



Transcription and English translation
Film Screening
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The legend of Elvel is the creation of Tatjana Evstropovna Gutorova (1930-2002), from Kovran, Kamchatka. It was first published in 1995, with text in Itelmen and Russian by Gutorova together with Itelmen language specialist Klavdia Nikolaevna Khaloimova (1934-2018) and illustrations by the Gutorova's son, Oleg Petrovich Gutorov. This booklet provides an English translation by Tatiana Degai and Jonathan David Bobaljik and notes to accompany the film presentation at the Arctic Sciences Summit Week, Boulder Colorado, March 2025. The interlinear translation corresponds to the film's Itelmen narration and dialogue, with a close word-by-word translation, followed by a translation of the text in English.

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Characters

Almost all of the character names in the story have a separate and clear meaning as nouns or place names in Itelmen. These meanings, listed here, are central to the story:

Name	Itelmen word	meaning
Ukht	uxt	Birch Tree, Birch Grove
Latch/Latchchakh	lač/laččax	Little Sun or Sunshine
Kana	kana	Devil
Sleč	sleč	Eagle
Elvel	El'βelʲ	name of a hill
Kvezm	kβezm	Rosehip
Plakhen	°Plaxen	Khairiuzovo (River)
Kavral	Kaβral	Kovran (River)



Elvel



Ukht

Interlinear translation

Part 1 (silhouettes) – Ukht and Latchchakh

It'e ti'nu ɬqzuβen.
long.ago this was

°Qniŋen atnok k'alek qixenk sun^ɬɬqzuβen xollalaχ, nisilan qxeɬa'in Uxt.
in.one village close to.sea lived young.man hunter named *Ukht*.

Q'eβlaχ, xinmitqen, č'inəŋlaχ ɬqzuβen Uxt.
strong, dextrous, beautiful was Ukht

Lem nwen sun^ɬɬqzuβen č'inəŋlaχ Laččaχ.
also there lived beautiful *Latchchakh*.

Lɬtalaqzue'n iplxe'n. Kčaβatqzukne'n itχ xilqlaχ kiβečχenk.
they.loved each.other met.often they cold at.creek

Laččaχ klaknen esxa'nke: Uxt ənnanke ŋaɬxasen, last em ɬɬaqqaxe'n
Latchchakh told parents: Ukht to.her wants.to.marry, when first bloom
u'en, ɬɬaqqaxen səmt, ek ptos ən'če'n kiβenk ɬqzexe'n.
trees, blooms ground, and many fish in.river will.be

Laxsχ ek isx kriβatqzukne'n: xinnin mellaχ, qa'm xteken ixɬχčaχ
mother and father rejoiced: such.a kind, without fear young.man
lɬtalaznen txi'in °qniŋečχ ekečχ.
he.loved their only daughter

Qun, qa't anoqzuβen, Laččaχ čeɬeki iɬqzuβen oxtanke, ma'
Once, already becoming.spring, Latchchakh hurrying was to.birch.grove, where
nkzuqzučen ənna Uxtenk.
waited for.her Ukht

Riβatqzuβen ənna anok'an čokaɬkiɬxe'n səmtən'čke, xičaβaka'ɬqzuβen qlələxanke.
rejoiced she at.spring's thawed earth, at.coming.meeting with.lover

xoroβal ənnanke ksop'an qtxosχčaχ qxeqatknen, čəŋzlaχ knitχqeɬ'in
suddenly, to.her blocked path old dark.(evil) wise
č'amzan^ɬχ Kana.
man.(shaman) *Kana*.

“Č'ex'čel čepizč Uxtanke, č'inəŋlaχ Lače!
in.vain you.rush to.Ukht beautiful Latch

χačnu kəzza łqzał kəmmaŋ ŋič.
soon you will.be my wife

Kəzza łqzałč č'inəŋlaχ itənmə'n l'aje'n.
you will.be (most).beautiful (of).Itelmen girls

Knink łqzaxen č'inəŋlaχə'n txłkneno'm, ptos č'eβizlaχ χmłχlaχ nonom.
you will.have beautiful clothes, much tasty fatty food

Kəmma miłenk nχtezmaŋ, χineł nzelqzuzəmnə'n kəmmaŋke l'βi č'inəŋlaχ
I by.all am.feared and.so they.give to.me very beautiful
txłknen, ptos čəłxalom, noze'n, χəmłχ, txaltχal.
clothes many furs dried.fish fat meat

Kəmmaŋ χełonałom q'eβlaχ, k'e təntφqałčen, χe'n'č it'e mellay
my magic is.strong whoever I.curse never will good
knitχqeł'in č'amzan'łχenk χənčamlāčen.
wise man.(shaman) will.heal

“Xa-xa-xa! Kni'n isxe'n lem kəmma nχtezmen.”
Mwa-ha-ha! your parents also me they.fear

χe'n'č-nu xənlussiβen zilles χinβen qamzananke. Xa-xa-xa!”
they.won't refuse to.give.you to.such a.husband. Ha-ha-ha!

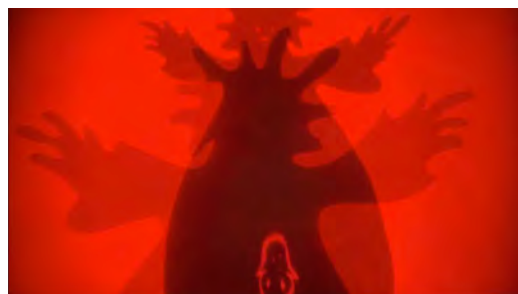
Qa'm nałaq ktxəŋ č'inəŋlaχ Laččaχ ijakilaχan eč'qelaχ č'amzan'łχank.
not bowed her.head beautiful Latchchakh before evil person.

Em χaqela ełβerčokinen ktβelaχe'n qa'tx li'l lu'l.
only angrily flashed black as crowberries her.eyes

Em əłčkunən kiβečχenk Uxt – Laččaχ č'ŋelqzuβen.
only when.she.saw at.the.creek Ukht - Latchchakh cried

Ənna lakinen lφtalatanke əŋqa č'elasčəŋnen Kana...
she told her.beloved what wants.to.do Kana

“Zaq xtekaq, Laččaχe.
Don't be.afraid, Latschchakh



*Kana
threatens
Latchchakh*



*Ukht
reassures
Latchchakh*

°Kmilβin tənkrβetχetałčen kni'n isxe'n.
I will.persuade your parents

Muzza χałčnu nηałxał.
we will be.married

Kəmma tłmeqzałkičen, məzzβink quneηe'n łqzuβaxe'n:
I will.hunt we always will.have:

sape'n, čałxalom txłknen, qetp'in, met'sk'et'al, kelilan, noze'n
skins, furs for.clothing, sheep.(skins), bear.(skins), seal.(meat), dried.fish
txəłknen.
for.food

K'ilφs'in, xinmitqen, ηejηe'in Sleč quneηe'n ənk'zułqzuzunen łmenok.
wise capable Eagle always helps hunting

Ənkrβałχetqzune'n Uxt mitxe'n zilles ənnanke Laččax.
tried.to.persuade Ukht elders to.give to.him Latchchakh

(Itχ χineqzuβe'n:
(they said)

“Kəzza ηałxał Laččχenk, χe Ka'nank χi'n'č χnumzmeη
you marry Latchchax, then Kana won't forgive.us

*Her par-
ents fear
retribu-
tion*

mekst ənqlałen ənnan č'amzanla'n muzzan nłəmałmen kałxoł,
then will.send his people us they.will.kill, with.arrows,
kajtkollał.”
with.spears

“χe'n'č it'e mqəmzantakičen qχeqateknən, čəηzlaχ Kananke.
I.won't ever marry evil ugly Kana.

*Latchchakh
responds*

Qnaη uβik qexanke ttkəllałčen!” kelin Laččax ek esčaq φajxaqzuβen.
then self into.sea I.will.throw.” cried Latchchakh and bitterly wailed.

χeqača'in nita'n əηksxqzukupnen – əηqa č'elkes?
elders' souls hurt – what to.do?

kəłφčakne'n.
they.consented

Mel xajman toqzuβe'n atnola'n Uxten ηaɪnok.
much rejoiced villagers at.Ukht's wedding

Lɒtalaq sun'ɪqzuβe'n Uxt ek Lačçaχ.
in.love they.lived Ukht and Latchchakh

Em isxe'n riβatki p'e'nke, nitenk nxteqzuznen čəŋzlaχ Kana.
although parents were.happy for.child, in.soul were.afraid of.evil Kana

Wedding



Qa't anoqzuβen.
already became.spring

Qziɫen Uxt t'aɫ'an, aslaχe'n ηejne'nke nesnoke qtepe'nke, qzo'nke.
prepared Ukht to.go to.distant high mountains, to.hunt bighorn.sheep reindeer

Qɒitiqzux uβik Lačçaχe.
take.care of.self Latchchakh

*Ukht
goes
hunting*

Tmalsazin qɪχol it'e kəzza aβzaɫ, məzβink p'ečəχ ɪqzaxen.
approaches the.day when you give.birth, our child will.be

Kəmmankit zaq xtekaq qsəč.
about.me don't worry

Qula ɸliŋelan lač esaxen – kəmma tk'oɫaɫkičən kɪmazoɫ.
(when).next night sun comes – I will.come with.bounty

*Birth of
Elvel*

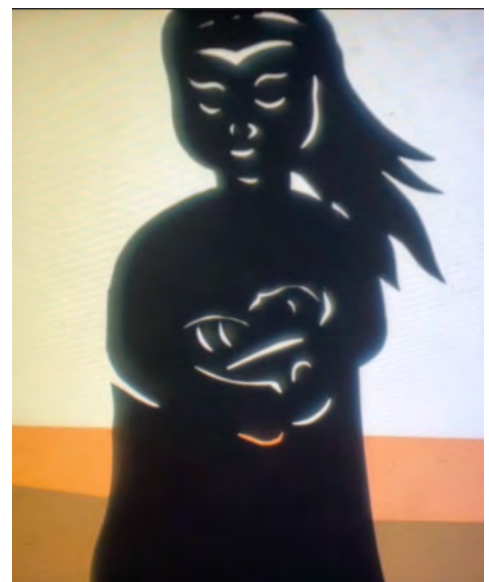
La'lq qɪχa'l kpesqaknen, Lačçaχ aβzaznen ekečχ.
a.few days passed, Latchchakh gave.birth.to a.girl

Isxe'nk nkzuqzučən iχɪχ'in p'eč.
parents waited.for male child

χineɫ nik'zuɫkiɪχ mitχ kχineknen:
and.so helping woman.(midwife) said

“E-e-j βeɫk... mimsx'in p'eč.”
a-ha well female child

P'ečχ kχela'an Elβel.
child they.called *Elvel*



Kpesqezqzuke'n qłxa'l.
passed days

Laččaχ l'βi kzuqzunen Uxt.
Latchchakh much awaited Ukht

Qa't kesknen qula φlinelan lač.
then appeared another.(new) night sun.(moon)

Qa't txsaqzuβen.
already dawn

Laččaχ p'ećanke čaqa'łqzunen:
Latchchakh to.child sang

“Ta'nβen qłχlenk k'ołaxen knin isχ, nriβatqzał ənnanke.”
this day is.coming your father, we.are.happy for.him

Xoroβal txsanok k'enk esčaq kelen.
suddenly in.dawn someone horribly shrieked

Təłβiłen Laččaχ, ilφski kelkiłχ laχsχen:
startled Latchchakh, heard cry.out her.mother:

“χeqe sxluzen, p'ečχe!” sxəllaŋ č'eki kelen laχsχ.
bad has.happened, child! at.a.run entering cried.out her.mother

Manx'alnu ksφəsknen qeqč'ulaχ Kana!
from.nowhere has.appeared evil Kana

Płχ'in č'amzanla'n kk'ołkne'n kkałxał
other people have.come with.arrows

Salxkməŋ ɣu'num peŋsoŋ č'eβen Kana.
behind her at.heels entered Kana.

“Lačče, kəzza qa'm łqzuč kəmmanke qamzantekaq,
Latch, you not would to.me marry

ne'n tłaxen q'eβleł.
now I.take.you by.force

Kəzza qa'm ilφskaq łqzuč
you not listen would

χineɫ tpaqoɫčɛn knin atnola'n iɫuqe'n.
so I.will.slughter your village's disobedients

Ti'nu χemsxč'aj, min ənχstin Uxtanke,"
that puppy, which you.bore to.Ukht

“°kmilβin təntɔqatčɛn.
I will.curse.her

χeqe ttəlatɛn Uxten son'ɫes.
badly I.will.ruin Ukht's life.

Tumzaɫčɛn sun'ɫki ənnan p'eč, min əsxtaxen xieč'qelaχ, xičənzlaχ.
I.will.leave alive his child, who will.grow very.ugly very.evill

χeqe sxluqzaxen k'enk χiq niɫqzaɫčɛn
badly will.happen to.whoever knows her

χeqela'n, qeqč'ulaχa'n tɫqzaɫnen č'amzanla'nke!"
evil violence she.will.bring to.people

“Əηqne'sx əntɔqezin le'lunɫaχ mil'ačχ?”
why do.you.curse the.poor sweet.one?

Xiqeqč'ulq k'eɫβerčoknen lu'l Kanan.
in.anger flashed eyes of.Kana

Kelke'l, atənom čχmal ilɔsqzunen Laččax atnox'al.
cries, moans, curses heard Latchchax from.village

Nu' Ka'na č'exč'eɫ ɫmeqzunen č'amzanla'n.
that Kana pointlessly was.killing people

Laččax oβanen ul'ul'aχ El'βel' mel taβəlnen laxsχ isəηq aluptkaɫnen:
Latchchakh kissed little Elvel, well hugged her.mother, quietly whispered

“Zaq χaqa'n'ɫkaq, Laxsχe, qηiteqzusx El'βel'ečχ.
don't be.angry Mother, watch.over Elvel

L'βi tɫɔtalatezčɛn Uxt.
very.much I.love Ukht

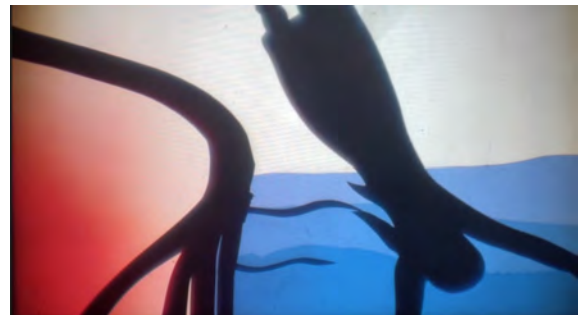
χi'n'č it'e mqəmzatekičɛn Kananke.
I.won't ever marry Kana



*Kana
curses
Elvel*

*Grandmother
resists*

*Latchchakh
flees*



Oβanen laxsx, Laččax tniñnen nuč, sxəllaqzuβen qeχanke,
 she.kissed her.mother Latchchakh pushed.open door ran to.sea,
 knizix'al tklnen uβik tnumke, qnañ mumβuɫ nsopčen kən'čpaɫ.
 from.shore threw herself to.depths, right.away waves covered.her forever

Mejeñ kɫmeknen, xajmañ čaqa'iki, Uxt kk'oɫknen atnoke.
 A.lot having.killed, happily singing, Ukht came to.the.village

T'aɫk kɫfəñ'čk siŋqzuβen Sleč.
 far ahead flew Eagle

Xoroβal Uxt əɫčkunən, əŋkankit Sleč kəkβizezen:
 suddenly Ukht saw, for.some.reason Eagle was.returning

“χeqe sxluzen, ipɫχe! Xuqene χeqe sxluzen!”
 horror has.happened, Friend! there horror has.happened

Uxt sxəllañ k'oɫqzuβen atnoke.
 Ukht running came to.village

Xičipsɫax əŋqa ksxluknen əɫ'čkunən Uxt.
 very.horrible something happened saw Ukht

Manke č'exč'eɫ sölloze'n qɫam'an pɫχe'n. Qa'm k'e aβazaq kiɫ'in χeqelaχ
 As.if at.random lay killed his.friends. No one spared was by.evil
 xk'eč: n'en'eke'n'č, mitxe'n.
 hand: (not).children, old.people

Kə'nnenk esχnomank Uxt əɫčkunən izakiɫχ laxsx, min əŋqa sopaɫqzunən
 in.middle of.death Ukht saw dying mother, who something covered
 xk'əl.
 with.her.hand

Tβajtβen ənnanke Uxt, telβečq kɫaβulknen k'alek:
 rushed to.her Ukht, softly sat.down next.to.her

“Laxsxχe, əŋqa sxluβen, ma' Laččax?”
 Mother, what happened? where.is Latchchakh?

“Laččax knin zaq entχtaq
 “Latchchakh you do.not seek

Ka'nank nłatqzučen ɲi'sx, xineł uβik tkəlnen qexanke.
Kana wanted.to.take.her as.his.wife, so herself she.threw into.the.sea

*Mother's
terrible
news*

Ənna łmałquzuβen knanke.
she remained.faithful to.you

Məzβi'n atnola'n Kanank kłəman,
our villagers by.Kana were.killed

Ti'n ekečx Elβelʲ, knin p'elʲučx.
this girl is Elvel, your child

Bełk əsqəq Kanank kəntφqe'in ənna.
but horribly Kana has.cursed her

Kəmma t'izaskičen, p'ečxe tłanałozen:
I am.dying, son, I.command.you



qłalexč, kčkixčix məlβelayx, mellaχ xeqač Kβezm.
Go, find reliable, kind old.man Kvezm.

*Mother's
dying
charge to
Ukht*

Ənna xinmetqen čamlazołkas.
he very.powerful shaman

Em ənnanke kməlβełkas axłes Elβel'ečxen ač'qelayx °łonało."
only on.him one.can.hope to.lift dear.Elvel's terrible curse"

Izaβen laxsx.
died mother

°K'əβazon ɫnen Uxt k'eβlay'an xk'əł ulʲulʲax Elβelʲ.
gently took Ukht with.strong hands little Elvel

Xi'əɲslax nitał č'elnen kənrosxɲal'an atnom, məlβełquzuβen čkekas k'e
very.hurting soul he.entered the.ruined village, hoping to.find someone
ksunʲɫ'in, βełk č'exč'eł.
alive, but in.vain

Ənʲłci'ɫnen xi'nitan atnom, ulʲulʲax ekečxał xkə'nk Uxt iłquzuβen
having.burnt his.home village, with.the.little girl in.his.hands, Ukht went
t'ałke aslayx ɲejnalanke.
far.away to.high mountains

Pesqosqzußen qıxo'l.
passed days

Kčiknen Uxt kčamlaŋi'an Kβezm.
found Ukht shaman Kvezm

Ənna qa't kxeqateknen, xe q'eβlaχ ixıχ.
he already old, very strong man

Lakinen Uxt ənnanke əŋqa ksxluknen, nestqzußen ənk'zoŋ čamzalaŋ El'βel'.
told Ukht him what happened, asked.him to.help to.use.powers on.Elvel

L'βi mel 'ke'nezeqzußen Kβezm.
very hard thought Kvezem

*Ukht
goes to
Kvezm*

'Ke'nezeŋ ənna ŋmaquzußen kson'ŋezaŋ.
in.thought he separated from.this.life

Laxŋen Uxtanke ek χineßen:
finally to.Ukht and he.said

“χekelax Kana xik'eβlaχ nitφqe'ŋkiıχ.
evil Kana is.very.powerful sorcerer

Aχŋes ənna'n qibeŋona'n kəmmanke esxnom.
to.remove his curse for.me is.death

Kəmma qa't xeqač tlekičen em t'k'ekičen skəs mella
I already old have.become, only I.am.used.to doing good
č'amzanla'nke.
for.people

T'izaqzaŋkičen Kŋxə'n kəmmən mellaxe'n k'eβərxe'n.
I.will.die. Take my good spirit-helpers.

*Kvezm's
pact with
Ukht*

K'an'ŋoxč!"
Promise.(this)!"

“T'an'ŋoskičen!”
“I.promise”
said Ukht

“Mellaχe’n k’eβarxe’n χineze’n kəmmanke: Kana k’isχknen.
 “the.good spirit-helpers tell me: Kana is.dead

Bełk ənnan χeqelaχ nita kjalβetknen ič’in u’e’nke
 but his dark soul has.moved into.birch trees

*Kvezm’s
 warn-
 ings*

Qlaqzux Itənmə’nke: txatxazk ənχki k’enk ič’aj kmesemknen, ti’nu
 tell the.Itelmens: from.now.on if.finds someone birch ringed this.is
 χeqe u’, ti’nu Ka’na U’.
 an.evil tree this.is a.Kana tree

χej skaq kiste’n, zaq łneq kmese’n.
 forbidden to.make houses, don’t count rings

Knin ekečχ El’βel’ əsχtaxen č’iniηlaχ mellaχ.
 your girl Elvel will.grow beautiful and.good

Jaq zaq it’e əntxβakaq əηqi č’ooqtunuk toβasa ano’n k’ołkaq, zaq
 but don’t ever forget, before eight.and ten springs come, don’t
 łnəłčkuηaq ənna č’amzanla’nke.
 show her to.people

łβałk’eł χeqe łqzaxen.
 else bad it.will.be

Ilφsesč?”
 do.you.understand?”

“T’ilφseskičen” χineβen Uxt.
 “I.understand” said Ukht.

“χənsin sitłχx’al knanke kəmmān mellaχ q’eφq’eφ.
 “let.pass though.veins to.you my good power

Kəmma əmsxuq t’izałkičen.
 I with.ease can.die

Kəzza łqzał mellaχ č’amlałkiłχ łmału qilqzuxen č’amza’nla’nke.”
 you will.be good shaman. Faithfully serve people.”

*Kvezem
 gives
 Ukht his
 spirit-
 helpers*



Łnen mellax čamla lo Kβezmenk Uxt kp'ečom iłqzuβen
 after.taking good sorcery from.Kvezm, Ukht with.daughter went to.live
 son'łnoke t'ałaxe'n nejjenke.
 to.distant mountains

It'e iłqzuzč nesnoke Uxt, El'βel' ənφti'łatqzunen Kslečom.
 when he.went hunting Ukht Elvel he.left.her with.Eagle

Nβečenk nxčołqzuzčen βirnike'nk tχalkiłχ, χe əsxteqzuβen, Slečenk
 That.one protected.her from.animals hungry. when she.grew.up, Eagle
 łniłčkuqzuznen, ma' ptos mełqeβ lklam.
 showed.her where.(there.were) lots of.berries and.of.edible.roots

Sleč krβełχetqzuβen itənmənsq. L'βi lφtalaqzunen El'βel'.
 Eagle spoke Itelmen very.much he.loved Elvel

Uxt kunene'n anok sxezatqzuβen Xan'č'an Atnoke.
 Ukht every spring went to.Upriver Village

Kreβateł nčaβaqzuznen atnolank Uxt:
 with.joy welcomed the.villagers Ukht



“K'ołin mellax č'amlakiłχ Uxt,
 “Has.come good shaman Ukht,

lamł ktxle ptos łqzaxen ən'če'n kiβe'n'čk, kelila'n qixenk.
 in.summer and.fall much there.will.be fish in.river, seals in.sea

χə'n'č χənqsxlitk əηksxkaq.”
 we.won't be.hungry nor.sick”

Quneje'n Uxten k'ołnoke atnola'n ntskatoznen °plax č'axłnom.
 every.time Ukht came villagers made big celebration

Part 2 (puppets) – Kana's curse

The Dying Mother's song

Uxte Laččax č'exceł inχtaq.
 Ukht Latchchakh no.use to.look.for

Ənna k'alek °sollozen.
she nearby lies

Məzβi'n atnola'n Kanank kələma'n.
our villagers by.Kana were.killed

T'izazkiçen kəmma lem.
am.dying I also

Ti'nu mil¹ačχ təzβin p'el¹učχ,
this little.one is.your child

Esčaq Kanank kentχqe'in.
badly Kana has.cursed.her

Qrβel¹uški kəmmān El¹βel¹ečχ,
Goodbye my little.Elvel

Qrβel¹uški kəmlon¹čax!
Goodbye grandchild

Uxte, kəzza Kβezəm qčkixčik.
Ukht you Kvezm must.find

Xən¹čamlalnen El¹βel¹ečχ.
let.him.remove.curse from.Elvel

Zaq nu it'e Kβezəm əntxβaq.
don't ever Kvezm forget

Əηqa knanke nłoβaxen.
what to.you he.says

Kəzza, Uxte, činəηq qsun¹ħkas.
you Ukht well live

Tqaβrela El¹βel¹ečχ qηitekas.
raise Elvel wisely

Qa'ta °kməlβən tumzisxen.
already I am.leaving

T'izazkiçen kəmma qa't.
Am.dying I already

Qrβel¹uški kəmmān kām¹lon¹čax.
Goodbye my grandchild

Qrβel¹uški El¹βel¹ečχ.
Goodbye dear.Elvel

Qrβel¹uški, ... e-xu-xe!
Goodbye ... <sighs>

Kpesqeskne¹n toβasa etuktunuk ano¹n.
there.passed ten and.seven years

Tenaq Uxt qzi¹qzuβen meč¹a¹an qtχozke.
again Ukht got.ready.for long road

Əzunen kalauzanke č¹inəŋ¹laχ qoxč, pexel.
He.put into.satchel nice fur.parka and.hat

Kč¹eknen isxen poloqanke El¹βel¹ ¹qzuβen maqo¹laχ.
entered father's sleeping.area Elvel, she.was sad

“Əŋqet maqo¹laχ, El¹βel¹e? K¹enk nχaq¹n¹βen?” ¹ən¹βonen p¹eč
“why sad Elvel? did.someone offend.you?” asked to.his.child
Uxt.
Ukht

“Isxe, kəzza qu¹neŋen a¹nok sxezitqzuzč č¹amzanla¹nke, kəmma
“Father, you every spring go to.people, I
tβtiβatezkičen ¹kmilβin Kslečom.
stay alone with.Eagle

Qče¹βmeŋ kəmma atnoke, lem təčkasčen č¹amzanla¹n, manke
Take me to.village, also I.want.to.see people, how
č¹ax¹qze¹n...”
they.celebrate...”

“Zaq! χej! Kkzux pesqaqzaxen nu¹ ¹qniŋ χankle.
“No, don't! Wait until.passes just one.more winter.



*Ukht gets
ready to
go to the
village*

*Elvel
pleads
with
Ukht*

K'ołaxen qula a'nno, muza oman nsxezał Xaŋč'an Atnoke
 when.comes the.next spring we together will.go to.Upriver Village
 č'axłnoke."
 to.celebrations"

Qa'm əŋqa łoq El'βel'enk, em qnaŋ l'βi č'ŋelqzuβen.
 Not anything said Elvel, just started much to.cry

Ənna kqa'mknen, qa'm it'e isx ənnanke kelkaq.
 She was.upset, never before father at.her yelled

Łiŋč əŋksxqzukinen Uxten xeqa'n'łaq lɸtalatan p'el'učx.
 his.heart hurt Ukht's having.upset beloved daughter

Ənna ktmalsiknen El'βel'enke, kχineknen:
 he approached Elvel he.said:

“Zaq č'mamłkaq, El'βel'e!
 “Don't cry, Elvel

Tč'ełin kəzza, ettun kłɸiŋlenk omtał ejpenoŋ mesxu'in četx'al.
 I.will.take you, but.only.if tonight you.weave a.cloak of.swan's feathers.

K'an'łoxč! Qa'm k'anke kəzza ənksxleł knin ɸaβeŋ.”
 and.promise! To.no one you will.show your face.”

“E, isxe, ejpenank 'tłqzałkičen.
 “Yes, father, in.cloak I.will.be.

xe əŋqankit kəmma ttxqatqzałkičen kəmmaŋ ɸaβeŋ?”
 but why I must.hide my face?”

“Q'iłčqzuxč, ti'nβenkit knanke tlaβałkičen it'e qniŋ χankle pesqaxen.”
 Be.silent! About this you I.will.tell

kχinenknen ənna ek senke kiłknen
 said he and to.forest he.went

ek p'ečenk qa'm əłčkaq ənnan lu'lk maqo'les ek əŋksx.
 and his.daughter didn't see in.his eyes sadness and pain

Ənna ktxiłknen ənnan Lačçaχ. El'βel' l'βi k'alβaleknen laχsχanke.
 he remembered his Latchchakh. Elvel much resembled her.mother



χιννην jaq č'inəŋlaχ ɬqzuβen Elʲβelʲ, qa'tx toβasa etuktunuk a'nno'n salke
just as beautiful was Elvel, so.already ten.and seven years ago
Lačçaχ.
(was).Latchchakh

Ənnan Lačçaχ.
his Latchchakh

Kənreβaβe'an Elʲβelʲ miɬ nkink ejpenoŋ omtqzuβen
becoming.happy Elvel all night cloak she.sewed

χe mellaχ Sleč ənnanke ənk'zuqzuβen.
that kind Eagle her helped

Qa't xetsaki lʲβi atxlaχ ejpenoŋ k'omt'in.
At sunrise very white cloak was.sewn

Xetsanok Uxt Elʲβelʲ če'ɬki txtuɬ kɸikne'n ejanke.
at.dawn Ukht Elvel together in.dugout rowed downriver



Klaχɬknən Uxt p'ečanke, ɬiŋč ənksxqzukinen χeqe sxlu'axen.
glanced Ukht at.daughter, his.heart ached badness would.happen

*They
set out
for the
village*

Uttuzen əŋqa lakaz ənnan p'ečanke, lʲβi ijakilaχ χeɬonaɬom senzozen
he.couldn't anything say to.his daughter, very terrible curse was.flying
xank ənnank.
above her

Qɬ'iβlaχ qtxos ɬqzuβen Xan'č'an Atnoke.
long road was to.Upper Village

Qa't t'aɬx'al q'ilɸs'i'n Uxt ek Elʲβelʲ lʲβi mel riβat'in kelke'l.
already far.off heard Ukht and Elvel very loud joyful cries

Ti'n xol'a'n'č əɬčkukiɬχ lakqzuβen atnola'nke: "Uxt k'osin."
these.were boys watching calling to.villagers "Ukht is.coming."

Čaβaqzuβe'n lɸtalain mellaχ kčamlat'an lʲβi qečilaxa'n nisila'n-əlβentzokila'n
Greeted beloved good shaman very respected hunter-fishermen
°Plaχen ek Kaβral.
Plakhen and Kavral.



*Plakhen
and
Kavral*



Itχ sillatumxe'n q'eβlaye'n, xinmitqe'n, l'βi kłme'a'n.
they were.brothers strong, capable, very successful.(hunting)

χe txi'ink mił kən'čpał qečiq sxlotqzuβen: nesnok, elβentzok.
there to.them everything always well happened: at.hunt at.fishing

Ptos əŋqa t'φłaqzuβen nesnox'al ek łβałaja'n č'amzanla'nke zəllatqzuβen.
many things they.brought from.hunt and to.other people they.gave

L'βi itχ ipłχesqzuβe'n.
very.much they were.friends

Quneŋe'n luənk'zoqzuβe'n.
Always they.helped.each.other

L'βi č'eβezlaχa'n nono'n qzəl'inen lφtalatal'in t'ula'nke,
very tasty food they.gave to.beloved guests

l'βi tenlaχa'n čəlxalo'n kəzzuin qtxaŋe'n Uxtenk.
very best furs they.put at.the.feet of.Ukht



Eβun mił qezβatałnen č'inəŋlaχ čaβanos mellax čamlalonk.
because everyone wanted.to.make good impression to.good shaman

Linla βepqał ksk'an, ktχezlaβen mellax kčamlał'an.
Blueberry.juice with.flyagaric they.made, made.tired good shaman

Pesqaqzuβen qečilax χełonałom sxle kčamlał'an klaknen l'βi qečilax
there.followed good spells in.which shaman called to.very good
ratoβatkila'nke ktχnu'in lamł ek kłme'an nesno χanklenk,
hosts for.bountiful summer and successful.hunt in.winter

kəłφtčat'in Uxt atxlaχ əłtlaχ sape'nk'.
agreed Ukht (to.lie) on.white soft skins

Mejeŋ kč'iłeki, q'eβq βilki l'βi kqe'nniknen kəzlaχ qtxzenk Uxt kŋjiksiknen.
Good food, strong drink, very became.tired from.long road Ukht fell.asleep

χe salk txəmrəčχenk ma' ŋjikkłqzuβen mellax qŋitχqe'łin č'amzanłχ,
there behind hut where slept good wise man,
χajmanlaχ č'axłes pesqosqzuβen.
joyful feast continued.

*The Festi-
val*

χολ'α'n ʎiteqzuβe'n, ʎotzoqzuβe'n č'etx'al, qajtko'l tkəlqzuβe'n.
 young.men wrestled, shot with.bows, spears they.threw

Txunktxunk tmal xe'omlaχ ujeretenk kxodilaqzuβe'n – čaqa'ʎqzuβe'n
 in.evening around hot fire they.sang.khodilas – they.sang sad
 maqo'elaχa'n itənman'i'n čaqa'ʎeze'n.
 Itelmen songs.

Kʎəmč'k'eli χollala'nke maqo'ʎkaz.
 tired youths of.being.sad

Ek l'βi qesχčaxanke k'eφsknen χajmanʎaχ koβaman ma'ʎes,
 and very to.sky rose joyful dudok.sounds and.playing.of
 təŋk'elank...
 games

Miʎ χajmanʎzoqzuβe'n, χeχemazoqzuβe'n.
 everybody rejoiced danced.the.khekhme

El'βel' φaβeŋank k'ejpeʎ kasonank tχzuqzuβen.
 Elvel on.her.face with.cloak to.one.side she.stood



Ənna laχʎqzuin nβe'n χol'α'nke, mine'n čaβaqzuβe'n ənnan isx.
 she looked.at those young.men who had.greeted her father

L'βi əŋqan kitknen kriβat'in ənnan ʎiŋčenk.
 very.much something arose joyful in.her heart

Ek əntxβaki ʎonaʎo isxenk, ənna tkəllen φaβex'al ejpenoŋ ek lem
 and forgetting command of.father, she removed from.face the.cloak and also
 xajmanʎ istelqzuβen.
 merrily danced

*Elvel re-
 veals her
 face*

Miʎ k'unmikne'n xidiβa nisonki, lφtalaki l'βi č'inəŋlaχ l'aŋenke –
 everyone stopped struck with love for.very beautiful girl –
 mimsx'in p'ečanke kčamlaʎ'ank.
 female child of.shaman

“Əŋqankit miʎ ŋonke kəmmanke laχse'n?
 “why everyone such at.me they.look



ek φiniβ nβe'n, mine'n čaβaqzuβe'n muza'n isx če'łki ηu'n -
 and especially those who greeted us when.father came here -
 χo'la'n q'eβlaχa'n ek xinmitqe'n?"
 the.boys strong and capable?"

Mił, k'e tmal ujeretenk łqzuβen, liłi xiliβa kisne'n.
 All who near fire were very amazed were

Itχ diβoβałqzuβe'n, əηqankit l'aje qa'm aχłkaq ejpenoη ,
 they were.surprised: why girl didn't take.off cape (earlier)

χe it'e ktxəl'in ənna, č'inem El'βel'ank l'βi mił qa'tx qa'm
 then when took.off she.did, the.beauty of.Elvel much everyone as.if without
 lu'l'in ksk'an.
 eyes it.made.them

°Plaxen ek Kaβral lem lus mejeη kriβatkne'n.
 Plakhen and Kavral also suddenly much rejoiced

Ti'n xkalaχ ximłx lφtalak txi'in łiηčenk sun'łki k'leknen.
 those hot fires of.love in.their hearts to.live came



Lqlaχ nkink spəlčaχ ktəllatknen El'βel'an φaβeηank ek ənna ktxiłknen isxen
 cold night breeze touched Elvel's face and she remembered father's
 łanało.
 command

Ənna k'əzliknen.
 she thought.clearly

Ənna k'ejp'in ənnan φaβeη, ek telβečq kt'ałsaknen kt'ałsaknen
 she covered her face slowly walked.away walked.away from.the.fire,
 ujeretx'al, kiłknen seneke.
 went to.forest

Ənna °qniηatł łqzatłkipnen χiq telkas, əηqankit ηonke qečiq k'alek k'leknen,
 She alone wanted.to.be, to know, why there good around it.became,
 əηqankit łjizatasen ek čaqa'łatesen.
 and.why she.wanted.to.laugh wanted.to.sing.

Lu'l ejpki, El'βel' k'eleqzuβen kannenk ič'enχank uxtenk, taβilaqzuβen
 eyes she.closed Elvel circled around the.birches in.the.glade, hugging.them
 ek oβasxenqzuβen.
 and kissing.them

Nβen itxenk ənna °ke'nezeqzuβen sillatumxe'nk: l'βi č'inəηlaχa'n itχ!
 at.that time she was.thinking about.brothers: very handsome they.were

Lus tmalk uβekex'al ənna kəłčkuin °qniη itχenk, qulan kasonank –
 Suddenly, near herself she saw one of.them and.at.other side
 kula.
 the.other

Əηqa kitknen?
 what is.that?

Itχ l'βi qa'm alβalekaq nβenke, mine'n ənnanke l'βi klo'mekne'n
 They very.much didn't look.like that.way, which to her very
 č'axłnok!
 impressed at.feast!

Qeqč'ulq txi'in φαβε'n, lu'l luzin χeqen^l'in ximłx.
 anger on.their faces, eyes burned with.hateful flame

Itχ klutmalsakne'n ek əηqa'nu kelqzuβe'n.
 they approached and something were.shouting

Xoroβal °qniη kəl'ənkknən φαłč ek qulanke kpensknen.
 suddenly one drew knife and at.other leapt



“Əηqanes itessx?”
 what are.you.doing?

*Elwel
 breaks
 up the
 brothers'
 fight*

Kskozoηa txe'anke k'leknen ins ηonke ksxlukinen txi'ink.
 ashamed they became for.first.time that had.happened to.them

“Kəmma noč'zozməη °Plaχen, kəmma sal'in sillatumx Kaβral.
 “I am.called Plakhen, my younger brother Kavral

Qa'm it'e muza'n łeruηkaq ek muzanke l'βi kskozoηa nβenk, əηqa
 not ever we have.fought and we.are very ashamed of.that which
 ksxluknen.
 has.happened

xe muza'n nlɸtalaqzuβen kəzzasxe, Elʲβelʲe, ek nənstezen ˚qneŋanke
 but we have.fallen.in.love with.you Elvel and ask.you to.one.(of.us)
 ŋiç ɬqzaɬç, xe qulanke lilixɬ.
 wife be, to other sister.”

“Kəmma tuza'n tlɸtalassxen, sillatumxe,
 “I you love brothers”

Φəsx, kənʲçpaɬ, xaɬç jaq tsxezaqzaɬkiçen tuzax'al.
 Probably soon it.will.be though I.will.go away.from.you

Əŋqanu txŋateznen kəmmanx'al isx, saqnu ameɬa ek...”
 something he.hides from.me my.father, some.kind.of secret and ...”

Lus Kana-U', mik'nenk Elʲβelʲ txzuqzuin, klo'ləmknen ek k'ejp'in
 suddenly the.Kana-U, under.which Elvel was.standing twisted and covered
 l'aŋe ənnan ŋjaka'ɬ.
 the.girl with.its branches

Ənk'zunoke kpensknen sillatumxe'nk, kpenskne'n ənnanke ek ɸa'ɬ
 to.help leapt the.brothers they.leapt on.it and with.knives
 pekuleɬ əmpxəqzunesen ŋjaka'n Kana'an-U'enk.
 and.blades they.cut branches of.the.Kana-U.

Lɸɬi'n ti'n ɬqzuβe'n. Kana-U'. xeke u'.
 fingers these were (of).Kana-U the.evill tree

Kana'an nita čəŋzlaχ kqnityqqaɬ'in č'amzanɬɬχank lʲβi riβatqzuβen.
 Kana's soul the.evill wise man much rejoiced

Eβisk Elʲβelʲ ksknen le'lunɟ sillatumxe'nk.
 because Elvel had.made to.fight the.brothers

Qeqç'ulq txi'in ɸaβe'n, lu'l luzin xeqenɬɬ'in ximɬx.
 anger on.their faces, eyes burned with.hateful flame

“Ksxluknen, ksxluknen kəmman ˚xeɬonaɬom!”
 “it.has.come.to.pass it.has.come.to.pass my curse!”



qa'm ilɸski riβatqzuβen qeqç'ulaχ nita, jaəm qa'm kel'in uβik Kana'an. *Kana's*
 without sound rejoiced the.evill soul because without voice was.body of.Kana *soul*
rejoices

Ŋonke č'axłqzuβen anən'čxč'a'łkiłx.
thus he.celebrated his.victory

L'βi qečiq °ŋikłqzuβen Uxt,
very soundly slept Ukht



xe ənnan mellaxe'n k'eβərxə'n retretank klakinen
then his good spirit-helpers in.his.sleep told.him

El'βel' kəntəβknen ənnan an'łos, ek nitiəqe'łkiłx Ka'na l'βi riβatezen.
Elvel broke her promise, and shaman Kana very.much is.rejoicing

Xinura łaqzuβen, maqo'łki iłčki.
long.time he.sat sad and.silent

Qa't txsaki pəłčexeki kqzełknen qtxzenke.
At sunrise, hurriedly he.prepared for.the.road

Mel ənkrβełxetqzunen ul'ıuq ɸtikaz, ənnan omzenen Xan'č'an Atnom.
nicely they.asked.him a.little to.stay, he left the.Upper Village

χiq telβen El'βel', eβun isx əŋqałnu netasxenizen.
knew did Elvel that her.father something upset.him

Ənna k'əsək'ŋknen ek iɸa qtxzenk kχinneken:
she was.quiet and once on.the.road she.said

“Isxe, kəmma təntəqečen knin łonało...”
“Father I disobeyed your command”

“Kəmma χiq t'ełesqzukičen,” lačŋnen Uxt, “əŋqne'sx kəzza ti'n skan?”
“I it know.” said Ukht “why you that did?”

“Qłaxkməŋ, isxe, əŋqankit kəmma txŋatzaqzałkičen kəmma ɸaβeŋ?
“Tell.me father why I must.hide my face

Eβisk qa'm əŋqa xeqelaχ tskaq č'amzanla'nke ek qa'm
after.all not anything bad have.I.done to.the.people and nothing
tskqzatałkičen txe'anke.”
would.I.do to.them.”

“Kəmma tənφqecən ʎonaʎo mellax knitxqe’f’in Kβezmank ek ne’n
 “I disobeyed command of good shaman Kvezm and now
 °xeʎonaʎom čəŋzlay Ka’nank miʎ sonʎes knink salteqzuxkin.
 the.curse of evil Kana all life yours it.will.follow.you

*Ukht’s
admis-
sion*

Φaʎnu kəmma qa’m tskičen kəzza č’amzanla’nke t’φʎaq əŋqa xeqe sxlus
 But I don’t want you to.people to.bring some bad happenings
 ek mza’n.
 and tears

xineʎ kəzza quneŋe’n ksunʎʎatqzusxč t’aʎk č’amzanʎʎx’al
 for.that you always must.live far.away from.other.people.

Prostit eʎeqzuməŋ”
 forgiveness grant.me”

Kpesqzुकन inxt.
 Passed a.year

Maqo’ kxeqateknen Uxt.
 in.grief became.old Ukht

Elʎelʎ lem kmaqo’ʎqzुकन.
 Elvel also was.sad

Qa’m əŋqa riβatqaq itx.
 Not anything made.happy them

Telʎe Skeč k’iʎčknen, əʎčkuki last peksə’ŋse’n Uxt ek Elʎelʎ.
 even Eagle was.muted seeing how they.suffered Ukht and Elvel

xe °Plaxen ek Kaβral, ʎʎtaki Elʎelʎ, ʎʎbi kzukquβen nitφqe’ʎkiʎx
 But Plakhen and Kavral, in.love with.Elvel, very.much awaited the.shaman’s
 k’oʎkiʎx.
 arrival.

xe kpesqezqzुकन ʎʎbi ano, xe mellax kčamlaf’an qa’m k’oʎkiʎx.
 but went.by many springs, and good shaman didn’t come

Knitesxequβe’n sillatumxe’n: lus əŋqa ksxluknen txi’in kleʎxen?
 worried the.brothers: what.if something had.happened to.their favourite?



Ek ʰkeʰnezein itχ sxle čkikas Uxten sonʰinom.
and thought they then to.find Ukht's home

Nura entχzoqzuβe'n.
long they.searched



Lʰβi mečʰaq, aslaχ ɲejɲenk sunʰtquβen nitɸqeʰlkiχ.
very far.away in.high mountains lived the.shaman

Jaχ kčkikne'n.
at.last they.found.him

*The
brothers
come to
Ukht*

Melβelaχ kčaβaknen sillatumxe'n kčamlaf'an, lʰβi jaχ knetasxenknen:
warmly greeted the.brothers the.shaman, much though was.worried

eβisk qa'm k'enk əmptɸa inxte'n kk'ołatkaχ ənnanke.
long.time not anyone dared to.visit to.come to.him

Kłnetasxenki, pok'ok'aze'n χol'a'i'n ɬiɲče'n: lus kčamlaf'an ajtataxen itχ?
nervously were.beating the.youths' hearts: what.if the.shaman sent.back them?

Mellaχ kčamlaf'an umuznen itχ ek k'oč'zočiɲne'no lamʰ'in sonʰinoke.
kind shaman let.stay them, and invited.them to.his.summer dwelling.

Lʰβi kriβatknen Elʰβelʰ, əłčkuki ʰPlaχen ek Kaβral.
much rejoiced Elvel, seeing Plekhan and Kavrak

Nonom kukekiχ, ənna kč'eknen sonʰinomke, qəntχzuki nonom, iłčki
food she.cooked, she entered the.dwelling, put.down the.food, silently
kiłknen.
went.out

χe ɲβe'n sillatumxe'n qa'tx kmił'akłaβar'in laχłqzuβe'n ənnan salke.
but there the.brothers as.if enchanted watched her from.behind

Plaχen ktekejknən sezeɲenk kłɸenʰčk kčamlaf'an:
Plakhen knelt on.knees before the.shaman

“Nłɸtalačen muza'n knin p'eč Elʰβelʰ.
“love we your daughter Elvel

Փոսթա օճե՛նեզեք, կ՛ե մուզե՛ք՝ալ աննա գաւառ իգաքեն, չե գալա
 you.yourself decide who of.us her husband will.be and the.other
 գիտկեն իգաքեն.
 her.brother will.be

Տինթեսք կնաքե Էկ Նկ՝օճիճե՛ն.”
 for.this to.you and we.have.come

“Չոսթատասք, սիլատումք, գտչօսք՝ալ գգեն՝իսեսք.
 “Eat, brothers, from.the.road rest.

Ազօսկ տաթաքեն կաճառա տերթետես.”
 tomorrow will.tell.you I my.answer”

Կ՛նուգզուքնե՛ն Օ՛Քալեն Էկ Կաթրալ.
 ate Plakhen and Kavral

Կ՛անտ՛ին տչե՛անկ աննա կիտենկ կճառա՛ն, իտչ գեճիգ օճիգսիկնե՛ն.
 prepared for.them in.his house the.shaman they deeply fell.asleep

Օճիգսին Էլ՛թել՝.
 slept Elvel

Էմ Ստ գա՛մ Էյթաղ լու՛լ.
 only Ukht didn՛t close his.eyes

Մի՛ Նկենկ օճե՛նեզեզսթեն կճառա՛ն.
 all night thought the.shaman

Կ՛իթլաղ Էկ կ՛կազլաղ տի՛ն Նկենկ իգզսթեն աննա Տօն՛իճոկ:
 longest and most.difficult this night was of.his life

“Տսկաճճեն սիլատումքնե՛ն կիթե՛՛լ, քոտօս ան՛ճե՛լ, ճ՛աւառնա՛ն չանտեսզսթե՛ն
 “I.will.turn the.brothers into.rivers, full of.fish people may.take
 տչե՛անք՝ալ Էմքոթթա ան՛ճե՛ն Էկ գունեյե՛ն իգաքե՛ն կոյեյուքնե՛ն.”
 from.them enough fish and always be enough.to.eat”

Կ՛ան՛իճեն մի՛ օճե՛նեզեզօ՛ն Ստե՛ն Տլեճ.
 read all the.thoughts of.Ukht Eagle

Քոյոն Կսոյկնեն, Էլ՛թել՛անկ Կսոյկնեն, Էնսճեսնեն:
 hurriedly he.flew to.Elvel he.flew, he.woke.her



*Asking
for
Elvel՛s
hand*



*Ukht՛s
fateful
decision*

“Qtekejxč, qtekejxč, El'βel'e, xeqe sxluzen!
 “get.up! get.up, Elvel! bad is.happening

Knin isx pən'ɬφasen l'βi mel kčaβain 'tuɬxe'n!
 your father will.stop very nicely treating the.guests

Ənna kiβeɬ skqzatakən 'Plaxen ek Kaβral.”
 he into.rivers will.turn Plakhen and Kavral



Sxəllaŋ kxumstknən son'ɬnomx'al El'βel'i, qa'm omt'in k'imeɬ, əɬckusnən:
 at.a.run left her.house Elvel, without braiding her.hair, and.saw:
 manx'alnu φiksukiɬx kasx kiβe'n.
 out.of.nowhere flowed two rivers

*Eagle's
alarm*

°Qniŋ – kotlaχ, telβelaχ, qula – ul'l'uŋsq, l'βi kxärβärβa'an.
 one was wide calm, the.other was small very wild

L'aje ŋu'num pensatkezen txe'anke: °kniŋenke – qulanke, uttuzen əŋqa
 the.girl then rushed to.them to.one to.other she.could.not anything
 skaz.
 do

Sun'ɬki k'Uxtčom qa'tx lem čamlat k'leknen, Sleč xank ənnank telβečq
 having.lived with.Ukht as.if also a.shaman he.became, Eagle above her quietly
 ksiŋ'in, kkelknən:
 flew, and.said:

“Niqe °kke'nezezχč, El'βel'e!
 quick decide Elvel

Telβelaχ kotlaχ kiβ 'Plaxen sin, ul'ul'iaχ l'βi kxärβärβa'an – Kaβral sin.
 clam wide river Plakhen is, small very wild one Kavral is

Ktəllatexk nβenke, k'e lφtalatesč, k'en ŋiɬ ɬqzataɬ.
 touch that.one who you.love, whose wife you.will.become

°Qniŋ sillatumx kəzza nesemq ŋetaɬ.
 one brother you still can.keep

Qčexizč, xaɬč itx qoneŋeqzaxe'n qixet, sxle posda ɬqzaxen.”
 Hurry soon they will.join the.sea, then too.late it.will.be”

Sxəllazen Elʲβelʲ kaʼnnek kiβeʼn ek tʰeʼanke tzuŋeznen xkʼəʼn,
ran Elvel between rivers and to.them stretched.out her.hands

uttuzen čelkas: eβisk kasχ sillatumxeʼn lʲβi lʲɸtalaznen ənna.
she.could.not choose: since both brothers very.much loved she.

Ksxluknen ʰχeʼtonaʼom čəŋzlaχ Kaʼnank: teβut lʲɸtalas ənnan tʰsnen, qeqčʼul
came.to.pass curse of.evil Kana: even love hers brought misfortune
čʼamzanlaʼnke.
to.people

Nux qaʼt ek qix kʼalek: qaʼm telβelʼin, lʲβi kxärβärβaʼin, əntalaʼŋain.
and.now almost and the.sea near: not calm, very wild, fearsome

“Elʲβelʲe, qčeɸezčʼ!”
“Elvel decide!”

Lus ənna kʼunmiknen lʲβi maqoʼlank.
Suddenly, she stopped in.much sadness.

Uttuzen Elʲβelʲ ʰqniŋ ŋetas, qula ʼimes.
could.not Elvel one save, the.other to.kill

Qaʼtx kqititknen ənna kaʼnnek klʲɸtalaʼin sillatumxeʼnk.
as.if frozen she.(was) between beloved brothers

Sxle lʲβi maqoʼlak kčamlaʼan Uxt ənnan klʲɸtalain pʼelʲučχ kskʼan aslaχ
then very sadly shaman Ukht his beloved daughter changed into.high
ŋejŋeka kaʼnnek kasχ kiβeʼnk, kqonəŋekneʼn qixet kənʲčpaʼ.
mountain between the.two rivers, merging with.sea forever

Lʲβi esčaq čeksxəʼŋqzuzen kčamzalaʼin, teβut kälčknen tnumk kβateqzuin
so.very baldy suffered the.shaman so.that he.lay.down on.top of.stone
Elʲβelʲenk ulʲulʲaχ uxtet.
Elvel as.a.little birch.grove

Qaʼtx sedinaʼ kʼejpitknen ənna aslaχ atxlaχ kilxet, minen kaʼnnek qaʼm
as.if with.gray.hairs covered he the.tall white birches, among which not
itʼe čiskinen kana-uʼ, tʰskqzusnen qeqčʼul.
ever are.found the.Kana-U, bearing evil



*Elvel's
terrible
dilemma*

*Elvel and
Ukht's
transfor-
mation*

Nitesxenki mellaχ kčamzalaʔin č'amzanla'n k'oč'zoin ti'n nejŋe Aslaχ
Remembering the.good shaman, people call this mountain High
Uxt.
Ukht/Birch.

Ptos inxte'n kpeskoqzuβen.
many years have.passed

χe ek ti'nβen inxtenk tχzuzen nejŋe El'βel' ke'nnenk
But even to.this day stand the.mountain Elvel between
kiβe'nk-sillatumxe'nk.
the.river-brothers

Sle'n xank txi'ink senzoqzuze'n.
eagles above them fly

Laqzuzne'n, eβun ti'n senzokila'n ek qχinekne'n č'amzanla'nke ti'n sxlunem
they.say, it.was those flying.ones that told the.people these events,
l'βi kʔʔan'č'in, iβuqin Laččax, nβenk, last isxenk qa'm ŋetakin
of.very defiant proud Latchchakh, and.about how the.father didn't pity
ənnan p'el'ečχ, uβik, mel qečiq sun'ʔkzuβen χe tinux'al – xeplayχ
his daughter, or.himself, well and.happily he.lived
q'eβlaχ knetalan Slečenk.

The Eagle's song [T. Gutorova]

Aslaχ nejŋenk tsinqzaʔkičen.
high over.mountain I.will.fly

Ipʔχčax spəlčax t'oč'aʔčen:
friend wind I.will.call

Spəlčχe, spəlčχe, kəzza ksiŋ'in.
Oh.wind, oh.wind, you fly

Xan'č'an atnoke t'nklaxen.
to.Upriver Village I.send.you

Meβeŋ spəlčχe, nejn'in č'etqzaʔen,
strong wind, from.mountains has.come

Xan'č'an atnoke e'βenqzał,
to.Upriver Village you.will.approach

Itə'nmə'nke Xan'č'an Atnok.
to.Itelmens in.Upriver Village

Kəmmən čaqa'les qlaqzuxčik,
my song you.will.sing

Tχi'in atnola'n °Plaxen, Kaβral.
of.their villagers Plakhen and.Kavral

Uxtenk kiβček'I kt'əlqzu'in.
by.Ukht into.rivers they.were.changed

Kəmmən ipłχčax č'inəqlax El'βel',
and.of.my dear.friend beautiful Elvel

Isxenk nejnek'i kt'əlqzu'in.
by.her.father into.a.mountain she.was.changed



Free translation

Part 1 (silhouettes) – Ukht and Latchchakh

Long ago, this was. In a small Itelmen village not far from the sea there lived a young hunter named Ukht (Birch grove). Ukht was strong, nimble, and handsome. The beautiful Latchchakh (Little Sun) lived there too. They loved each other and often met by a cold creek. Latchchakh told her parents that Ukht wanted to marry her as soon as the trees would become green, the ground would blossom, and the rivers would fill with fish. Her mother and father were happy that such a kind and brave young man loved their only daughter.

Once, as spring was approaching, Latchchakh hurried to the birch grove where Ukht was waiting for her. She was full of joy because patches of thawed ground were emerging, the creeks were burbling cheerily, and because she would be meeting her lover. But suddenly, the dark old shaman Kana blocked her way.

“You are rushing in vain to Ukht, beautiful Latch. Soon you will be my wife. You will become the most beautiful of the Itelmen women, you will have the most beautiful clothes, and lots of tasty and fatty food. I am feared by all, and so they give me the most beautiful clothing, lots of fur, meat, and yukola (dried fish), fat, and meat. My magic is strong! Whoever I curse, no good shaman will ever heal.”

His mouth formed into an evil grin, and Kana laughed loudly:

“Mwa-ha-ha! Your parents are also fear me. They won’t dare to refuse to give you to such a suitor. Ha-ha-ha!”

Beautiful Latchchakh did not bow her head before the evil, ugly shaman. Only her eyes flashed angrily at him, black like crowberries. But when she saw her beloved near the creek, she couldn’t hold her tears anymore. She told her beloved what Kana had in store.

“Don’t be afraid, Latchchakh, I will convince your parents. We will be together. I will hunt, and we will always have everything in abundance: skins for bedding, furs of sheep and bear for clothing, seal meat and dried fish to eat. The smart and capable mountain Eagle always helps in my hunting.”

For a long time Ukht tried to persuade the elder parents to give him Latchchakh’s hand. They answered:

“If we let you marry our daughter Latchchakh, Kana won’t forgive us. He will send people to attack us, and they will kill us with arrows and spears.”

“I will never become the wife of this evil, ugly Kana. I will throw myself into the sea” cried Latchchakh and wailed hopelessly.

Her parents were heartbroken. What could they do? They consented. The village celebrated the wedding of Ukht. Ukht and Latchchakh lived in love. And though the parents were happy for their child, nevertheless, deep in their souls there was an unease - they were afraid of the evil and cruel Kana’s vengeance.

Spring came. Ukht got ready to go to the far, high mountains to hunt for bighorn sheep and reindeer.

“Take care of yourself, Latchchakh. The day is coming when you will give birth and we will have a child. Don’t worry about me. When another new moon rises, I will be back with my bounty.”

A few days passed, and Latchchakh gave birth to a girl. Her parents had hoped for a boy, and the midwife said “Ah well, a girl.” They named the child *Elvel*.

The days passed, and Latchchakh eagerly awaited Ukht. Then the new moon came. As the day dawned, Latchchakh sang to her child: “Today your father is coming, we rejoice at his return.” Suddenly the still dawn was broken by a shrill cry. Latchchakh started and heard her mother cry out:

“Something terrible has happened, child!” her mother cried out, entering at a run. “Out of nowhere the evil Kana has appeared! Other people have come with him, with arrows!”

Behind her entered Kana.

“Latch, you would not marry me, now I will take you by force. You would not listen, so I will slaughter your disobedient villagers. That whelp which you bore to Utkh,” he pointed at little Elvel, “I will curse her. I will completely ruin Ukht’s life. I will leave his child alive, and she will grow ugly and evil. Misfortune will befall to whoever knows her, she will bring evil and violence to people.”

“Why do you curse the poor innocent child?” yelled the old grandmother at Kana, lifting her granddaughter in her hands.

Kana’s eyes flashed with anger.

Latchchakh heard the screams, moans, and curses from the village. Kana was pointlessly killing people. Latchchakh kissed little Elvel, hugged her mother tightly, and quietly whispered: “Don’t be angry Mother. Watch over Elvel. I love Ukht with all my heart.

Never will I marry Kana.” Kissing her mother, Latchchakh pushed open the door, ran to the sea and threw herself from the shore into the depths. The waves immediately covered her forever.

After a bountiful hunt, singing happily, Ukht came towards the village. Eagle flew far ahead. Suddenly, Ukht saw that Eagle was returning for some reason. “Something terrible has happened, friend! Something terrible has happened there.” called out the approaching Eagle.

Ukht came running to the village. There Ukht saw that something horrible had happened. His murdered friends lay strewn about. The evil hand had spared no one, not children, not the old people. In the midst of the death, Ukht saw his dying mother, covering something with her hands. Ukht rushed to her and sat down softly next to her. “Mother, what has happened? Where is Latchchakh?”

“Do not seek Latchchakh,” the dear woman said quietly, “Kana wanted to take her as his wife, and so she threw herself into the sea. She remained faithful to you. Our villagers were killed by Kana.” Somehow slowly she raised her hands, sighing, and spoke again. “This girl, Elvel, is your child. But Kana has cast a horrible curse on her. I am dying, son. I implore you, go and find the reliable and kind old man Kvezm. He is a very powerful shaman. Only through him is there any hope of lifting dear Elvel’s terrible curse.”

His mother died. Gently Ukht took little Elvel with his strong hands. With a deeply pained soul he went around the ruined village, hoping to find someone alive, but in vain. After burning his home village, with the little girl in his arms, Ukht went far away to the high mountains.

The days passed. Ukht found the shaman Kvezm. He was already an old, very strong man. Ukht told him what had happened, and asked to help, to use his powers on Elvel. Kvezm thought very hard. In thinking, he detached himself from this life. Finally he said to Ukht:

“The evil Kana is a very powerful sorcerer. To remove his curse will be death for me. I have already become old and I am used to doing good for people. I will die. You must take my good spirit-helpers. Promise me this!”

“I promise,” said Ukht.

Kvezm struggled for a long time casting off the sorcerer Kana’s bad magic.

“The good spirit-helpers tell me that Kana is dead. But his dark soul has moved into birch trees” said Kvezm. “Tell the Itelmens: from now on, if

someone finds a birch tree with rings, it is an evil tree, it is a Kana Tree. It is forbidden to make houses (from such a tree). Don't count the rings. Your girl Elvel will grow to be beautiful and good, but never forget, before eighteen springs have come, do not show her to other people, otherwise it will be bad. Do you understand?"

"I understand." said Ukht. Kvezm gave Ukht a satchel with his helpers (amulets with spirits).

"Now take my hand. Let my good power pass through my veins to you. I can now die with ease. You will be a good shaman. Serve people faithfully."

There the good Kvezm died. After taking the magic powers from Kvezm, Ukht went with his daughter to live in the distant mountains.

Whenever Ukht went hunting, he left Elvel in Eagle's care. Eagle protected her from hungry beasts, and when she grew up, he showed her places where berries and *kimchiga* (a kind of edible root) were plentiful. Eagle spoke the Itelmen language and loved Elvel very much.

Every spring Ukht went to Hanch'an-Atnom, the Upriver Village. The villagers would welcome him with joy:

"Since the good shaman Uxt has come, then in summer and fall the river will be full of fish, there will be plenty of seals in the sea. We will not be hungry or sick."

Every time Ukht arrived, the villagers put on a big celebration.

Part 2 (puppets) – Kana's curse

17 years passed. Once again Ukht was preparing for the long road. He put a nice *kukhlyanka* (reindeerskin parka) and *malakhai* (fur hat) into his *kalaus* (satchel). Elvel came into her father's *polog* (inner room in the dwelling) and was sad.

"Why are you sad, Elvel? Has someone upset you?" - asked Ukht. .

"Father, every spring you go to the people, but I stay here with Eagle. Take me with you to the village, I also want to see the people, and how they celebrate..."

“No! I can’t!” Ukht became angry at his daughter. “Please, wait for one more winter. When the next spring comes we will go to the feast at the Upriver Village together.”

Elvel said nothing, but she began to weep even more. She was devastated. Never had her father yelled at her before. Ukht’s heart ached to have upset his beloved daughter. He approached Elvel and said:

“Don’t cry, Elvel! I will take you with me, but only if you weave a cloak of swan feathers tonight. Also, promise me you won’t show your face to anyone.”

“Yes father, I will stay under a cloak. But why should I hide my face?”

“Silence! I will tell you about it after next winter,” he said and went to the forest, so that his daughter would not see the sadness and pain in his eyes. He recalled his Latchchakh. Elvel looked just like her mother. As beautiful as Elvel was now, Latchchakh had been just as beautiful 17 years ago. His Latchchakh.

Cheering up, Elvel sewed the cloak all night, aided by the faithful Eagle. As the sun rose, the snow-white cloak was completed. In the early morning hours, Ukht and Elvel rowed down the river. Ukht looked at his daughter, and his heart began to ache with trepidation that something bad was going to happen. He couldn’t tell his daughter about the terrible curse that was looming above her.

The way to Hanch’an-Atnom was long. From far away Ukht and Elvel heard the loud cries of jubilation of the youth watching them, announcing to the villagers that Ukht was coming. The most respected fishermen and hunters, Plakhen and Kavral, greeted their favourite good shaman. They were brothers, strong, capable, and very successful. Everything always went well for them: in the hunt and fishing. Their hunts were always rich and they shared their bounty with the other people. They were great friends and they always helped each other.

The best dishes were given to the beloved guests, the most expensive furs were laid beneath Ukht’s legs, because everyone wanted to gain the favor of the good shaman. But fermented blueberry juice mixed with flyagaric mushroom made the good shaman sleepy. The good blessings followed, and the shaman wished the hosts a bountiful summer and a successful hunt in the winter, then Ukht consented to lay down on the soft white skins that were offered. With abundant food, strong drink, and the weariness after a hard road, Ukht fell asleep.

Behind the hut where the good shaman slept, the joyful feast continued. Young men competed in wrestling, archery, and spear throwing. By evening, around the hot fire they sang sad traditional Itelmen *khodily*. But then the youths tired of the sadness and

the joyful sounds of the *kovõm* flutes, and games soared up to the sky. Everybody began to do a merry dance - "*Khekhme*".

Elvel stood to one side with the cape covering her face. She looked at the young men who had greeted her father. Something joyful welled up in her heart. Forgetting her father's command, she took the cape from her face, and danced merrily. Everyone stopped, struck with love for the beautiful girl - the shaman's daughter.

"Why is everyone looking at me like that? Especially those, who greeted me and my father here - the strong and capable guys" - thought Elvel as she began to feel embarrassed.

Everyone around the fire was indeed amazed. They wondered why the girl hadn't taken off her cape earlier, and when she did, it was as if Elvel's beauty that blinded them. A sudden passion came over Plakhen and Kavral. Hot fires of love sprang to life in their hearts.

The chilly night breeze touched Elvel's face, and she remembered her father's command. She could think clearly again. She covered her face again and slowly walked away from the fire, headed towards the forest. She wanted to be alone, so that she could figure out why it had become so much fun and why she had wanted to laugh and sing. Elvel closed her eyes, and circled around the birches in the glade, hugging and kissing them. At that time, she was thinking about the brothers: how handsome they were! Suddenly, she noticed one of them nearby, and then the other one coming from the other side.

But what was this? They didn't look like at all they did during the feast! Anger was on their faces and their eyes burned with hatred. They approached each other, and were shouting about something... Suddenly, one of them drew a knife and leapt at the other. "What are you doing?" cried Elvel.

Both of them were deeply ashamed, as it was the first time something like that had happened to them.

"My name is Plakhen, and my younger brother is Kavral. We have never had a fight, and we are ashamed of what has happened. But we have fallen in love with you, Elvel, and we are asking you to become the wife of one of us, and sister to the other."

"I love both of you, brothers," answered Elvel, "but in a few days I will leave you, maybe forever. My father is hiding something from me, some sort of a secret..."

Suddenly, Kana-U - the Kana-tree, the ringed birch which Elvel was standing under, twisted and covered the girl with its branches. The brothers sprang up to help, they leapt to her and with their sharp blades started to cut off the branches of the Kana-U. Those

were the fingers of Kana-U, the evil tree. The soul of Kana, the dark shaman, rejoiced, because Elvel was the reason why the brothers had a fight.

"My curse is fulfilled! My curse is fulfilled!" triumphed the dark spirit soundlessly, because the disembodied Kana had no voice. Thus he celebrated his victory.

Ukht slept deeply, but the kind spirit-helpers told him in his dreams that Elvel had broken her promise, and that Kana the shaman was celebrating his victory. Ukht sat for a long time in a sad silence. At sunrise, he hurriedly prepared to set out on the road. Although the villagers asked him nicely to stay a little while longer, they left Hanchan-Atnom.

Elvel knew that her father was upset about something. She was quiet, and when they left the village she said "Father, I disobeyed your command."

"I know," Ukht replied, "why did you do that?"

"Tell me, father, why must I hide my face? After all, I have done nothing wrong to people, and would never do anything to them." Kind Ukht told her the whole story.

"I violated the order of the good shaman Kvezm, and now the evil Kana's curse will follow you your whole life. I don't want you to bring other people misfortune and tears. That is why you must live far away from other people. Forgive me," said Ukht.

One year went by. In grief Ukht aged. Elvel was sad as well. Nothing made them happy. Even Eagle was muted seeing how Ukht and Elvel suffered.

But Plakhen and Kavral, who had fallen in love with Elvel, awaited to the shaman's arrival. However, the spring passed, and the good shaman didn't show up. The brothers started to worry: what if something happened to their loved one? So they decided to find Ukht's home. They searched for it for a long time. The shaman lived very far away, in the mountains. Finally, they found him. The shaman warmly greeted the brothers, but he was extremely concerned: no one in many years had come to visit him. Nervous, the youths' hearts were pounding hard: would the shaman send them back?

The good shaman let them stay, and invited the brothers to his summer dwelling. Elvel was very happy to see Plakhen and Kavral. After cooking, she came into the hut, put the food out and silently went back out. The brothers watched her from behind as if they were enchanted. Plakhen knelt down in front of the shaman:

"We love your daughter Elvel. You decide which of us will become her husband, and the other will become her brother. This is why we have come here."

Ukht sat there without saying a word for a long time, and then said: "Eat, brothers, and rest after the long road. Tomorrow I will tell you my decision."

Plakhen and Kavral ate. The shaman prepared a place in the dwelling for them to sleep, and they fell fast asleep. Elvel slept too. Only Ukht didn't close his eyes. His trusty friend, Eagle, remained awake as well near him. The shaman spent the whole night thinking. It was the most difficult and the longest night in his life. And this is what the old shaman decided:

"I will turn the brothers into rivers, full of fish, so that people may take enough fish from them. They will always eat their fill."

Eagle read Ukht's thoughts. He flew hurriedly to Elvel, and woke her up:

"Get up, get up, Elvel! Something bad is happening! Your father is going to stop treating the guests kindly! He is going to turn Plakhen and Kavral into rivers."

Elvel ran out of her house with her hair down, and saw out of nowhere, two rivers had begun to flow. One was wide and calm, the other smaller, but wild. The girl rushed to one, then to the other, not knowing what to do. Eagle, who had also gained powers from living with the shaman, flew slowly up to her, and said:

"Quick Elvel, decide! The calm, wide river is Plakhen, the narrow, wild one is Kavral. Touch the one you love, the one, whose wife you would like to become. One of the brothers you can still save. Hurry, they will soon join with the sea, and then it will be too late."

Elvel ran between the two rivers, stretching her hands out to both. She could not choose: she loved them both. Kana's evil curse came to pass: even her love brings misfortune to people. They were already approaching the sea, restless, wild and fearsome.

"Elvel, hurry up!" the Eagle's voice reached her. Suddenly, she stopped in despair. Elvel couldn't save the one, without killing the other. She stood as if frozen between the beloved brothers. In desperation the shaman Ukht turned his beloved daughter into a high mountain between the two rivers, flowing forever into the sea. The shaman suffered so badly that he lay down as a small birch grove at the foot of the stone Elvel. It was covered with birches, as if those were his gray hairs, among which one would never find the Kana-U, the trees that bring misfortune.

In memory of the good shaman, the people called that mountain Aslakh Ukht (Tall Birchwood). Many years have passed since then. But even now the Elvel mountain stands there between the two river-brothers. Eagles fly above them. People say, that it was those high fliers who first told them this story, about defiant Latchchakh, and how a father didn't give in to pity for his daughter and himself, so that their people could live happily and with an abundance of resources. And that story was told to those birds by their ancestor, mighty and soulful Eagle.



Mount Elvel with Kavral (Kovran) river in foreground. Photo: collection T. Degai

Credits

Original story and songs	Tatiana Evstropovna Gutorova
1995 version (Itelmen and Russian)	Tatiana Evstropovna Gutorova Klavdiia Nikolaevna Khaloimova
English translation	Tatiana Degai Jonathan David Bobaljik
Core team (film)	
Project coordinator	Tatiana Degai
Puppetry and shadows	Maïté Agopian
Filmmaker, Director	Eli Hurtle
Student Assistant	Liam Campbell
Cultural Consultants	Lydia Kruchinina Aleksandr Mokryi
Artwork and scenery	Maïté Agopian Tatiana Degai Liam Campbell Tanyssia Northey Morgen Holder Aleksandr Mokryi
Voices	
Eagle	Nikolai Levkovsky
Ukht	Anatolii Levkovsky
Latchchakh	Galina Kravchenko
Kvezm	Aleksandr Mokryi
Kana	Leonid Sysoev
Elvel	Natalia Kravchenko
Plakhen	Evgenii Danilov
Kavral	Ivan Bei
Midwife	Tatiana Zaeva
Latchchakh's mother	Lyudmila Kuznetsova
Background sounds, Music	Itelmen Ensemble "Elvel"
Background sounds	Itelmen Ensemble "Algu"
Songs (Dying Mother, Eagle)	Tatiana Evstropovna Gutorova
Narrator	Tatiana Degai

Language Consultants (Itelmen)..... Viktor Ryzhkov
Jonathan David Bobaljik

Little helpers Pavel Mokri, Aivan Degai

Archival material was used with permission from the archives of the Itelmen ensemble “Elvel”, the American Museum of Natural History, Division of Anthropology, Asian Ethnology collections, and Digital Humanities of the North <https://dh-north.org/en>.

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Общественная организация молодежи коренных малочисленных народов
Севера в Камчатском крае «Дружба Северян»

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Itelmen ensembles
ELVEL · ALGU



**University
of Victoria**

Anthropology

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March 25

5.30-7.30 pm

movie screening
followed by meet
with movie creators and
Itelmen dance

Tatiana Degai
Maite Agopian
Eli Hurtle
Aleksandr Mokryi
Liam Campbell
Jonathan Bobaljik
Pavel Mokri and Aivan Degai

project lead
puppetry and shadows
film maker
cultural consultant
student assistant
language consultant
little helpers



The Story of Elvel is a window into the world of Itelmen People. Coming from the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in Kamchatka, the story of Elvel serves as a rich guiding database of Indigenous knowledge to understand the threads that formed a strong connection of Itelmens with the land and water. This film is a result of a multi-year community-led project that is aimed at bringing the story to a new life and support revitalization of Itelmen language. We bring diverse ways of storytelling (puppetry, shadow theatre, talking circle, counter mapping, film) as an example of holistic approach where language, land, culture, and people coincide together and are inseparable.

