Mdemos yewak I mkekok

Old lady in the box

Story by Jim and Alice Spear in the 1940’s.
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1. Imese ngodek kewezi eyet nish wgwesen.

2. Wje byéjtawsit kche nene I je o kigabes yawe shimen.

3. I je o nseze ézhyat ekche nimedinet.

4. I je ngodek égi wdébnat kwen.

5. Égi byénaji zhi édawat.

6. Iw je shi nesh pi égimyanenmat ni keweziyen mine ni gigabeyen.

1. Once an old man lived with his two sons.

2. The older son was quite a man, the younger one was a small boy.

3. The older brother would go to the big dances.

4. Finally he got a hold of a young woman.

5. He brought the young woman home.

6. But in no time this young woman disliked the old man, and also the baby brother.
7. I je nene égi zhekwat ni keweziyen mine ni gigabeyen wa je danet.

7. So the man built a little shack for his brother and father to live.

8. Wgi tepenan neish nwech.

8. He liked/loved both of them (more)


9. The young woman had a mother.

10. I je ni wgiyeyen égi byénat iw je égi nikaniwat iw eji yewat.

10. She brought her mother there so they could be in charge of the place.

11. Iw je o kewezi mine o gigabe wa wika égi zhichkaswat.

11. And so this old man and his boy got so they would be fed them from time to time.

12. O je nene gi tebanwewse, ni osen tepentamnet

12. So the man controlled it, but it was his father’s property.

13. I je ngodek o gigabe énat ni osen “neta pa mikchewi” énat.

13. Once this boy told his father “I wish to go get a job.


14. We sure are pitiful here.
15. “Your still small yet, there’s not much you can do.

16. The boy went anyhow. He disappeared.

17. In ten years time he came back, this boy and found his father was still there.

18. And the old man asked him “Who are you”

19. The boy answered “You could be my grandfather”

20. The boy found his father was still starving.

21. How are you related to this man?

22. The old man said he is my son.

23. Why are you starving?

24. Your son has all kinds of hogs and he has so much more.
25. That night the boy went and killed one turkey.
26. So he told his dad. We are really going to have a feast this evening.
27. Again in the evening the boy killed a pig, they roasted him over the fire.
28. And this man’s wife smelled the good odor of the roasting meat buried in the ground.
29. She told her man “How is that?”
30. The old man and the boy they do that every night.
31. The man told her “Don’t say one word.”
32. You are sure bothered by what they do.
33. So they went to sleep the couple.
34. Next morning the woman told her man
35. “It’s like they are killing turkeys and stuff such so they can eat.”
36. I je o nene énat “keten gde-dzemak she ewi zhechkewat.

37. Lw je o kwe énat

38. “Nge kkendan wa wje mzhengo ezh jakewat

39. Ode ngiye gmkeksekewamen.

40. Mamijat mine wa mnekwet gdomen gwangoamen wa je dpapat.

41. Lw je gechwa zhechkeygo gwi-bba-mbwachwemen

42. Lw je o nene énat

43. Ahaw, Nge wawabmak pkonyak.

44. I je énat ni osen


46. Éwi wabdemen.

47. Mkekok nge-tomen

36. Still the man says” You are really bothered by what they are doing”

37. So the lady told her man.

38. “ I know a scheme how to catch those folks that are eating everything up.

39. We will box up my mother in a box

40. We will have food she can eat and drink and we will put a hole she can peek through.

41. We can pretend like we are out visiting

42. and the man said

43. All right I will go and take a good look at them this evening.

44. He told his father

45. “ We are going to make a trip for 4 days and we will bring our valuables here

46. so you could watch them,

47. We will put them in a box.
48. They put the old lady in the box in the morning, and took her to the old man’s house.
49. and they set the box in the old man’s house with the old lady in it.
50. So at noon the old man and the boy had pig left, and started their lunch.
51. The young boy said to the old man “Grandfather there are riches in the box!”
52. No, There is someone in there.
53. He asked the old man “Let me look and see what there is.
54. The old man said “no.”
55. No grandpa I’m going to open it and see what’s in it.
56. So the boy opened the box and found the old lady sitting in there
57. and told the old man here are all the valuables”
58. So he knocked the old lady in the head and there were lots of crackers in there for him to eat.

59. Then he started choking because he stuffed the crackers in his mouth.

60. and poured half the cider out.

61. Before the four days was up and they came back.

62. The man said to his father “I want to get my stuff.

63. So they took the box back, opened it, and found the old lady dead.

64. The man told his wife “that’s what you wanted.”

65. Now your mother is dead.

66. And you are the reason it happened to her.

67. The man told his wife. “The people will be notified about what happened to your mom.
68. Wabek nish yawek wi ngwakaso.
68. In two days she will be buried.
68. Ngwa-bury s.o. kasos-kind of a passive form to say someone will be buried. Nish yawek-will be in two(days implied)

69. I je epich mawjesnowat wdenwenmagnan mdemose.
69. During the funeral time lots of people gathered relatives of the old ladies.
69. Pich-white (funeral is implied based on talking about burial right before)

70. I je ode nene éwi wabkasot ézhechket.
70. and this man wanted to show off what he could do.
70. Wab-white kazo-act (act like a white person)

71. Ngotwak shonya é gwet zhi majinak gé win gigabe ewawabket.
71. He put one hundred dollars in the old lady’s hands, while the boy was watching.
71. Ngot wak-100 majinan-take something away or take somewhere.

72. Gigabe ewa widmowat ni kweziyen ézhyat.
72. The boy went and told the old man.
72. tepnawewsejek-they that have stuff

73. O kiwezi ékedot lw eje zheckewat tepnawewsejek.
73. and the old man said “That the way they all do it, the rich
73. Wikwe’wa-cover someone up/ wrap someone up (used to describe the funeral)

74. Gigabe néyap ézhyat ewawabket é wikwe’wat.
74. So the boy went back after the funeral started.
74. Wijewe-verb to accompany

75. Gigabe éwijewet.
75. The boy went along.
75. Ngowa-bury s.o.

76. Ga gish ngowawat gigabe néyap ewawidmowat ni kweziyen.
76. After they buried the old lady the boy hurried back, told the old man.
76-79.

77. “Nmesho ngot wak gge ngokaso o mdemose.”
77. “grandpa, one hundred dollars is buried with that old woman”

78. Nwi-mokwa.
78. I’m going to dig her up.

79. Kewezi cho gégo wdenan.
79. But the old man said no.

80. “Gde bondemagzemen I ngotwak” wde nan.
80. “we could stop being poor with that hundred dollars.”
80. Bon-stop (pv)
81. The old man said “No, don’t”.

82. That evening at night the boy left and started digging her up.

83. After the boy dug the old lady up, he took the hundred dollars.

84. and took the old lady to the house where she stays.

85. He sneaked in and stood her up by the bedstead.

86. He then pulled off the blanket from the couple.

87. And the man woke up and saw the old lady standing there.

88. He said to her “Wow how much more money do you want?

89. I gave you 100 dollars.

90. So he woke up his wife. “Is this what you want” he told his wife.

91. So the couple got up and straightened the old lady, and after they straightened her up they notified a few more people,
92. Égi nokkeshwet iw mkek éwi najtodek néyap egi byé-ketnek.
92. had the casket brought back to the house and buried it in the ground.

93. and laid her in again and put 200 hundred dollars in her hand this time.

94. Gigabe ewawabket.
94. The boy was watching.

95. égi webit néyap éwidmowat keweziyen “Nwi wijewe” énat.
95. He ran back to the old man and told him about this “I’m going along” he told the old man.

96. Iw gishek nishwak egi gge ngowawat ni mdemosen.
96. So that day they buried the old woman with the 200 hundred dollars.

97. Gigabe ewabget pne épich ngowawat.
97. The boy was along watching when they buried her.

98. Ga gish ngowawat gigabe énat ni kewezin.
98. After they buried her the boy went and said to the old man.

99. “Grandpa 200 hundred dollars now is what she is buried with.

100. Wgwes wbabnodan shonya.
100. His son sure was wasting money.

101. The boy said I will dig her up again.

102. Kewezi énat “gégo”
102. The old man said “don’t”

103. Epkonyak gigabe égi majit égi mokwat mine égi wdapnak I nishwak mine ni mdemoseyen.
103. That evening the boy started again, digging the old lady up, took the 200 hundred dollars,
104. He took the old lady back and stood her up.

105. So he did the same thing.

106. He pulled the blankets in such a way the old lady fell as he started to get up between the couple.

107. And the man cries out to his wife "It is you mother again"

108. The man said "Today at noon we will pull out and leave here.

109. I will have the old lady thrown back in her grave,

110. She’ll never quit doing this.

111. The boy was still watching and ran back to the old man and told him what they are doing.

112. "Grandpa these folks are going to pull out taking everything.

113. Later they are just going to throw the old lady in hole.

114. I will watch close what they are doing,
They might miss one pig or something.

Then the boy sidetracked a young pony from them.

So the boy had the pony tied up out in the brush.

He ran to the graveyard got the old lady up and brought her to where the pony was.

So after they had everything packed up,

all their possession and everything going

About half mile between and the boy tied the old ladies dead body to a pony.

He tied her good so she wouldn’t get loose.

While they were going they saw the old ladies body coming on the pony.

The man said to his wife. “I would leave u behind if I hadn’t marry you.

I have to suffer with her now.

The pony went running on by.

Now you don’t like my father, but my father isn’t hurting you.

So the boy went back to the old man, told him “Grandpa that old lady is following the people on horseback.”

And the old man said” What is she doing that for?
130. The boy said maybe it wasn’t enough money he left with her

131. Everything they had died off and they were poor.

132. and they lost all their money.

133. This old man and the boy lived a good life.

134. The boy asked the old man “do you know who I am.”

135. The old man said “no”

136. The boy said “I am your son”

137. I left here when I was quite small.

138. We were pitiful when I left.

139. So when the boy returned he had some money.

140. All together he had 300 dollars.

141. So that gave them a lot of strength of purpose.

142. So that’s the end of that hard life story.