

**ST39. Tom gives various potlatches, paragraphs 1-11<sup>\*, 1</sup>**

SY n. XT t. 277/548 words

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SS¶1. [p138] ?ah?aa k <sup>w</sup> isq?içhšiši<br>fiçaatšiši?aluksi huučmūup.<br>fiictuulašiši. nuššiši?alšiši čišaa?ath.   | Then, next year, my sister had her first courses. I gave a girl's puberty potlatch. I distributed property to the [Tseshaht].   |
| 2 | SS¶2. ?ah?aa?alšiši naŷaqnakšiši?al.<br>nuššiši?alšiši čišaa?ath fiimatfinŷ?alšiši<br>ŷiqsaacash hiik <sup>w</sup> is. čawaakuksi hupaŷ<br>?alpitišiši nuššiši.                             | Then a child was born to me. I distributed property to the [Tseshaht] and gave a navel cord feast while still at the same place, at [Hiikwis]. In one month I had made two distributions of property. |
| 3 | SS¶3. ?ah?aa?alšiši maakuksi quuŷ<br>k <sup>w</sup> isq?içhšiši?alŷitq. haŷuufisuksi<br>ŷišaŷ. čawaakuksi čuŷiçh quŷnaak.   | Next year I bought a slave. He cost ten score blankets. I had him for one winter.   |
| 4 | čiiŷsaapaŷatuksi quuŷii waŷsaapat<br>q <sup>w</sup> i?athŷitq. ?athii ŷuyi čiiŷšiši<br>čūučkaŷ weŷiç quuŷas. naačuksi<br>naaššiši?alŷitq haŷustasi quuŷas.<br>huŷacačišiši ?athii tuupšiši. | Then someone made him run away from me and go home to his tribe. He ran off at night when everybody was asleep. I went with ten men in a canoe looking for him next day. We returned that night.      |
| 5 | {nuuk <sup>w</sup> iissi} haafinsi čišaa?ath.<br>nuššišiŷišiŷaa. waa?aksi hiŷmaqsti<br>hiixuqqa quuŷii nuššiši?alšiši.  | I sang a canoe song and invited the [Tseshaht]. I again distributed property. I said to myself that a slave didn't amount to much and I made a distribution of property.                              |
| 6 | SS¶4. ?ah?aa?alŷitaŷ haafinŷas?al<br>yuuŷuŷiŷiŷath ?aayeŷinŷišiŷaa haŷiŷimis.   | Then I went to the Ucluelet to invite them (to a feast) and I feasted them also with a lot of wealth.   |
| 7 | ?ah?aa?alšiši pačiši?atsi ŷuŷat haŷiŷuk<br>{ŷaahuus?ath}. ŷuyiŷatsi muupšiiŷ<br>nuuk.   | Then I received a potlatch gift from the chief of the [Ahousaht]. He gave me four songs.  |

---

\* These are paragraphs 1-11 (as edited by SS) of this story, which was told by Saayaachapis Tom to Alex Thomas. This excerpt includes 277 different (uninflected) words, and 548 total words. The entire text is longer, including 4,360 total words. It was digitized by Matthew Davidson, and edited by Adam Werle. The short version and wordlist are by the Somass Valley Language Circle 2022 summer reading group.

<sup>1</sup> The coming-of-age potlatch seems to last through the end of SS¶51. The entire text is sixty paragraphs.

- 8      ?ah?aa?ałsi hinata?as {?aahuuus?ath}      So I went to the [Ahousaht] to call  
       {?uu?in?atsi} ?ałpituuq hayuuq      out names, and I feasted them with  
       łisał.      twice ten score blankets.
- 9      haa?insiłaa quumuuxš?ath.      I also invited the Comox. I let them  
       ?u?iis?apsi hayuuq ?iš sučiiq łisał.      consume fifteen score blankets.
- 10     SS¶5. ?ah?aa?ałsi ?unaakši?ał      Then a daughter was born to me.  
       haak<sup>w</sup>aał.
- 11     ?uńaahši?ałsi nitup. waa?ałuksi      I started looking for beams. I said to  
       hińaqsti ?anis ?uk<sup>w</sup>iif?aaqł mahťii      myself that I would make a house like  
       q<sup>w</sup>aamitiič hi?iisičā mahťii čišaa.      the one that was said to have stood at  
       ?uńaah?ałsi łuk<sup>w</sup>iit?i hūmiis.      [Tsishaa]. I looked for stout cedar  
       ?uux?uuxsapałsi hūmiis ?uńaah?ałsi      logs. I started felling a great many  
       nitup.      cedars getting house beams.
- 12     caqiičiqpīqsapsi hūmiis. k<sup>w</sup>ačī?ałquu      I brought down a score of cedars.  
       hūmiis?i wińaaqstu?ałquułaa      They would break and could not be  
       ?aanaqimłitiič hi?iisičā čišaa mahťii      (made into beams) as long as those of  
       ?anič hayuułuk<sup>w</sup>it nitup ?iš sučiił.      the house that had stood at [Tsishaa],  
       whose beams were fifteen fathoms  
       long.
- 13     {q<sup>w</sup>iis?apałsi} k<sup>w</sup>ačī?ałquułaa      I tried to make them that size but the  
       hūmiis?i. ?usamiičī?ałquułaa ?ałyáł      cedar logs would break. They would  
       qaččiił.      be lacking two or three fathoms.
- 14     ?ah?aa?ałsi hiniipáł histiiipáł ?ah      Finally I obtained (what I needed) at  
       ?anee?is?i, ?uhuk?i ?imtii ?a?aqmaqis.      a place close by, called Grassy-beach.
- 15     SS¶6. [p140] ?ah?aa?ałsi      I had given a Wolf Ritual at Wolf-  
       łuuk<sup>w</sup>aanał hiłh?ał łuk<sup>w</sup>atquwis.      Ritual-beach.
- 16     ?ah?aa?ał k<sup>w</sup>isq?ičhši?ał hinata?ałsi      The next year I had called out names  
       yuułuhif?ath. ?ah?aa?ałsi      (in inviting) amongst the [Ucluelets].  
       hinata?as?ał quumuuxš. ?ah?aa?ałsi      Then I had called out names amongst  
       hinata?as {?aahuuus?ath} pāčī?atsi      the Comox. Then I had called out  
       nuuk muupīił hawīłuk {?aahuuus?ath}.      names amongst the [Ahousaht]; I had  
       received the gift of four songs from  
       the chief of the [Ahousaht].

- 17 ʔahʔaaʔaʔsi mamuukšiš hīmaqsti,  
ʔunaakšišʔaʔsi haak<sup>w</sup>aaʔ waaʔaʔuksi  
hīmaqsti ʔanis ʔuupuʔ.ʔaaqʔ ʔiictuula  
čuučkʔii maatmaas hišsaathʔi.
- 18 hiišsapšišʔaʔsi haʔwīmis. ʔisaʔ  
{hiišsapšišʔaʔsi}. hiišsapšišʔaʔsi  
taanaa.
- 19 ʔuhaasi maakuk muučiʔ niisʔak  
ʔahʔaa ʔeʔinh. ʔuuʔatuʔaʔsi  
ʔiictuuhīkquus siqaaʔaʔiikquus  
haʔum haʔuk<sup>w</sup>aʔiikquus maatmaas  
hihʔiikquus ʔiihukqas mahtii  
waaʔaʔuksi hīmaqsti.
- 20 hišinkapsi ʔuuxʔuux<sup>w</sup>a hūmiis  
ʔuḡaahʔaʔ nitup. wikaʔquus weʔič  
ʔathii mamuuk hīmaqsti.
- 21 ʔuʔuʔiihʔaʔsi yačaa haʔma.  
ʔuucuʔuk<sup>w</sup>aʔaʔsi makuʔi čiiyaa  
haʔma. saačiyapitapsi makuʔi  
ʔuuʔiʔiʔʔap.
- 22 SS¶7. ʔuwiiʔapsi hiniip nitup histiip  
ʔaaʔaačhin ʔuhuk ʔimtii nismeʔi.
- 23 suk<sup>w</sup>iʔasʔaʔsi nitupʔi hūučuqʔisʔath.  
ʔuk<sup>w</sup>inkʔaʔsi caqiic hūučuqʔisʔath  
quuʔas. hinaaʔap hitahtasʔap  
hūučuqʔisʔath ʔucaʔap tuʔaʔi  
ʔuk<sup>w</sup>iitʔi nitup ʔiihʔii hayuuʔaʔ.  
nitupʔi ʔiš sučiiʔ. hinatsapsi  
ʔucaʔaʔaʔsi ʔahkuu.
- 24 čaanaaʔsi ʔaspuup hūučuqʔisʔath  
haʔuk<sup>w</sup>aʔaʔsi ʔayeʔi haʔum.
- My mind started working when my  
daughter was born and I said to  
myself that I would surpass all the  
tribes in (her) puberty potlatch.
- I started collecting wealth. I started  
collecting blankets. I started saving  
money.
- I bought four cauldrons of this size. I  
got them to use when I would be  
giving the puberty potlatch and when  
I would have food cooking to feed the  
tribes which would be in my big  
house; (this is what) my mind said.
- I was doing everything at once, felling  
cedar logs and looking for beams. I  
did not sleep nights (because of) the  
working of (my)mind.
- I gathered dog-fish oil. I took the oil  
to the store and measured it out. I  
always took it to the store.
- At first I got a beam on my (piece of)  
land called Claspng-at-the-ends.
- Then I went to the [Uchucklesaht] to  
get a beam. I was with a score of  
[Uchucklesaht] men. They put a large  
fifteen fathom beam on the water and  
brought it out of the woods to the sea.  
Then I brought it here.
- First I paid the [Uchucklesaht]; I fed  
them a lot of food.

- 25 wik ?iih̄ λuʃ nitup?i yaq<sup>w</sup>inλqas qatwaaʔat h̄iṃaqsti. wikaλ λuʃ ?ah?aa ?uunuu?aλ čith̄ta?ap̄aλsi q<sup>w</sup>iyiqas ?uuʔip̄aλ λuʃ h̄umiis. h̄ayuuʃ?ap̄aλsi ʃaah̄yuu čith̄taʔap̄aλsi yaaq<sup>w</sup>at̄as?amit?itq h̄uuč̄uqλis?ath̄. It was not a very good beam, so I was undecided. Because it was not a good beam, I sawed it apart (later) when I had found good cedars. I sawed it off to ten fathoms, the one that the [Uchucklesaht] had brought out of the woods.
- 26 ?uunuuλsi ?af̄aač̄ap̄ maht̄ii ?anis ?aayiiλ?aaqλ maatmaas ʃiict̄uuʃa. yaa?akaλ̄atsi h̄iṃaqsti wiknaak<sup>w</sup>ʃi?atquus maht̄ii ʃicnaakš̄iλ yaq<sup>w</sup>inλqas ?ee?ee?išaλ ?uṃaah̄ nitup. I made a wide house because I was going to invite many tribes to the puberty potlatch. My mind was troubled lest my daughter's first courses find me without a house; consequently, I hastened about seeking beams.
- 27 SS¶8. h̄e?iiλuksi nitup qač?ičiq λuk<sup>w</sup>aqak susuč̄ap̄iʔaqλ̄ih̄ta qač?ičiq q<sup>w</sup>aa nitup ?ah?aa?aλ ?aλčiq qaqač̄up̄iʔaqλ̄ih̄ta h̄ah̄ayuuʃ?aλλaa ?iš̄ suč̄iil̄. I (finally) got all the beams (I needed): three very thick ones, each five spans in diameter-three such beams; also two of them, each three spans in diameter and fifteen fathoms long.
- 28 ?ah?aa?aλsi ?u?u?iih̄š̄i?aλ ʔaqusč̄i ?a?aλp̄iʔaqλ̄ih̄taλuksi. ?ah?aa?aλsi ?u?u?iih̄š̄i?aλ h̄uuksač̄us. ?ah?aa?aλsi ?uk<sup>w</sup>iiš̄i?aλ λama. Then I started collecting cross-beams, each two spans in diameter. Then I started getting rafters. Then I started making posts.
- 29 ?a?aλp̄iwił̄maa?aλuksi. q<sup>w</sup>aa ʔuuq<sup>w</sup>aa {h̄ił̄stuʃas?i} ʔaaqusč̄iqč̄aqił̄im?i ?uh̄uksi λamanak. muup̄iṭh̄n̄uł̄uksi ?anacsk. My (posts) were to be in pairs in the house. My rear cross-beam was that way also, it had posts. They were placed four spans apart.
- 30 ?ah?aa?aλ [himtqiinu?aλ] q<sup>w</sup>aa ʔuuq<sup>w</sup>aa k<sup>w</sup>isaqč̄uu?ak nitup?i. h̄isč̄iisi?aλ nitaasi?aλ ʔaaqusč̄iqč̄aqił̄im?i. Then cross-pieces were set on top, and in the same way at the other end of the beam. The rear cross-beam was set on (the cross-pieces).
- 31 q<sup>w</sup>aa ʔuuq<sup>w</sup>aa h̄iil̄s?atu ʔuuq<sup>w</sup>aa muup̄iil̄uk λama ʔaaqusč̄iqs?atim?i. In the same way there were four posts at the door for the door cross-beam.

- 32 ʔahʔaaʔaʔsi ʔuk<sup>w</sup>iilʔiʔaʔ. quuʔas  
 ʔama ʔuhʔaʔ yaʔaanitiič ʔuk<sup>w</sup>iilʔiʔat  
 čišaaʔath hiʔʔaʔ yaa ʔappiiq<sup>w</sup>iʔi.  
 nitqiiʔaʔ. nitupʔi. Then I started making a figure post,  
 (representing) the creator of the  
 [Tshaht] in the middle of the house.  
 He held the beam on his head.
- 33 SS<sup>¶</sup>9. nitʔaaʔataksi huʔaaʔatu mahʔiʔ.  
 hiik<sup>w</sup>aʔʔiʔuksi ʔaʔa ʔuusuuqta. suk<sup>w</sup>iʔsi  
 ʔapʔtiiʔakqas ʔučakukqas nitup. My beam collapsed and fell down  
 again. My child came near getting  
 hurt. I took my ritual for warding off  
 evil from beams.
- 34 ʔiinaxiičiiʔsi kuʔaʔ. ʔawiičiiʔsi  
 huupačasʔath hinuus ʔuučuqʔisʔath  
 hinataʔas ʔuuk<sup>w</sup>iʔ huupačasʔath. I dressed up in the morning. I went to  
 the [Hupacasath] on a visit [the  
 Uchucklesaht were visiting them?]  
 and called out the names of  
 [Hupacasath] people.
- 35 —ʔaakʔiʔis hupiičiiʔ—ʔiinaxyuqʔʔaʔsi  
 wawaaʔaʔ hiʔaačiiʔʔaʔsi ʔah  
 hitinqisuk huupačasʔath. ‘Please help me I,’ I said, all arrayed  
 in regalia on the water down the bank  
 from the [Hupacasath].
- 36 ʔahʔaanaksi kaaqʔsaʔa ʔah  
 hiisimʔapaʔ ʔah ʔiyaʔʔi  
 hinmiix<sup>w</sup>ʔaqʔsaʔaʔsi. I had a feather sticking out on my  
 forehead and dangling about in the  
 air, I was wearing feather-dance  
 regalia on my forehead.
- 37 —ču q<sup>w</sup>aaʔin waʔaakiʔin—waaʔaʔ  
 huupačasʔath ʔuuq<sup>w</sup>aa waa  
 ʔuučuqʔisʔath hinuusʔi. ‘Very well, we’ll do so, we’ll go,’ said  
 the [Hupacasath], and the  
 [Uchucklesaht] who were visiting  
 them said likewise.
- 38 hinatʔiʔaʔ. muuči q ʔapac ʔaʔaayistaʔ.  
 quuʔas ʔapacʔi. [p142] yačiiʔaʔ  
 ʔuʔiiʔasʔaʔ. hinaasiʔaʔsi ʔuʔiiyasʔaʔ  
 nitupʔi. Four canoes came, each canoe  
 containing many people. (We)  
 stepped ashore and came to the place  
 on the ground. I got on the beam.
- 39 —ču—waaʔaʔsi huupačasʔath—  
 hoo—waaʔaʔsi—hoo kiik.  
 yacaasʔaʔsi nitupukqas  
 paanaʔsuk<sup>w</sup>aʔsi ʔuuqʔyuuʔaʔsi. ‘Now,’ I said to the [Hupacasath], ‘ho  
 ho kiik’. I was standing on my beam  
 with abalone in my septum and  
 covered with down.
- 40 muuʔitʔiʔsi, hoo, hoo, wawaaʔaʔsi.  
 čuučkaʔ huupačasʔath ʔuučuqʔisʔath  
 wawaaʔaʔ. Four times I said, ‘ho ho’. All the  
 [Hupacasath] and [Uchucklesaht] said  
 it.

- 41 ʔiçaçĩł nitupʔi ɭuyacıʔałat hĩmaqsti  
ʔuusaahał q<sup>w</sup>aaqaas ʔiinaxyu  
haph̄tiiʔakqas. The beam was lifted up and my heart  
was glad because of the way I was  
decked out and because of my ritual  
for warding off evil.
- 42 —hoo—waaʔał h̄uuçuqłisʔath̄  
huupačasʔath̄. —kiik—waaʔał  
k̄iitq̄yakukqas. ʔiçaçĩł nitupʔi  
hitaqĩł ɭameʔi. ‘Ho,’ said the [Uchucklesaht] and the  
[Hupacasath]. ‘kiik,’ said my whistle.  
The beam was lifted up and placed on  
top of the posts.
- 43 ńaacsaałatsi huupačasʔath̄  
h̄uuçuqłisʔath̄ wik ʔuuq<sup>w</sup>aa  
maatmaas niitasiʔałquu.  
hinaasiłuksĩłaa k<sup>w</sup>isaq̄uuʔi.  
q<sup>w</sup>inʔaapałsi hitawiiʔasʔał  
šĩłwiiʔasʔał. The [Hupacasath] and the  
[Uchucklesaht], but no other tribes,  
saw me as they were putting the beam  
in place. The other end of (the beam)  
was then put in place also. I left it  
that way and moved down to the  
coast.
- 44 SS¶10. ʔahʔaaʔałsi tuuk<sup>w</sup>asiiʔasʔał.  
qaawac. Then I planted potatoes.
- 45 ʔahʔaaʔałsi q<sup>w</sup>aaʔał çitkpiʔałsi  
m̄učquupiłsi k̄ach̄aqukqas.  
mamuukšĩʔałsi hĩmaqsti yaakšĩʔałatsi  
hĩmaqsti ʔanis wiknaakšĩłʔaaqłat  
mah̄tii ʔicnaakšĩł. wawaaʔałuksi  
hĩmaqsti. q<sup>w</sup>aʔiʔałatah̄ yaqch̄iqas  
hineeʔiʔał. I lay down in the house and covered  
my face with my robe. I was thinking  
and I was worried lest I be caught  
without a house when my daughter  
came of age. My mind was talking.  
My wife came in and found me like  
that.
- 46 —ʔicnaakšĩʔałin̄ t̄iqpiʔi—waaʔałatsi. ‘Sit up,’ she said, ‘our daughter is  
menstruating’.
- 47 t̄iqpiłsi. ʔiinaxiiçĩłsi maałiicułsi  
hisyyuʔakqas ɭix̄uułsi. I sat up. I put on my regalia, put  
shredded cedar bark about my head,  
put red paint on my face.
- 48 ʔiinaxiiçĩłsi hitaht̄isni hinasiłsi  
huupačasʔath̄ hiʔath̄ʔitq. çiiqšĩłsi  
çiiqaasi hitaquuʔa huupačasʔath̄. We went down stream and reached  
the place where the [Hupacasath]  
were living. I started to sing a  
[tsiiqaa] song and came around the  
point (to) the [Hupacasath], singing  
it.

- 49 —ču ťicnaakšii?aałma naawee?iik—  
waa?aał huupačas?ath. hinii?as  
čuuckwaas. ‘Well, [Naawee-iik]’s (daughter) is  
menstruating,’ said the [Hupacasath].  
Everyone came outside.
- 50 —ťicnaakšii?aałah—huupačas?ath  
waa?aałsi ciqšiił. ‘My daughter has come of age,’ said I  
to the [Hupacasath].
- 51 hinuščissi histii?iłsi q<sup>w</sup>aañitux.  
hinee?itapsi huupačas?ath čuučk  
huucaamiih quu?as taatñe?is. I came up the bank and went into the  
house of [Qwaanitux]. I had all the  
[Hupacasath] enter, women, men, and  
children.
- 52 —?anawin?atah ñimaqsti ?anis  
wiknaak<sup>w</sup>?i?at mañtii ťicnaakšiił—  
waa?aałsi huupačas?ath ciqšiił. —  
hawiičałuk ?ayaałuk ñawiiñmis  
ñiicułyak—waa?aałsi huupačas?ath. ‘The only thing in the center of my  
mind is that I have been caught  
without a house,’ I said to the  
[Hupacasath]. ‘I have already a lot of  
wealth prepared for (my daughter’s)  
puberty,’ I said.
- 53 SS¶11. ?uk<sup>w</sup>iilšiiłsi hičma muuqumł  
hiiii?asni hiičapasni. suu?apsi  
ñiicaatšiił?i piku?uu maamaađin. I made four torches and we went  
outside, holding the torches up in the  
air. I had the one who had come of  
age carry a small fancy basket with a  
cord handle.
- 54 —mamuuk<sup>w</sup>itah—waa?aał [ciqšiił]—  
kamañamitah ?anis ñiicaatšiił?aaqł.  
?ah ?učuua?aałma ?ahkuu piku?uu  
[yaq<sup>w</sup>iilñitiis] mamuuk. ‘I was working,’ she said, ‘and I found  
out that I was going to start  
menstruating. The thing I was  
working on is in this basket. There are  
a score of tribes in it’.
- 55 ?ah?aa?aał hawii?aał ciqšiił.  
hiiiičipałsi huupačas?ath ñawiih  
muuqumł hičma. She finished speaking. I gave my four  
torches to the [Hupacasath] chiefs.

### Discussion questions

Q. Consider Tom’s description of his house in paragraphs 11-13, 26-32, 42-43.

## Short version

ḥak<sup>w</sup>aλnakšišwe?in naawee?iik. • Tom had a daughter. (¶10)

?uupuλmiḥsa ſiictuuła ſiċaatši?aλukquu. • He wanted to throw an exceptional coming-of-age party when she came of age. (¶17)

hiišim?uupši?aλ ḥawīḥmis. • He started gathering wealth. (¶18)

?iiḥiiłši?aλ maḥtīi. • He started making a big house. (¶26)

hupii?aλat huupaċas?ath. • The Hupacasaths helped him. (¶34)

## Selected wordlist

λiicuu • feeding the people

λii?ił • attending a feast

paċiλ • give a potlatch gift

paalpaaya • giving~

nuššiλ • distribute property

nuušnuuša • distributing~

ſiċaatšiλ • start menstruating

ſiictuuła • holding a young woman's coming-of-age do

ſimin • belly button, placenta

ſiimatſinł • holding a navel feast

kicuk E, W maλaak • log

λama • house post

nitup • house beam

taqusċi • cross-beam

ḥu?uk • board

ḥuusċa • roof board

ḥuksaċus • rafter

ċitma • wall board