

**Lo' xiyidighine'**  
They believed in them

Told by Hannah Maillelle with Katherine Hamilton (KH), Feb. 12, 2004, Anchorage, Alaska.

Told in Deg Xinag (Deg Hit'an, Ingalik Athabascan)

Recorded by Alice Taff.

Transcribed and translated by Beth Dementi Leonard and James Dementi (JD). Reviewed by Donna Miller MacAlpine, Edna Deacon, Lucy Hamilton, and Alice Taff.

There are 5 topics below but we have kept them together in this text to present the flow of ideas from topic to topic in the larger notion of "old beliefs".

Recording	Translation	Begin Time - mm:ss.ms
<i>We were talking about beliefs, beliefs of long time ago.</i>		28.629
<i>What they used to believe in, every little thing. They even believe in what birds do.</i>		38.356
<i>When, when it, like chickadees fly in the tent or in the house.</i>		45.684
<b>Sigiggeg, gho nadidilighusr yitdong.</b>	Chickadees, talking about them long ago.	59.892
<b>Lo' xiyidighine',</b>	They believed in them,	01:06.699
<b>yuxudz ggagg k'idz yil.</b>	and all the birds.	01:09.377
<b>Xildi,</b>	So,	01:13.733
<b>ngitthing sanh qay tr'ididlth'e.</b>	we were staying downat fish camp [lit. summer village].	01:22.956
<b>Dinadadr k'idz xelanh.</b>	Our little sister was there.	01:26.646
<b>Xiviyl itsa'a ye notin dinaghi, dinaghi xinedatl.</b>	Together two grandmas came to our place.	01:35.669
<b>Xildi, Mom gho xididlth'e ts'i,</b>	They sat with Mom,	01:46.263
<b>xinaxidilighusr.</b>	talking.	01:50.346
<b>Xiyil sigiggegg xidinat'uq</b>	Suddenly a chickadee flew	01:53.977
<b>yix xodhith yet.</b>	in the tent.	01:58.590
<b>Xildi {xiyogh} xiye nitlchet, Mom.</b>	Then she tried to get it, Mom.	02:01.568
<b>Xidonq'ixinilchet ts'i yuxudz xiynitlchet ts'i.</b>	They put down the tent flaps and closed up the tent.	02:08.542
<b>Xidigal, yilchet ts'i yuxudz.</b>	Finally, she got it.	02:12.373

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

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All errors are the responsibility of Alice Taff. Please address comments and corrections to [alicetaff@gmail.com](mailto:alicetaff@gmail.com).

<b>Niltoyitlch'il ts'i xitthiyi- {dighil} -ghilo.</b>	She tore it up and put it in the fire.	02:15.033
<b>Yit oghida' 'n at, dinadadr k'idz didiyog.</b>	A year later, our small sister died.	02:21.257
<b>Ndadz dit'anh tux dina yeg ilzre.</b>	That's what it does then, takes a person's spirit.	02:28.709
<b>Alo ditht'an ts'i xilne.</b>	It doesn't do that for nothing.	02:31.974
It's off?		02:44.840
What else?		02:48.400
<b>(KH) What about frog, you know, frog, xilghiy?</b>	... frog.	02:53.100
<b>Ngido' Swiftwater tr'ididlth'e ts'i.</b>	Downriver in Swiftwater we were staying.	03:06.944
<b>Ngine' qay che ntr'ididatl.</b>	Upriver that village we came to. [Lower Village of Shageluk]	03:11.450
<b>Xiviyil Mildred and Mary,</b>	Together with Mildred and Mary,	03:16.193
<b>yixi q'uxididal vith q'idz.</b>	around there we walked around on the river bank.	03:20.837
<b>Xildi Ida yil dinayil dit'anh.</b>	and Ida (Raymond Dutchman's sister) was with us.	03:24.327
<b>Xiviyil xilghiy chux yixi q'u'altlik yixi.</b>	A big frog was jumping around there.	03:29.075
<b>Xildi xiyilchet ts'i yuxudz</b>	Then they got it and	03:34.382
<b>xiditthilt'ogg,</b>	on top of her head,	03:36.967
<b>Mary tthilt'ogg dixiyitlt'anh.</b>	they put it on Mary's head. [If it stays on your head, it means you will live long, but if it doesn't stay you won't live long. (JD)]	03:38.736
<b>Nilq'udz ts'i yit dhido ts'i.</b>	It stayed a little while on her.	03:44.290
<b>Nonaltlik.</b>	It jumped down.	03:47.481
<b>Dina ts'ili'anh ts'i che vughidluq tr'idlighusr ts'i.</b>	To us it looked silly so we were laughing about it.	03:50.137
<b>Xildi Ida tthilt'ogh che dixiyi'itlt'anh.</b>	They put it on Ida's head too.	03:55.930
<b>Gee, yit edo' ts'in'.</b>	Gee, it wouldn't stay there.	03:58.933
<b>Nonaltlik.</b>	It kept jumping down.	04:00.816
<b>Che yit nontr'iltayh</b>	We kept putting it back up again,	04:04.065
<b>che nonaltlik.</b>	and it jumped right back down again.	04:05.771
<b>Vughidluq tr'idilighusr.</b>	We were laughing about it.	04:08.529

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>Vantr'atr'ixuneg ndadz dit'an ts'i.</b>	We didn't know why it was doing that.	04:10.507
<b>Xiviyil sitthilt'ogh che dixiyitlt'an.</b>	Then they put it on top of my head, too.	04:14.331
<b>Iy che xiyodluq xidilighusr; xildi getiy nilngath ts'in' tth'ilt'ogg dhido ts'i.</b>	All of them were laughing about it staying on top of my head a really long time.	04:18.760
<b>Yit dhido ts'i yit dhido.</b>	It was sitting and sitting there.	04:24.471
<b>Xidigal nixayilchet, he'?</b>	Finally they picked it up, eh?	04:29.804
<b>Alo lo che ditht'an ts'i iy nonaltlikda'.</b>	Sure enough, it doesn't do that for nothing when it jumps down off your head.	04:33.047
<b>Xidigal che yuxudz Ida yitot a didiyoq.</b>	In the end, Ida didn't last long.	04:37.068
<b>(KH) Gilixi che, she say edodz ntr'ididal.</b>	One time she said we came up from Swiftwater.	04:45.225
<b>Sanh xelanh.</b>	It was summertime.	04:57.120
<b>Ng'egh ntr'ixinilghon ts'in'.</b>	We were playing around outdoors.	05:00.646
<b>Xilghiy yixi chux iy,</b>	A frog around there, a big one,	05:03.395
<b>yixiy q'u'altlik che xichet.</b>	around there it was jumping and we picked it up.	05:07.050
<b>Eliza, Dorothy, and me,</b>	[Eliza is Jeannie Benjamin's mom. Dorothy is Dorothy Workman.]	05:11.409
<b>Diva go che dinayil q'u'edoyh?</b>	And who else was walking around with us?	05:19.199
<b>Yuxudz, yuxudz che ditr'eloq.</b>	We did like that.	05:22.752
<b>Yix ttheqh q'idz di'uxltayh tux yuxyil idiyinh dina xi'ne.</b>	While it's on your head it's making medicine people say.	05:30.396
<b>Sughiligik dina tr'ilt'ogg, Eliza tthilt'ogg ditr'itlt'an.</b>	Poor person, on her head, on Eliza's head we put it.	05:37.883
<b>Iy. Yit che edo' ts'in'.</b>	Oh, no. It never stayed.	05:46.016
<b>(?)</b>		05:53.778
<b>Di'ne, di'ne tux che gits'in', gits'in' xilne lo che.</b>	When it makes noise it's a bad sign they said sure enough.	05:57.831
<b>(HM) Didithne' ts'in'.</b>	It didn't say anything.	06:03.181
<b>(KH) Didaghine' xiye vitthilt'ogg diyilt'anhd, that's what I...</b>	It made a croaking sound when they put it on her head.	06:05.069
<b>Viyetr xitithdlal ts'in'.</b>	She's not going to live long.	06:14.821
<b>(HM) Viyetr xitithdlal ts'i tux an, he'?</b>	She's not going to live very long, eh?	06:18.725

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>Xivitthilt’ogh diyedo’ ts’in’.</b>	It didn’t stay on her head.	06:20.972
<b>Yuxudz xiyan’ che yuxudz vaniginiyh anh, Ida.</b>	That’s all I remember about her, Ida.	06:25.095
<b>And ah, sitthilt’oghdı xeyitlt’anhdi getiy sughidluq xidilighusr.</b>	And ah, when they put it on my head they were sure laughing about me.	06:31.601
<b>Getiy nilngath ts’i ilt’e yuxudz, sitthilt’ogg dathdo ts’in’.</b>	A really long time it was sitting on my head.	06:38.390
<b>(KH) Che yil,</b>	And also,	06:46.086
<b>(HM) Uxutiy yil yuxudz,</b>	Even those ones,	06:49.041
<b>axa dughinek I mean xiyan nughinek,</b>	they pay attention to them,	06:55.422
<b>ggagg k’idz ine’ iy.</b>	even birds.	06:59.834
<b>Giyixi’ogh,</b>	A year ago,	07:03.205
<b>xiday te divan xiveloq hin Grayling, nilyil.</b>	where those people who drowned in the river in Grayling, together.	07:07.433
<b>Five boys xit’anh, Lillian and Archie. And</b>	They had five boys, Lillian and Archie. And	07:13.540
<b>in the springtime she call me and she tell me she just worried.</b>		07:20.548
<b>(KH) Deg Xit’an, deg xiq’i.</b>	Local people, local language. [KH is prompting HM to speak in Deg Xinag.]	07:27.130
<b>Xulegg,</b>	In the spring,	07:32.469
<b>soqo xinayh Lillian.</b>	Lillian called me.	07:36.121
<b>Xiyo dil’anh, “Auntie,</b>	She’s worried, “Auntie,	07:39.635
<b>vinixilyigg tux, {ggiy} gidint’ey</b>	early in the morning, a camp robber,	07:45.181
<b>window xidalning’,” yilne,</b>	is pecking at the window,” she said,	07:55.143
<b>“yalq’a ngi’os ts’in’.</b>	“outside the window.	07:57.851
<b>It’e che yuxudz dit’anh,” yilne.</b>	It keeps doing that,” she said.	08:00.854
<b>“Ndadz xo’in dit’anh?” silne.</b>	“Why is it doing that?” she asked me.	08:03.294
<b>“Ngo xantr’ixusneg,” vidisne.</b>	“Well, I don’t know,” I told her.	08:06.179
<b>“Alo an a dit’anh,” vidisne.</b>	“It’s doing that way for nothing,” I told her.	08:08.317
<b>Edi yuxudz sanh, sanhdi yuxudz disilne.</b>	All that summer, all summertime she’s telling me that.	08:12.232
<b>Xildi, xiyhts’in’ che xits’an xitithidhit xiyildi</b>	It started to get falltime when she called	08:19.890
(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]		

soqo xinayh.	me.	
“Gee, that gidint’ey yuxudz,	“Gee, that gray jay,	08:29.126
ilt’e yuxudz yolq’a xidalning’,” yilne.	it’s always pecking at the window,” she said.	08:32.271
“Gil’ gho xiyodidhil’an iy detsan’ tlagg.	“Well, don’t worry about it, maybe it’s hungry, bum thing.	08:36.548
Ithe ngi’egh gho gidhuxlo ts’i at,” vidisne ts’i yil.	You all should leave food outdoors for it,” I said to her.	08:39.725
Ilt’e yuxudz yigixe’izrisr ts’i.	They were always drinking.	08:44.311
Yuxudz, ts’an a yit	Everyone, is it true?	08:48.953
Xiyh an a yuxudz nilyil yuxudz dixidiyoq.	That winter all together they died.	08:52.714
Diva go itr’atonel.	We have nobody to tell it to. [Stories]	09:02.942
(KH) Vandhiginik ts’i daxasnel.	I forgot what I was going to say.	09:13.575
Xiday that um, xiyixonet che.	Where’s that... I don’t know what’s up above.	09:21.942
Nda’ ts’i xi’ezre’ che yuxudz?	What do they call that place?	09:35.522
(HM) Ndagh?	Where?	09:38.802
(KH) Yukon Slough.	Yukon slough. [Edna Deacon says the name is this slough is Tse Yiq.]	09:41.060
(HM) Vantr’ixusneg.	I forget.	09:47.575
(KH) (?) Ne dhi’onh. Yukon Slough.	An island, Yukon Slough.	09:49.734
Yit, a...	There’s...	09:55.431
Edna xogh xinayh.	Edna was talking about it.	09:59.017
Viq’idz nihol, nihol an iy, ngo yitdong.	On it no camping, no camping there, from long time ago.	10:02.824
Dong, dong go, tthingil tidolningh.	Long time ago, an axe fell in the water.	10:09.927
Yit iy an a gho. Vits’i. You know.	There. And that’s why it’s that way (formed the island).	10:12.850
Ngan’ ndalningh. Yeah.	That’s how that island is there.	10:17.996
(HM) Diggadhi’oy chux, xi’ne.	A big knife, they say.	10:21.009
(KH) Tthingil...	An axe...	10:24.931
(HM) Vits’i diggatel chux xiy.	The biggest knife there is.	10:30.217
Diggadhi’oy yuxudz qay yuxudz, yuxudz xiy axa dit’anh hiy xilne.	The whole village used that knife they	10:32.687

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

	said.	
<b>Viq'a xethtrix xildi</b>	Everybody was crying then	10:47.192
<b>iy diggadhi'oy chux</b>	(because) that big knife	10:51.304
<b>tighilqadi, xi'ne.</b>	went in the water, they said.	10:56.137
<b>Xiq'i xethtrix ts'i xildi,</b>	They cried for it then,	10:59.926
<b>viq'a che gitidlyo xilne che.</b>	they had a parka feast they said.	11:02.216
<b>Diggadhi'oy chux a gitidlyo, xi'ne.</b>	They had a parka feast for the big knife, they said.	11:06.941
<b>Dangan ndagh che q'a che gitalyayh?</b>	For that iron, why did they want to have parka feast?	11:14.919
<b>Xunik itl'e iy.</b>	(I wonder if) it's a true story.	11:23.649
<b>(KH) Spirit camp, what that ah... xiday [hard to hear] 4-mile xi'ne di tthoggiqay xelanh?</b>	Up across 4-mile there was a spirit camp.	11:31.033
<b>That diyin dathonhdi.</b>	Is that where that shaman's grave is?	11:43.094
<b>Xiye xingo che spirit camp {dihath} ixitltsenh yixi.</b>	They made the spirit camp right across from there.	11:45.823
And Edna, had, what they call Spring Camp?		11:52.630
<b>(HM) Gan?</b>	What?	12:08.849
<b>Gidonik donixi, aa, q'eyh dithtitht'onh hiy.</b>	Lots of birch trees in a row.	12:12.420
<b>Dinato' yixi qidhi q'u... [hard to hear] ogh xitr'idai, tr'ine, anh hin aline, she say, cause,</b>	Our father told us not to walk around there.	12:22.180
<b>Gilixi ts'i qay xadila ts'in'. [hard to hear]</b>	Once there used to be a village there.	12:31.154
<b>Yuxudz iy che didltth'en, I guess.</b>	They were all living there, I guess.	12:36.370
<b>Yuxudz imo axa.</b>	They all got sick.	12:38.830
<b>Dixidiyoq.</b>	Everyone died.	12:41.545
<b>"Yixi q'udhuxdidai," hin dina ilne, eh?</b>	"Don't walk around there," he told us, eh?	12:47.390
<b>Imo didiyoq ts'i yuxudz.</b>	Sickness happened.	12:54.912
<b>(HM) Yuxudz donxidiyoq, yit xadixi'inedi.</b>	Everyone died there, that place where everyone died.	12:58.368
<b>Ngido' yoxodo' xildi thuxididltth'en,</b>	Down there where they're staying by themselves,	13:03.129
<b>nq'oldalin yan' iy, he', iy?</b>	only women is that the one?	13:11.064
<b>(KH) No, that's another one.</b>		13:13.730

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>That, aa, what's that Nilti'ileyhdi?</b>	Lower Village?	13:16.975
Lower Village xoq'odz qay xixilidi.	Lower Village, across from it, there used to be a village.	13:25.141
<b>Yit an at xi'ne.</b>	That's the place they're talking about.	13:28.868
<b>(HM) O, yit'egh.</b>	Oh, there.	13:30.506
<b>Ginadhingonhdi.</b>	That's where everybody died (from sickness or starvation).	13:33.724
<b>(KH) Yit an at giligginh chel</b>	That's where one boy	13:43.238
<b>baby viyetr xelanh.</b>	baby was alive.	13:48.778
<b>Tr'altth'et gitthing yan', gitthing ngohon yan' ntidlghusr.</b>	In the kashim only blowflies, there was only blowflies buzzing.	13:54.388
<b>(HM) Xiyilchet ts'i xildi xeyitlyonh anh chel k'idz.</b>	They took him and they raised him that little boy.	14:09.756
<b>Dredluq gidighedhit.</b>	He barely survived.	14:13.942
<b>Che, vonh didiyoq xingo</b>	His mother was dead while	14:17.470
<b>yima' ghiltet.</b>	he was drinking her milk.	14:21.304
<b>Xildi xivito' nda sre' diyaghil'an ts'i.</b>	I wonder what his father did (to help the child recover).	14:25.819
<b>Xidigal xeledz dondiyoq.</b>	Finally he got well.	14:31.731
<b>Anh nq'oldalin xivito'.</b>	The girls' father. [He was the one who blew on the baby to help him get well.]	14:36.184
<b>Dan an xivoda' xildi yinitlyo.</b>	The older sister raised him.	14:39.502
<b>"Q'a'ididhit ts'i xildi nginixi q'utasdoyh," ine',</b>	"I'm grown up (and) I'm going to go back there and walk around," but,	14:44.001
<b>"Ngine' tigheyo," an xilne ilt'e.</b>	"Don't go upriver," they told him all the time.	14:46.587
<b>Xildi, ngichux ts'i didiyoq ts'i xildi,</b>	Then he grew bigger, then,	14:50.753
<b>"Ndadz goxo ningine' tigheyo an sixi'ne?" inedhinh.</b>	"Why not go upriver do they tell me," he is thinking.	14:55.170
<b>Ngine' qay xighelidi.</b>	Up river there used to be a village site.	15:00.519
<b>Neyo xiyil didiggixalnek.</b>	Walking then he found himself there. (In that village.)	15:04.724
<b>Voxo ndadz sre'</b>	He didn't know anything	15:09.787
<b>dixi'et'adi.</b>	about that place.	15:13.406

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>Ts'an at edo' n'idiyo.</b>	So he went back downriver.	15:16.573
<b>Singonh yilne anh xildi,</b>	The one he called Mother,	15:19.024
<b>nughil dighene.</b>	he told her.	15:21.207
<b>Iyi givitsiy ghiluq xildi,</b>	His poor grandpa then,	15:23.139
<b>itrix, tr'ine. Tatthtrax.</b>	he was crying, it is said. He started crying.	15:26.803
<b>Xitl'ogh xildi yi nughil didighine', tr'ine.</b>	But after that he told him, it is said.	15:30.851
<b>"Ngine' ginadhingonh dan at,</b>	"Upriver, where everybody died,	15:35.549
<b>ngidithinqay yil yuxudz.</b>	your parents and everyone.	15:40.673
<b>Tr'altthet, tr'altthet ngq'iholnek go dan," yilne.</b>	The kashim, (in) the kashim, they found you right there," he told him.	15:44.522
<b>"Dred xildi gidagh ngidhit," xilne, tr'ine.</b>	"You barely made it," they said, it is said.	15:52.705

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]