

ST41. Frank Williams' wolf ritual experience*

FW n. S1 t. 469 words

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | SS¶1. [p178] λuuk ^w aanaλ
naaweeʔiik. tuupšiiλ wáčiʔaλat
q̄aanaaλa λiiʔiyiʔi. čuhiičiiλ ʔinkʔii.
pupumyipiλ. | [Naawee-iik] (Tom) was giving a Wolf
Ritual. In the evening the feasters
were attacked by wolves. The fire
went out. They started rushing about
in the house. |
| 2 | —hu hu hu hu hu ʔiniiλma
ʔiniiλma—wawaalyaλ. tuuhuk ^w aλsi
ʔaanaq̄h̄q̄ath̄ʔap q̄aanaaλa ʔaacsaq̄h̄
ʔani wik. | ‘Ho ho ho ho, it’s dogs, it’s dogs,’
people were saying. I was scared,
thinking they were real wolves, then
(I) noticed that they were not. |
| 3 | ʔink ^w aʔapatλaa ʔinkʔii. ʔiq̄silaλaa
puuyiiʔiλ q̄aanaaλeʔi. čuhiičiiλλaa
ʔinkʔii. suk ^w iʔaλatsi ʔooʔis
hiisʔatinuʔat ʔašiiʔi. | The fire was started again. Again the
wolves did the same thing, rushed
into the house. The fire went out
again. I was taken by my father and
placed at the door. |
| 4 | —m̄eeʔiʔateʔic—waaʔaλatsi ʔuhʔat
hinʔiil̄min̄h̄ʔi. ʔuuʔiiʔiisapaλatsi
huptsiλ {ʔupaalʔap̄at} yayaqpaliics
suk ^w iλin. ʔaacsaaλni q ^w aaq ^w aaʔapʔitq
ʔaʔaanayuučih̄ʔaλ tuh̄čiti. | ‘You are bitten away,’ I was told by
the ones who were coming into the
house at intervals. I was hidden right
there in the house along with those
whom they pretended to take along
with me. We watched what they were
doing, with just our heads sticking out
(from the coverings). |
| 5 | SS¶2. —ču—waaʔaλ. čawaak quuʔas—
ʔaačukšiiʔič yaqk ^w aaʔuusi—. ʔaλaaλ
quuʔas ʔaačukšiiλ mitx ^w aa hiłq̄h̄
mačiiʔi. | ‘Well,’ said one man, ‘look and see
who is missing’. Two people went
about in the house searching. |

* This story was told by Frank Williams to Edward Sapir. It includes 469 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.

- 6 —ʔuk^waaʔma—waaʔaʔquu
ʔuʔuk^wiʔaʔquu yayaaqčiqas huptiʔ
ʔiiwaaqiičiʔaʔqun.
ʔuʔuk^wiʔaʔatsiʔaa. ʔiʔaaqiičiʔaʔ
ʔuucsaaamiiʔ ʔuʔumʔiqsakqin
ʔuʔuyukšiiʔaʔ mēeʔiʔinqin.
- 7 hiniʔasʔaʔpatni huptaaqʔčikaʔpat
hitaaqʔitaʔpatni. ʔayačinkaʔ
ququuʔiʔtaštaqimʔ. huʔšiiʔaʔ čawaak
waʔ ʔayaʔaʔaʔ huʔšiiʔ.
- 8 čaawaʔimʔaʔni—suk^wiʔisakoo
ʔumʔee—waaʔaʔquu ʔuuš.
yuuq^waaʔaʔquus—suk^wiʔisakoo
ʔooʔwee—waa. ʔaʔʔaaʔaʔ
huʔšiiʔaʔquuʔaa
qaaanaʔaʔaminʔqathʔi.
- 9 naʔaaʔaʔni čiiʔaqeʔi waʔyuu.
k^wiscačiʔaʔqunʔaa hinaʔiiʔasʔi
maamaʔti hiʔʔaʔqunʔaa
suuk^wiʔawiiqš ʔuʔumʔiqsakqin
ʔuʔuʔwʔiqsakqin. huʔhhuuʔaʔ
q^wayačiiʔminʔi. ʔiicʔiʔiyaʔatqun
ʔuʔučuq^waʔquu kiikʔak puuxpuux^wa
ʔuuš.
- 10 SS¶3. waʔsaʔaʔatni waaʔaʔatni
wikqun ʔiiqʔuk q^waaʔakuʔhitqin
ʔuuk^wiʔ ʔaʔuuʔi ʔaatʔeʔis.
weʔičuʔaʔni.
- 11 kuʔiičiʔ ʔupksaaʔaʔatsi ʔooʔwis.
ʔucaʔaʔaʔat hiʔʔiitq hišimʔ
yaaqpaʔqas mēeʔiʔin. ʔuyuʔaʔʔaʔsi
qaaanaʔaʔqiiʔiʔaminʔ
k^waaʔicuʔaʔatsi k^waaʔwinʔaʔpatʔaa.
yuuq^waaʔaʔ yayaaqpaʔqas.
- ‘So and so is missing,’ they would say
and they would mention the ones
who, with me, were hidden in the
house, and we would laugh among
ourselves. I too was mentioned. The
women, our mothers, began to cry
because we had been bitten away.
- We were taken outside and taken
along under cover into the woods.
There were many of the bony-nosed
band together. One howled, and then
many howled together.
- Some of us would yell out, one at a
time, ‘Come get me, mother’! I too
called, ‘Come get me, father’! The
pretended wolves kept howling.
- We heard concerted [tsiiqaa] singing
in the house. We kept going to
different places back of the houses
and calling for our mothers and
fathers to take us. The wolves kept
howling. People were shooting at us
and some were whistling with small
whistles.
- We were taken home (after) being
told not to tell the other children
what we had seen. We went to sleep.
- In the morning I was awakened by my
father. He took me to a place where
my bitten-away partners were
assembled. I saw the pretended
wolves, who put (hemlock) twigs
about my head and about my middle.
(They did this to) my companions
also.

- 12 hitacsuhtaλni taakλ. naču?af?alʔatni
 čiiŋaqe?i. hiitaaqstinλni hiyee?isqin.
 huhhuhš?aλ ?u?umacsk
 qaanaaλaqʔii?iŋaminh?i.
 muuṗitsuhʔisni. We came out of the woods in a row.
 The ones who were singing [tsiiqaa]
 songs caught sight of us. Each of us
 went into the bush right where he
 was. The pretended wolves howled
 from time to time. We came out into
 the open four times.
- 13 SS¶4. wałši?aλni huptaaqčikaṗaλatni
 ṅuṗqimčinuṗat maḥʔii hišimʔaṗat.
 tuutmisuuḥ?aṗat. muučiiłsaṗatni.
 ŋatuŋis?aṗaanitin?aała. We returned home under cover and
 were all put into one house. Each of
 us had his face blackened. They
 treated us in this way for four days.
 They gave us deer meat to eat.
- 14 —wawee?ičim λaλuu taatne?is
 ča?uŋisṗat taaukʷiλ?aaqλaṗat?ał. ‘You are to say to other children (that
 you were) fed raw meat and (you are)
 to make them believe it’.
- 15 muučiiłši?aλ?itq ?uyi
 hinkʷaŋiiłši?aλatni quqʷaas?i.
 ?aλaqh?aλatsi sukʷi?at ŋuuqʷaa?aλat
 yayaqhṗaaḥminhḡas sukʷi?at.
 ?ayačinkaq quu?as
 ṅiλaakqathminh?aλ qaanaaλaminh?i. On the fourth day we were pursued
 by the people. I was seized by two
 people and my companions were also
 seized. A great many people together
 pretended to fight the wolves.
- 16 wałsaṗatni mačinuṗat hiisti?aanitqin
 maamee?i?at. ?u?učuqʷaṗatni kiikʷak
 maačinł mamaqał kʷaałkʷačyu.
 ?uca?aṗatni hiiłcaqil?i hišimʔaṗat.
 kaḥaqa quqʷaas?i ?iiqhuk
 qʷa?uukṭaṗatqin hiniṗat. We were taken home and brought
 into the house from which we had
 been bitten away. Whistles had been
 put into our mouths; we came in tied
 and all covered over with branches.
 We were grouped at the rear of the
 room. The people were noisily telling
 how they had got us.
- 17 SS¶5. ?aathšiλ hiiyiłsaṗatni
 kiikaa?aλni {ḥaa?ukḥšiił} ?aane?itq
 ?athii. ku?iičiłλaa ha?uksaṗaλatni
 ?aniissaṗaλat ha?umašt. numaakaṗat
 kʷistuup?is. muučiił?aṗaλatni hiił
 waaλ ?uušiinakši?aλ. [p180] Night came and we were simply kept
 in the house there; we kept whistling,
 taking turns at it all night. In the
 morning they fed us, they gave us
 only dried fish. We were forbidden to
 eat anything else. We were kept in the
 house for four days, then the imitative
 dances took place.

- 26 muuṗitsaṗatni—ŕee—wawaaṗat.
huṗacačĩṗniṗaa q^waṗq^wacačqin.
ḥačatakaṗṗaa quq^waas ṗiṗ
ḥuucsaamiiḥ ṗaṗiṗasṗatni
q^wiṗiṗuusin.
- 27 čawaakaṗ. quuṗas ciqsiṗ—ṗuuṗima—
waaṗaṗ—ḥaṗum ṗaacṗiṗitṗi. —
naaṗuuṗaaqṗeṗicuu ṗaḥṗuyi ṗaḥṗuyi.
ṗaḥṗaaqṗma siṗačĩṗ.
- 28 hayaaṗakaṗsi waaqḥuusi waa
wikiṗqin ḥaṗum. ḥawiiṗ ciqciṗa
quuṗasṗi yaaṗeeṗičĩn naayis kaṗḥṗiṗ.
siṗiṗiṗiṗ siṗačĩṗ. ḥaṗukṗiṗ ḥaačatuu.
ḥawiiṗ ḥawaaqa.
- 29 ciqṗiṗaṗṗaa quuṗas čawaak—ṗuuṗima
yaṗiṗisṗaṗqin ṗaacṗiṗitṗi—waaṗaṗatni.
waṗṗaqa.
- 30 SS¶7. wiinapiḥinṗaṗaṗatni q^waṗaaqin
ṗeeṗiṗck^wat. ṗuupaayṗiṗaṗ
ṗuṗuṗiṗqsaṗqin. ḥaaḥuupṗiṗaṗatni
yaaq^wiṗaaqṗqin wik ḥaṗuk numaak
ṗuṗiṗis ṗuṗqṗiṗčḥ ṗiṗ wik ḥawiiṗ
tumiṗuḥ.
- 31 —wikuuṗquusuu tumiṗis
čaxsinqaaqṗuk^waṗateṗicuu nananiṗsu
wikuuṗquusuu tumiṗis—waaṗaṗatni
ṗuṗuṗiṗqsaṗqin. —ḥawiiṗaṗeṗicuu
{ṗiṗsatṗiṗaṗcuu}—. ṗuuṗaqṗuṗaṗsi
ṗanis piṗatuk^waaqṗaṗ ṗaanahaṗ
tumiṗuuṗḥ.
- They had us say ‘Eeee’ four times. We returned again to the place where we had gone from time to time. All the men and women were there again, (this time) in order to see what we had caught.
- One person said, ‘The ones who went out fishing caught fish. You will eat with them immediately, immediately. It will be cooked right now’.
- I did not know what he meant by what he said, because we had not got any fish. The man finished speaking and there appeared some rice; they put it on to cook and cooked it. Everybody ate. They finished eating.
- Another man said of us, ‘The ones who went out fishing caught what we are eating’. Everybody went home.
- All of us who had been bitten away were left in the house. Our fathers remained with us in the house. They started instructing us as to what we were not to eat, (things which) were tabooed for one year, and that we were not to stop keeping our faces (painted) black.
- ‘If you do not have charcoal on your faces, your grandparents will be speared in the belly,’ our fathers told us. ‘You are now finished with your Wolf Ritual (initiation). Go and play’. I was happy that I could play except for putting the black on my face.

- 32 SS¶8. nupq?içh?ałni naawahı
{hu?actuup}. hinasił k^wisq?içhšišł
łii?ił?ałłaa yaſatqin łuuk^waanaſat.
huḥšił q^wayaçiik na?aa?at
haŵaaqałqin ?uyi. We waited a year for the Wolf Ritual
Return. The next year came and again
a feast was given by the giver of the
Wolf Ritual. Wolves were heard to
howl while we were feasting.
- 33 —ha? ha?—waa?ał ćawaak quu?as
łakišišł—?aqaqha histaatuk.
ſap̄iiqh?atḥas. ‘Ha, ha,’ one person said, ‘what is that
sounding? Is it my ears (that are
making the sound)?’
- 34 ciqšiš?ał ćawaak quu?as—
ſiſiſimłe?ic—waa?ałat. Another spoke, saying, ‘You have
earrings’.
- 35 —wikaah—waa?ał—q^waamaa
q^wayaçiikquu huḥšił. ‘I haven’t,’ he said, ‘it was like a wolf
howling’.
- 36 —ſiıtaqłe?ic—waa?ałatłaa.
wiikćinaqšišł haŵaaqiićišłłaa.
?ee?imštipsat haŵaaqiićišłłaa
huḥši?ałłaa q^wayaçiik. ‘You are lying,’ (the other) returned.
They dropped the subject and
commenced feasting again. No sooner
had they resumed their eating than
the wolves howled again.
- 37 —na?aa?ałḥasuu—waa?ałłaa ?iqḥ—
?ani huuhšišł q^wayaçiik. ‘Do you hear now that wolves are
howling?’ said the same one again.
- 38 —?iıy hušek ?aanaake?ic na?aa?at—.
ḥuqk^wa?ap yaſiisminḥ?itq ha?uk.
ńiłk^waqšišł. ‘Well, you rascal, you were actually
right’. They upset everything they
were eating. (Everybody) got excited.
- 39 —ćućuću—waa?ał quu?as ćawaak—
na?aataḥši?iç nana?uḥ?iiḥ?aaqłma
na?aa?akqin—. na?aataḥšił ḥaćatak.
huḥšiłłaa q^wayaçiik. ‘Now, now, now, now!’ said another
man, ‘listen, some one of us who
understands (the wolves) will listen’.
Everybody listened. The wolves
howled again.
- 40 —na?aa?ałah—waa?ał—hiniipšišłah
wee?iitq. ‘I understand,’ (someone) said, ‘I
caught what they said’.
- 41 ciqšišł ćawaak quu?as—ſiıtaqłma
?anamah na?aa waayii. Someone (else) said, ‘He’s a liar, only
I understand what they said’.
- 42 —ću na?aataḥši?içłaa—. huḥšiłłaa
q^wayaçiik. ‘Well, (everybody) listen again!’ The
wolves howled again.
- 43 —hiniipšiš?ałah waayii taquqłah. ‘I caught what they said, I am not
lying’.

- 44 —ču na?atahšī?aʔič wawaayii. ‘Well, listen to what they are saying now’.
- 45 —hawii?apʔaʔi tuutmisuuh?i ʔah?uyi ʔathii?i ʔah—. hawiiʔ ciiqciqa. ‘Stop having black-painted faces tonight,’ (they said). They stopped speaking.
- 46 SS¶9. [p182] hišimʔuuʔatni q^waʔnaaqin tumisuuʔ. ʔiinaxiiʔapʔat. ʔuušiiʔnakšī?aʔni ʔaaʔuuʔupiʔ ʔupčiiʔšī?aʔniʔaa ʔuušiiʔnak. ʔah?aaʔaʔ hawii?aʔʔitq ʔupčiiʔ hišimʔuuʔaʔatni ʔaaʔatuuʔaʔni. All of us who had painted our faces black were brought together. They had us put on our regalia. We did our imitative dances for one day, taking turns in going to the center of the room. When the day was over, we were brought together along with everybody.
- 47 —ʔaa—wawaa—ʔee ʔee—muuʔitšīʔ waa. —ču—waaʔaʔatni— hawii?aʔqin wikawiʔʔaaqʔaʔeʔicuu tumiis—waaʔaʔatni. — haʔukšīʔʔaaqʔaʔeʔicuu yaaq^wiʔitʔitqsuu wik haʔuk q^wiʔiʔiʔup. hawii?aʔeʔicuu ʔuuk^waana— waaʔaʔatni. ‘Ha he he,’ they said four times. ‘Now,’ they said to us, ‘when we are through, you will remove the charcoal from your faces. You will start eating the various things you have not been eating. You are finished with your Wolf Ritual’.
- 48 hawii?aʔni. We had finished.

Short version

ʔuuk^waanimtweʔin naaweeʔiik. • Tom was holding a wolf ritual.
 ʔeeʔiʔaʔatʔaʔ yaʔaayaqpaahiič Frank. • Frank and his companions were bitten away.
 huʔtakšī?aʔʔaʔ ʔuušiiʔnak. • They learned imitative dances.
 ʔupqʔiʔhʔaʔʔaʔ tumisuʔ. • They blackened their faces for a year.
 numaakaʔapʔaʔaʔ k^wiʔtuupisʔat haʔuk^wat. • They were forbidden to eat unusual foods.
 k^wiʔqʔiʔhʔaʔʔaʔ, hawii?aʔʔaʔ. • The next year, they stopped.

Discussion questions

- Q. Should we talking about this? Or is it too private?
- Q. What are some special words that are used only for the wolf ritual?
- Q. Were girls initiated into the wolf ritual too, or just boys?
- Q. How old was Frank when this happened?

Selected wordlist

λuuk^waana • doing wolf ritual
λuuk^waaniičičiλ • start~
q̄aanaaλa • wolf dancer in the wolf ritual
huḥšiλ • howl, honk, blow loudly
huḥhuḥš • howling~
huuḥhuuḥa • howling~
saʔak • crawling, walking on all fours
saaʔuk • crawling~
saačičiλ • start~
saaλsaaya • dancing a crawling dance
m̄eeʔiλ • take it in one's mouth
tumiis • charcoal
tumisul • one's face is blackened
tumisuuλ, tumisawiλ • ~becomes~
k̄^waaḥuk • branch
k̄^waaḥiic • wearing branches around the head
k̄^waaḥwin • wearing branches around the middle
hitaaq̄λas • in the woods
hitaaq̄λiλ • go into~
hitaḥtas • go out of~
hitacsuḥta • go out of~
puʔak • (group) running
puk^wiλ • ~starts~
puuyiiʔiλ • (group) runs into (room)
puuyaas • (group) runs out of (room)
pupumyił • (group) running in circles iz.
pupumyipiλ • ~starts~
w̄ačičiλ • (group) mobs, surrounds, attacks it
wawaalyu • (group) saying it
wawaalyuučičiλ • ~says, starts~
čiiḥaqa • (group) chanting
haḥaaqa • (group) eating
λ̄iiw̄aqa • (group) laughing
waḥʔaqa • (group) goes home
ḥiḥaaqa • (group) weeping