

Childbirth (Hoktē Sicat)²⁷

J. Hill (XXII, 49-73)

Estucet heckvranēn hoktēt esenokken omat
istocít híckała·ní·n hoktí·t isíno·kkín o·mâ·t
If a baby was going to be born and the woman went into labor,

cuko ofv tokon cuko em vhopvyusēn hvfvpusan pvtakv enhayen
cokó ó·fa tó·ko·n cokó imahopáyosi·n hafáposa·n patá·ka inhâ·yin
not in the house, but a little ways from the house they made a pallet for her in a thicket,

wakken hoktvlēt vhecicēt vpaket vfastet
wâ·kkin hoktalí·t ahicéyci·t apâ·kit afa·stít
and she lay down and an old lady with her watched over her and took care of her

este heckekon vcewēpen omat heleswv enhayet svfastet,
ísti híckikon aciwi·pín o·mâ·t 'hiliswa inha·yít sáfa·stít
and if the baby was not born for a long time, she made medicine for her and took care of her
with it,

monkat mv hoktalat heleswv hayetv kerrekon omat,
mójka·t ma hoktâ·la·t 'hiliswa ha·yitá kíłłikon o·mâ·t
or if that old lady did not know how to make medicine,

“Heles-hayvn hopoyvks” maken omat, hopoyet heleswv enheckuehocen
'hilishá·yan hopóyaks ma·kín o·mâ·t hopo·yít 'hiliswa inhickóyho·cín
if she said, “Look for a medicine maker,” they looked for one and found medicine for her

svfastet omvtēs.
sáfa·stít o·matí·s
and she cared for her with that.

Momet este etefullat vnąkvton omat vlsēt ont lvpkēn este hecikekos maket
mo·mít ísti itífollâ·t ană·katon o·mâ·t álsi·t ônt lápki·n ísti hicéykiko·s ma·kít
And if people are going to and fro near by, they were embarrassed, saying the baby won't be
born quickly;

hvfvpan svpēyet omvtēs.
hafápa·n sápi·yít o·matí·s
so they took her to the thicket.

²⁷ Title: hoktí· seycâ·t ‘a woman who is giving birth’.

Momen este hēckof, "Honvñwvt hēcket os" mahoken colotkv pohen omat, tayepvtēs.
mo·mín ísti hí·ckô·f honánwat hí·ckit ó·s má·ho·kín coló·tka po·hín o·mâ·t ta·yipáti·s
When the baby is born and they say "A boy is born," if a cricket hears [that], it is good
enough.

"Cukon hayen aenlikēpit nettv·hvtken enyvhikeparēs" makakēs
cokón ha·yín a·inleykî·peyt nittahátkin²⁸ inyaheykípá·lí·s ma·ka·kí·s
"He'll build a house and I'll live with him and sing for him in the white day," crickets say,

mahokvnts.
má·ho·kác
it was said.

Hoktēt hēckes mahoken colotkv pohat
hoktí·t hí·ckis má·ho·kín coló·tka po·hâ·t
If they say, "A girl is born," and a cricket hears, it says,

"Mv tawvts. Uewvn rescawet yesocen estvkkelvrñēt omēs" makēs mahokvnts.
matá·wac óywan hí·sca·wít yí·so·cín ístakkilála·ní·t ô·mí·s ma·kí·s má·ho·kác
"My, my. She will draw water and set it down, and I'll drown in it," it was said.

Momen este hecikof, cuko 'rvsohhatē estomis
mo·mín ísti hí·cēyko·f cokó 'łasóhha·tí· ístô·meys
And after the baby is born and she returns to the house,

nvthofv escēyihocēkon hoktē ēposkat omēn vrahkusēn hompet liket
nathó·fa ísci·yeyhocíkon hoktí· í·po·skâ·t ó·mí·n ałáhkosi·n hompít léykit
she is not allowed into the house, and she ate and stayed like a menstruating woman;

cvfēkinet em accvkē omvłkvñ okkohset
cafikēynit ima·ccakí· omáłkan okkóhsit
only after she had recovered, washed all her clothes,

vklohpe tvłkusen cuko ofv ecēyēt arē hakēt omvtēs.
akłóhpi· táłkosin cokó ó·fa íci·yít a·lí· ha·kí·t o·matí·s
and bathed did she enter the house.

Momis ēhvsvteceko monkof tat
mo·mēys í·hasaticíko· mōŋko·fta·t
But before she cleaned herself,

eco vpeswv, penwv vpeswv, nokose vpeswv, momet nake este-honvñwv ennak lēckv,
ícó apíswa pínwa apíswa nokósi apíswa mo·mít nâ·ki ístihonánwa innâ·k lí·cka
deer meat, turkey meat, bear meat and things men kill,

²⁸ M: The meaning here of nittahátkin 'white day' is not clear. MM suggests nittahôylin 'someday'.

punvttv vpeswv vtēkat pvpvrē em encahokēt omvtēs.
ponátta apíswa atí·ka·t papáli· iminca·hokí·t o·matí·s
all game meat, she was forbidden to eat.

Este-honvnnwv em punvttv hopoyat em puyafkekarēn
istihonánwa imponátta hopo·yâ·t impoyá·fkiká·li·n
So that a man looking for his game will not fail,

momēt enheleswv enyvmahkekarēn
mo·mít inhilíswa inyamáhkiká·li·n²⁹
and his medicine will not be ruined,

momen hoktvkeu ēyvcayēcē hēret omakvtēs.
mo·mín hoktakíw i·yaca·yí·ci· hī·ⁿlit oma·katí·s
the women took care of themselves well.

Honvntake em ēyvcayēcēv ocē fullēpat em vyvmahketv eyacvkekot
honantá·ki imi·yaca·yí·cka ó·ci· fólli·pâ·t imayamahkitá iyá·cakíko·t
Men had rules to care for themselves and [women] did not want to make it all useless;

nake tat momē hēret omen okakēs komēt
nâ·kita·t mó·mi· hī·ⁿlit o·mín oka·kí·s kó·mi·t
and believing such things were good,

nake em onayē em vsēhohat apohicē hēret hoktvke fullēpvtēt omēs.
nâ·ki imóna·yí· imasí·ho·hâ·t a·pohéyci· hī·ⁿlit hoktakí folli·patí·t ô·mi·s
[women] heeded well the things they told them and counseled them about.

“Vpeswv tis pvpvrē vm encaket cvstemerrihocētót os” kometv vkerricvkekot fullvtēt omēs.
apíswateys papáli· amínca·kít castimilleyhocí·tot ó·ⁿs ko·mitá akílleycakíkot follatí·t ô·mi·s
They did not go about thinking, “They're stingy and won't let me eat meat, making me suffer.”

Honvntake 'sem vpeyetv tat vrvkkuecvkē hērē ēposkv-huten enhahoyēt on omat,
honantá·ki 'simapiyítata·t ałakkoycakí· hī·ⁿli· i·po·skahótin inha·hoyí·t ô·n o·mâ·t
They respected men's ways, so if a menstruation hut was built for them,

mv ofv min likēpet omvtēs.
ma ó·fa mēyn léyki·pít o·matí·s
she stayed in that instead.

²⁹ Or: i·nyamáh-.

Echuswv tvlkusē vpaken hoktvket encukopericat fullvtēt omvtēs.
ichóswa tálkosi· apâ·kin hoktakit incokopiŕeycâ·t fólłatí·t³⁰ o·matí·s
With only their children, the women would visit her.

Mohmen hoktvkuce momet hoktē enhoktvlvk oren omis,
móhmin hoktakóci mo·mít hoktí· inhoktálka³¹ ô·ŕin o·mêys
Now little girls and even those who have reached womanhood

“Nake yv omakat momekot vretskvrēs” kicet,
nâ·ki ya o·mâ·ka·t mô·mikot aŕickáli·s keycít
were told, “Do not do things like this,”

naket omakat em onayet em vsehaket vculvke hoktvlvke tis fullvtēs.
nâ·kit omâ·ka·t imóna·yít imásiha·kít acolakí hoktalákiteys follatí·s
so they told them what these were and they instructed them about it, old men and women did.

1. Ēposkē aretskof honvntake fullat em etenrvwv ahretskvs.
1. i·póski· a·ŕicko·f honantá·ki follâ·t imitínława áhŕickas.
1. When you are menstruating, do not go among men.

Ēposkvnahē cehahkvrēs kicakvtēt omēs.
i·po·skaná·hi· ciháhkáŕi·s keyca·katí·t ô·mi·s
You may become ēposkvnahē, they said.

Ēposkvnahē makat ēposkē cenwikeko ’svwoskē cehahkēs maketvn okakvtēs.
i·po·skaná·hi· ma·ká·t i·pó·ski· cinwéykiko· ’sawó·ski· ciháhki·s ma·kitán oka·katí·s
Ēposkvnahē means your menstruation will never stop.

Vretv estomepēto estomis vrekot honvntake ayen hompet vrvranekon em vsēhet okakvtēt
omēs.
aŕíta isto·mipí·to· istô·meys áŕikot honantá·ki a·yín hompít aŕalá·niko·n imási·hít oka·katí·t
ô·mi·s
They warned them not to go anywhere or to eat with men.

2. Pvtakv ohhvtvkhvkē ohwvkiketskvs.
2. patá·ka ohhatakhakí· ohwakêykíckas
2. Do not lie across a bed.

Sicetskof, cem vtvkhahkvrēs kicakvtēs.
seycícko·f cimatakháhkáŕi·s keyca·katí·s
When you give birth, [your baby] may be sideways, they said.

³⁰ M: Haas nb has fólłatí·t.

³¹ inhoktálka = grown girl (18 and up). “Nowadays 12, I guess.”

Sicvranetskof, estuce vtvkhvkēt ofvn wvkkehpen escesterikvrēs maketvn okakvtēs.
séycała·nícko·f istocí atakhakí·t ó·fan wakkíhpin iscitimilêykáli·s ma·kitán oka·katí·s
That means that when you're going to give birth, the baby will lie sideways inside and you'll suffer.

3. Eslafkv eswarē nake pahpetskvs.
3. islá·fka íswa·lí· nâ·ki pahpíckas
3. Do not eat anything with a cutting knife.

Sicetskof, escetvcikvrēs.
seycícko·f iscitacêykáli·s
When you give birth, you may tear from it.

Warket hompet omvs kicakvtēs.
wa·łkít³² hompít omás kényca·katí·s
Eat it cut up, they said.

'Warkē' makat akket waret hompet omvs kicet escetvcikvrēs.
wa·łkí· ma·kâ·t a·kkít wa·łít hompít omás keycít iscitacêykáli·s
'Cut up' is to say bite it off and eat it or you may tear from it.

Sēcehopvnikvrēs makat cenute tis cenahken
sí·cihopanêykáli·s ma·kâ·t cinótiteys cináhkin
You may be ruined from it, they said, you may even lose your teeth,

vpelvranat cecukwv vtēpkis ahretskēs.
apílała·nâ·t cicókwa ati·pkêys áhłicki·s
and when you start to laugh, you may slap your hand in front of your mouth as you go about.

4. Eco etolaswv pahpetskvs.
4. icó itolá·swa páhpíckas
4. Do not eat the tongue of a deer.

Sicetskof ewvnhkvn esehlvrēs.
seycícko·f iwánhkan iscíhláli·s
When you give birth, you might die of thirst.

5. Eco torkop-ohlikv pahpetskvs.
5. icó to·łkopohléyka páhpíckas
5. Do not eat the knee pan of a deer.

Sicetskof escefekehkvvrēs.
seycícko·f iscifíkhkáli·s
When you give birth, you may tremble violently.

³² M: Or (MM): wa·łkín.

6. Svyaklē huerē ahretskvs.
 6. sayá·kli· hoylí· áhľickas
 6. Do not go about standing with your legs far apart.

Este sulkat ehomv hopuewv cenlvtkvrēs.
 ísti sólka·t ihóma hopóywa cinlatēykáli·s
 The baby might fall out in front of many people.

7. Penwv esokso pahpetskvs.
 7. pínwa isókso páhpickas
 7. Do not eat turkey hips [drumsticks].

Cemvnettē monken cesokso cennokkē hahkis ahretskvrēs kicakvtēt omēs.
 cimanítí·³³ mónkin cisókso cínno·kkí· háhkeys áhľickáli·s kéyca·katí·t ô·mi·s
 While you are still young, your hips may become painful as you go about, they said.

8. Nake encvkvspv pahpetskvs.
 8. nâ·ki incakáspa páhpickas
 8. Do not eat the gizzard of anything.

Sicetskof, esceholahnvrēs.
 seycicko·f isciholáhnáli·s
 When you give birth, you might defecate.

9. Eco hvsnērkv papetsken omat estuce heckuecetskat cēpvnē vlkēn heckuecēt vretskvrēs.

9. icó hasní·łka pa·píckin o·mâ·t istocí hickoycicka·t³⁴ ci·paní· álki·n híckoycí·t aľickáli·s

9. If you eat a deer's testicle, the babies you have will only be boys.

10. Nake poktvn papetskvten omat, poktvn kayēt vretskvrēs.

10. nâ·ki póktan³⁵ pa·píckatin o·mâ·t póktan ka·yí·t aľickáli·s

10. If you eat something unnaturally double, you might give birth to twins only.

11. Hoktvke hoyvnakv vpakē ahretskvs.

11. hoktakí hoyaná·ka apâ·ki· áhľickas

11. Do not go around with adulterous [hoyvnakv] women.

³³ M: Haas nb has simanítí.

³⁴ M: Haas nb has hickoycicka·t.

³⁵ Applies to eggs, potatoes, etc.

Ecohhokievvrēs kicakvtēs.
icóhhokêycáli·s³⁶ káyca·katí·s
You might expel gas, they said.

Hoyvnaky hoktvke hoktarvken okēt omēs.
hoyaná·ka hoktakí hokta·lakín o·kí·t ô·mí·s
By hoyvnaky we mean adulterous women.

Mvn vpaket aretskat hoktarv em vretv ecohtvlikēs.
man apâ·kit a·lícka·t hoktá·la imaítá icohtalêyki·s
As you go about with them, the adulterer's ways may rub off on you.

Cesvpahtēs. Cehoktahrēs makatot okakvtēs.
cisapáhti·s cihoktáhli·s ma·ká·tot oka·katí·s
You might become conditioned to it. You may become an adulterer, they said.

12. Esarē homipetskvs.
12. isa·lí· homêypíckas
12. Do not eat while walking around.

Ascenfullephohyvrēs.
a·scinfolliphóhyáli·s
Someone may have an affair with your [spouse].

Cehe tat hoktē ētvn ēyvpayet svrēpen aretskis ohcēs maketvt omēs.
cihíta·t hoktí· í·tan í·yapa·yít sáli·pín a·líckey·s ohci·s ma·kitát ô·mí·s
Your husband might go around with another woman, the saying means.

13. Eswvkkē homipetskvs.
13. iswákki· homêypíckas
13. Do not eat while lying down.

Escenlomhephohyvrēs.
iscinlomhiphóhyáli·s
Someone might lie with your [spouse].

Cehe tat hoktē ētvn aenwvkkēpen aretskētis ohcēs maketvn okakvtēs.
cihíta·t hoktí· í·tat a·inwakkî·pin a·lícki·teys ohci·s ma·kitán oka·katí·s
Your husband might lie with another woman, they meant.

14. Este-honvntake tvklēcētskat cehoktarēhohevrēs
14. istihonantá·ki takli·cí·cka·t cihokta·li·hóhcáli·s³⁷
14. Men you ridicule might make you commit adultery.

³⁶ M: Haas nb has icó hokêycáli·s.

³⁷ M: Haas nb has cihohta·li·hókcali·s.

Yvhiket heleswvn hayet hoktē hoktalēckvn kerrvkēt sasen okakvtēs.
yaheykít ’hilíswan ha·yít hoktí· hokta·lí·ckan kiłłakí·t sâ·sin oka·katí·s
They meant some knew how to sing and make medicine to make women adulterous.

Vcolvke em punvkv tat hoktucen okat,
acolakí imponákata·t hoktocín o·kâ·t
In the old people’s language, for hoktuce [‘girl’]

hoklosucen kicet, hoktvkucen okat hoklosvken kicakēt okakvtēs.
hoklosócín keycít hoktakócín o·kâ·t hoklosákin kéyca·kí·t oka·katí·s
they said hoklosuce, and for hoktvkuce [‘little girls’], they said hoklosvke.

15. “Rē-hutke, eccvkvkse tat celahyetskvs.
15. li·hótki iccakotáksita·t ciláhyíckas
15. “Do not touch a feathered arrow or bow.

Cepesē tis cencvpcahkvrēs” kicet
cipisí·teys³⁸ cincapcáhkáli·s keycít
Your breasts might get long,” they said;

eccvkvkse enrē vpvkē celayetv em vsehakēt omvtēs, hoklosvke tat.
iccakotáksi inlí· apáki· cila·yítá imásiha·kí·t o·matí·s hoklosákita·t.
they were warned about touching a bow and arrow, little girls were.

³⁸ M: Haas nb has sipisí·teys.