21. Origin of the Columbia River

snḱlip xʷylwísms, uł ḱłnix̌ˀlms csx̌ʷap.

Coyote was traveling, and heard water dropping.

cut, waẏ kn xʷuy uł ƛ̌x̌ʷup.

He said, “I will go and beat it.”

kł aʔmcnítkʷ, uł cqʷaqʷ, hox hox hox hox nyaxʷaxʷítkʷ

He sat down near it, and cried, “Hox-hox-hox hox!” in imitation of water dripping.

kłʔil mus, ṅax̌mł iʔ‿kʷun lut ṫ‿ƛ̌ˀlap.

He tried four times, but the noise never ceased.

əcʔaym̓t, tiłt uł trqnitkʷ.

He became angry, arose, and kicked the place where the water dropped.

ƛ̌lap iʔ‿kʷun. nstiˀls ƛ̌x̌ʷupts, uł ʔayncútaʔx, cut,

The noise ceased. He thought he had beaten it, and laughed, saying,

waẏ kn ƛ̌x̌ʷupt. lut ṫ‿aʔ‿kssx̌ʷnitkʷm

“I beat you. No more shall water drip thus and make a noise.”

kawcn uł itíʔ sx̌ʷap nixʷ. ʔaym̓t, uł cut,

Shortly after he had gone, the water began to drip as before. He became angry, and said,

ha kn łaʔ‿cut lut sx̌ʷnitkʷ.ʔ

“Did I not say water shall not run and make a noise?”

iʔ‿siwłkʷ kilntm, uł sx̌ʷnitkʷ.

The water was coming after him, and increased in volume as it flowed.

pútiʔ cq…iclx, n̓ax̌mł pútiʔ kł‿nix̌ʼls iʔ‿ɕsx̌ʷap, mis q̓ʷalsncút

He kept on running; but still he heard the noise of water, and was much annoyed.

puƛ̓m iʔ‿l‿ claʔtíw̓s. lut t̓‿kssiwłkʷ ilíʔ, km̓ c̓əlc̓al.

he traveled along the edge of a plateau. There was no water there, nor trees.

ʔac̓s l‿cnlaʕʷútm, n̓ax̌mł x̌w̓úlaʔxʷ. sk̓ʷalt uł nƛ̓amncín.

He looked down into the coulee, but everywhere it was dry. It was warm, and he became very thirsty.

way̓ kł nix̌ʼls iʔ‿sx̌ʷnitkʷ, n̓ax̌mł lut t̓‿wiks.

He heard the noise of water, but saw none.

ixiʔ ʔac̓s nixʷ l‿cnlaʕʷútm, uł wiks aʔ‿laʕáp kaʔłíp cəcwíxaʔ

Then he looked again down into the coulee, and saw a small creek flowing along the bottom.

way̓ c̓x̌ił łkʷa….kʷ. sax̌ʷt uł síwstaʔx nput̓ls

It seemed a long distance away. He went down and drank his fill.

x̌iƛ̓m, ṅax̌mɬ ǩiǩm ɬaʔ◡ksqilíkn nƛ̓amncín.

He ascended again, but had barely reached the top when he became thirsty.

kɬnix̌ls sx̌ʷnitkʷ, uɬ kɬxilsm, wiks iʔ◡cwíxaʔ.

He heard more noise of water, and looking over the edge, saw a large creek running.

sax̌ʷt, síwstaʔx nputl̓s, uɬ x̌iƛ̓m , ṅax̌mɬ lut ṯ◡qi ̓lt

He went down, drank his fill, and ascended again, but had not reached the top

ɬaʔ◡nƛ̓amncín, way̓ nixʷ. way̓ nstils, ǩaʔkín uc kn ksíwstaʔx ?

when he was thirsty, as before. He thought, “Where can I drink?”

iʔ◡siwɬkʷ. ʔawtípntm sxʷuys ǩl◡iʔ◡kɬx̌sx̌əsus uɬ ʔaċm.

The water was following him. He went to the edge of a bench and looked down.

way̓ aʔ◡ccntx̌ítkʷ ʕapnáʔ kaʔɬíp

A small river was now running below

sax̌ʷt uɬ siwstm. nstl̓s ċkin snkʷast iʔ◡lut ǩaʔ ilíʔ əcsiwɬkʷ

He descended and drank. He wondered that much water was running where there had been none before.

mis siwst, way̓ put nƛ̓amncíns. iʔ◡mus ksnƛ̓amncín ǩiʔǩát l◡iʔ◡ saʔtítǩ

The more he drank, the sooner he became thirsty again. The fourth time he became thirsty he was only a little way from the water.

ʔaym̓t,p̓lak, uł nixʷ siwstaʔx. iʔ_nkʷast silx̌ʷítkʷm

He was angry, and turned back to drink. The water had now risen to a good-sized river,

sic ixíʔ lut lkʷut xʷúyiʔ. cus c̓kinx

so that he had not far to go. He said, “What may be the matter?

way̓ niʕíp kn nƛamnćin ʕapnáʔ. iwá kn łxʷúyiʔ.

I am always thirsty now. There is no use of my going away.

way̓ kn xʷist yaʕcnítkʷ

I will walk along the edge of the water.”

x̌ilms, n̓ax̌mł putíʔ nƛamncín, cut, way kn xʷstítkʷ

He did so; but as he was still thirsty, he said, “I will walk in the water.”

iʔ_l_k̓aqínxn iʔ_saʔtítkʷ. lut nput̓lsc, uł łaʔ_wiʔsíwstaʔx

The water reached up to his knees. This did not satisfy him; and every time after drinking,

nkʷast xʷstitkʷ, cxʔit l_sk̓miw̓s, ixíʔ l_tk̓msax̌n.

he walked deeper, first up to the waist, then up to the arms.

ixíʔ cus, way̓ kn kram, sic ixíʔ isp̓límcn k̓iʔk̓át l_siwłkʷ

Then he said, “I will swim, so that my mouth will be close to the water,

uł niʕíp kn síwstaʔx yaʕt iʔ_x̌yałnx̌ʷ

and I can drink all the time.”

huy xʷʔit siwst kɬ kʷniwt ƛ̓ɬƛ̓lal

Finally he had drunk so much that he lost consciousness.

iʔ◡siwɬkʷ ƛ̓x̌ʷups x̌l snk̓lip ɬaʔ◡nt̓rqitkʷntm

Thus the water got even with Coyote for kicking it;

nslxʷitkʷ itíʔ x̌ilm, iʔ◡t̓l◡k̓ʷk̓ʷínaʔ sx̌ʷap

and thus from a few drops of water originated the Columbia River.