K̄aniḱilakw felt badly on account of Head-Winter-Dancer. He said to his two companions, “Get out of the canoe and cut off the head of Head-Winter-Dancer and throw the head in a corner on a rock”. The two men got out of the canoe and cut off the head of Head-Winter-Dancer and threw it away in a corner on a rock and returned to the canoe.

K̄aniḱilakw felt glad and he paddled, but he had not gone far when he heard Head-Winter-Dancer healing himself. When he came back to life, K̄aniḱilakw went back and said, “Go and cut open his belly”.

The men stepped out of the canoe and went to where Head-Winter-Dancer, the man of magic power, was working and they cut open his belly, and they pulled out his intestines and threw them away. Head-Winter-Dancer was dead and K̄aniḱilakw paddled away. He had not gone far when he again heard the sound of someone healing himself. He looked around and saw Head-Winter-Dancer, the supernatural man coming to life. K̄aniḱilakw became angry and once more he went back to the shore. He told the two men to gather driftwood and to make a fire on the beach of the house of Head-Winter-Dancer. The two men gathered driftwood and made a fire of it. Then they took Head-Winter-Dancer and threw him in the fire on the beach and K̄aniḱilakw waited until he began to burn.

As soon as he began to burn, K̄aniḱilakw tried to leave him, but he heard again the sound of someone healing himself. “Let us go to him and let us pull him into our canoe and let us take him out to sea”, said K̄aniḱilakw. The men went out in their canoe and searched for a board-shaped stone. They could hardly lift the stone and put it into the canoe. They went to the place where

Head-Winter-Dancer was sitting and the two men took Head-Winter-Dancer by the arms and pulled him in the canoe.

They paddled and went far out to sea, K̄aniḱilakw tied Head-Winter-Dancer with ropes of cedar withes and he also tied the board-shaped stone to the end of it. Then they threw Head-Winter-Dancer and the stone into the water and Head-Winter-Dancer sank. Now K̄aniḱilakw was really glad, but had not stayed long in his canoe when Head-Winter-Dancer came and stood on the surface of the sea and he made the sound of healing himself. Head Winter dancer walked away on the sea. K̄aniḱilakw paddled after him, but he did not overtake him. He came into his house and K̄aniḱilakw said, "Oh friend! It is wonderful. You are really a man of supernatural power".

Head-Winter-Dancer said to K̄aniḱilakw, "Oh friend! Give up your attempts, for you have now tried four times in vain to kill me. You could not withstand and vanquish me if I should wish to hurt you also".

Never once to give up, K̄aniḱilakw took some strings of the large neck ring of cedar bark and some of the crosspiece at the back of the head ring of red cedar bark, for Head-Winter-Dancer wore his rings of red cedar bark all the time. Head-Winter-Dancer did not deny him the red cedar bark. As soon as K̄aniḱilakw had obtained some of the red cedar bark of Head-Winter-Dancer, he said to his companions, "Let us go to the place where various kinds of salmon come through, that we may bewitch this man of supernatural power, that he may have frogs in his belly".

Now the red cedar bark was for four days at the door of the salmon and Head-Winter-Dancer started to feel sick to his stomach. He could not sleep for the pain. Late in the night, the frogs in his belly began to croak. Head-Winter-Dancer sent word to Only-One-on-the-Beach that he should not paddle to the point of X̄awagis, for he was going to put his frogs there. He started to go there and as soon as he arrived, he took the frogs out of his belly, and he put them on the rock

at the point. Then Head-Winter-Dancer said that its name should be Sakanukw Jump-on-Rock for later generations.

He returned home and said to T<sup>2</sup>sekaga, “Winter-Dance-Woman! Let us take care of the frogs in the belly, that when we give a Winter Dance we may have the Wakestfi Tuxwid Frogs-in-the-Belly-War-Dance”.

## Children

Winter-Dance-Woman, was with child. When she had been with child for four months, she gave birth. “His name shall be ‘Nalba’yi Upper-End”.

Head-Winter-Dancer washed ‘Nalba’yi always in cold water. When Upper-End was four months old he was a full-grown man. Head-Winter-Dancer said to his son, “ Pretty is the country to which I sometimes go paddling. Look at it, and go and build a house there”. Upper-End asked his father to go and look at Wa’tu. He launched the canoe of his father, and they paddled to Wa’tu. When they arrived there, Upper-End spoke at once, “Oh father! Let me make a house in this place”.

Head-Winter-Dancer looked at once for the best place to build a house. They built a house near the river. He spoke to his son and said, “ Take two carved Thunderbirds to sit in the house at both sides of your door”, Head-Winter-Dancer left his son at Wa’tu and went home.

Winter-Dance-Woman was with child again, and after four months she gave birth to a boy. they named him Baxbakwalanukw ”

Now Head-Winter-Dancer always washed his son in cold water, and when Cannibal was four months old he was a full-grown man. Head-Winter-Dancer spoke to his son and said, “Oh son! I

have seen a pretty country, to which we will go, and we will look at it, that you may build a house there. There is a long clear ground on which you can go from end to end whenever you get excited in your Cannibal-Dance”.

Cannibal said at once to his father, “Let us go and look at it”. Head-Winter-Dancer sent his son to launch the canoe. Then they paddled towards Sa'wagaxto'yi with Cannibal in the bow.

When they arrived Head-Winter-Dancer stood up at once in his canoe, and went ashore to go to the pretty place. As soon as he arrived there, he called Cannibal. Cannibal went up and as soon as he arrived he began to utter the cannibal cry and he ran from end to end four times on the long clear ground.

Head Winter Dancer went home to his village at Mitapdzi. When he arrived at his house, Tsekaga said, “Do you not see the many salmon at the mouth of our river?”. Then Head-Winter-Dancer went out of his house to look at them and there were really many salmon jumping in the mouth of the river of Mitapdzi.

Winter-Dance-Woman told her husband, “I am again with child”. It was not long before Winter-Dance-Woman gave birth to a boy. Head-Winter-Dancer washed him at once and after he had washed the child, he stepped on the toes of his child, and held its shoulders and pulled the child to make it grow.

The child was able to stand up at once. In the morning, when daylight came, Head-Winter-Dancer washed his child again and he stepped on the toes of the feet of his child, and he took hold of the shoulders of the child and pulled it. His child grew up at once.

Head-Winter-Dancer did this four times to his child. and the child was full grown. Head-Winter-Dancer said, “The name of this our child shall be Naxnaxwala Real-Chief, for he will truly be a thorough Chief. He will build a house at the pretty place named Gwa'yasdams

Feasting-Place". Winter-Dance-Woman told her husband that he should go and take his son to Feasting-Place and that he should build a house as deep as ten times the thickness of a cedar, as had been his house at the upper side of the lower world. Head-Winter-Dancer launched his canoe and called his son to go down to the beach. They went aboard the canoe and Head-Winter-Dancer paddled. His son was sitting in the bow of the canoe.

Once they arrived at Feasting-Place, Head-Winter-Dancer spoke, "Oh Real-Chief! Cover your face and I will call down my former house from the upper side of our world, that it may come and stand on the ground here at this place where you will be Chief". Real-Chief at once obeyed his father and covered his face with his blanket and Head-Winter-Dancer called aloud to his house that it should come and stand on the ground. "Come, Steep-Rock, ten times the thickness of a cedar tree". Head-Winter-Dancer shouted four times and Real-Chief heard the house cracking as it came to the ground. Head-Winter-Dancer spoke and said, "Oh Real-Chief! Look at your house". Real-Chief took off his blanket and looked at his house and he saw a large house.

Head-Winter-Dancer went home.

After a while, Winter-Dance-Woman,said, "Oh, my dear! It would not be good if I did not tell you, I am again with child". Head-Winter-Dancer replied, " Thank you for our child when it is born".

Now it was not very long before Winter-Dance-Woman gave birth to a boy. As soon as Head-Winter-Dancer saw that it was a boy, he named him 'Nalagitasawi Day-on-Body and he washed him. Once he finished washing him, he stepped on the toes of the child and pulled him to make him grow.

The child was able to sit up at once. Then the supernatural man washed the child and after he had been four days in the house he washed his son once more. As soon as he finished washing the child, he again stepped on his toes and pulled him up. Then the child began to walk.

That night, Head Winter Dancer heard a curious sound at the place of the salmon trap. He spoke to his wife and said, "What may be the sound coming from my salmon trap? It sounds like rocks rolling down".

Tsekaga said "Oh, my dear! Go up to that watch pole and see what it is". Head-Winter-Dancer went up the watch pole. As soon as he reached the top he saw something like fire going from one end to the other of the salmon trap, and it sounded like rocks rolling down the mountain.

He ran down from his watch pole and told his wife. "What may it be, this that looks like fire on its body, going from one end to the other of our salmon trap?" Winter Dance Woman replied and said, "Can't you guess what may be the name of this salmon? It may be the salmon of your elder brother, Thunderbird; that went into our salmon trap". "Now go to it, but draw some blood from your tongue". Head-Winter-Dancer went to his salmon trap. He carried his fish club and went into the salmon trap and he tried in vain to club the wonderful different kind of salmon, but the salmon only broke down the trap. Head-Winter-Dancer thought of what his wife had said and he bit the sides of his tongue and drew blood from it. He spit some of the blood on the salmon called the Sisiyu† Double-Headed-Serpent and the Double-Headed-Serpent quieted down. Head-Winter-Dancer spit on his club, and he again spit on the salmon. When he had spit four times on the salmon, he clubbed the Double-Headed-Serpent. Now he had really killed it.

He carried the Double-Headed-Serpent and went to show it to his wife. Winter-Dance-Woman said, "I thank you on behalf of this baby". She took a new mat and spread it on the floor. Then she put the Double-Headed-Serpent on it. In the morning, when daylight came, Winter-Dance-Woman arose early and cut the Double-Headed-Serpent. As soon as she had

finished cutting the Double-Headed-Serpent, she woke her husband and said to him, "Do not stay very long in your bed, as you have to go and wash our son". Head-Winter-Dancer arose at once and took a kettle. He poured water into it and he took up red-hot stones and put them into it.

When the water was luke-warm, he took his son and washed him. When he had finished, Winter-Dance-Woman asked her husband to take some clotted blood from the backbone of the serpent and put it on the hands of his son. Head-Winter-Dancer took clotted blood from the backbone of the Double-Headed-Serpent and put it down where he used to wash his son. He took the kettle and washed his son in it. After he had washed him, he again stepped on the toes of his son and pulled him. Now he was a full-grown man. Then he took the clotted blood of the Double-Headed-Serpent and rubbed it on the hands of his son. The hands of his son turned to stone immediately.

Head-Winter-Dancer said "The hands of Day-on-Body turned to stone!" Then Winter-Dance-Woman spoke to her husband and said, "Thank you for what you said, for I wish that he shall be a warrior".

After four days more, Head-Winter-Dancer washed his son, and after he had washed him he did not step on his toes. He made a request of his wife, "Let me take some more of the clotted blood from the backbone of the Double-Headed-Serpent and rub it over the body of our son, for you wish that he shall be a warrior". Winter-Dance-Woman at once said, "Oh, my dear! Go on".

Head-Winter-Dancer took some clotted blood from the backbone of the Double-Headed-Serpent and rubbed it over the body of his son. When Head-Winter-Dancer finished rubbing the body of Day-on-Body, it changed. Now his whole body turned into stone. When Head-Winter-Dancer finished rubbing the clotted blood from the backbone of the Double-Headed-Serpent on his body, his body became black and his eyes became wide open,

and his mouth was large and round just like that of the Dzunukwa. Then he grew and he was twice the size of man.

As soon as his body had turned entirely into stone, he cried like the Dzunukwa.. Then Winter-Dance-Woman spoke and said to her husband, “Oh, my dear! I already guessed it. The Dzunukwa cohabited with me, for I fell into a fainting fit one night when you went to take Real-Chief to where his village is now, and that is the way I got this my son”.

Then Head-Winter-Dancer finished working at his son. Day-on-Body spoke, “Oh father! Now I cease to have the name Day-on-Body. This will now be my name, T<sup>1</sup>at<sup>1</sup>axwas Tisamgid Food-Giver Stone-Body, for I am going to make war all over the world, that I may rob the Chiefs of all the tribes of their crests, so that they will become our crests and that the Chiefs all round the world will become our slaves”.

END