

The Stars (Hvlwē nake heckē ocaat este-cate-vculvke enhocefhueckv)¹

J. Hill (Hill IV:1-3; XXI:1-27)

Vholocē hvlwē fullat uehvtkv enhēfkēt omēs makakvnts,
aholocí· hálwi· follâ·t oyhátka ínhi·fkí·t ô·mí·s má·ka·kánc
Clouds way up high are ocean vapor, they used to say,

vholocē omusē tis monkat ēkkocē omusē tis.
aholocí· ô·mosi·teys mónka·t í·kkocí·² ô·mosi·teys
somewhat like clouds or somewhat like smoke.

Sutv ceskvn asvpaklen hēcen amat,
sotá cískan a·sapâ·klín hica·kín³ o·mâ·t
If they saw them on the horizon like columns,

“Hvset uewvn acawet omēs. Oskvrēs” makakvnts, meskēt on amat.
hasít óywan á·ca·wít o·mí·s óskáli·s má·ka·kánc miskí·t ô·n o·mâ·t
they would say, “The sun is drawing water. It will rain,” they would say in the summer.

Hvtvm rvfot on amat, “Kvstemvranet omēs” makakvnts.
hatâm łafót ô·n o·mâ·t kastimála·nít⁴ o·mí·s má·ka·kánc.
During winter, they used to say “It’s going to get cold.”

Momet ’holocē tat atet oskvranē hēret os komhoyof
mo·mít ’holocí·ta·t a·tít óskała·ní· hī·nít ó·ns komhō·yo·f
When the clouds come and they think it is surely going to rain

oskekot ’holocē-cate hahket somkēpē oketv vnvcomen amat,
óskikot ’holoci·cá·ti háhkit sómki·pí· okíta anáco·mín o·mâ·t
but doesn’t, and the clouds become red and disappear several times,

“Em pofhokvten omēs” ’holocē-catē hakē oskeko somkat makakvnts.
impo·fhō·katin⁵ o·mí·s ’holoci·cá·ti· ha·kí· óskiko· somkâ·t má·ka·kánc.
it was said “Medicine had been blown,”⁶ when the clouds turned red and disappeared.

¹ Title: hálwi· nâ·ki hícki· o·câ·ka·t isticá·ti acolakí inhocifhóycka ‘Old-Time Indians’ names for things visible on high’.

² M: Corrected (MM) from ikkocí·.

³ M: : Corrected (MM) from á·sapa·klín hi·cín·.

⁴ M: kastimála·nít is not known to MM.

⁵ M: Or (MM): impó·fho·kâ·tin·.

⁶ M: A traditional medicine maker blows through a hollow reed into medicine.

Em pofkē makat oskē honnē tis vlvkvrānēt omē on hēcat
impo·fkí.⁷ ma·kâ·t oskí· hónni·teys alákała·ní·t ô·mi· ô·n hi·câ·t
Blowing means when someone saw that heavy rain might be coming,

estet mv 'holocē·lvste 'semēhonecketvn em penkalof,
ístit ma? 'holoci·lásti 'simi·honickitán impínka·lô·f
when someone was afraid of awesome black clouds,

fehhonnickvn komēt enyvhi ket 'holocē atat vnrpēn
fikhonnéyckan kó·mi·t inyáheykít 'holoci· a·tâ·t anłapí·n
wanting to stop it, he would sing against the oncoming clouds:

“Vpofket este hueret oskē fehhonnicēs” maket okakvnts.
apo·fkít ísti hoylít⁸ oskí· fikhónneycí·s ma·kít oka·kác
“A person who stands blowing at it [with a reed] can stop the rain,” they used to say.

Hofonof oskē em pofkvke este sulkē tatēs, honvntaketot, hoktvketo estomis.
hofô·no·f oskí· impo·fkálki ísti sólki· tá·ti·s honantá·kitot hoktakító⁹ istô·meys
A long time ago there were many rain blowers, men and even women.

Oskē fehhonnickv yvhi ketvn kerreko estomis
oskí· fikhonnéycka yaheykitán kíłłiko· istô·meys
When those who did not know the song to stop the rain

estet oskē, hotvlē·rvkko 'tepakat em penkalat,
ístit oskí· hotali·lákko 'tipâ·ka·t impínka·lâ·t
were afraid of rain and tornadoes,

pocus·leskvn enfvskēt vholocē·lvste atat ohhecēn
pocoslískan infaskí·t aholoci·lásti a·tâ·t¹⁰ ohhicí·n
they would leave an old ax blade stuck in the ground facing the direction from which the
black cloud was coming

'mvpe escvkhēn enhuericakēt omvnts.
mápi·iscákhi·n inhoyléyca·kí·t o·mác
with the handle upright.

Momēcat este sasēs, mocvnettv.
momi·câ·t ísti sâ·si·s mocanítta
There are people who still do that today.

⁷ Or: impó·fho·kí·.

⁸ M: Or also (MM): hōylit (same meaning here).

⁹ M: Corrected (MM) from hoktakító·.

¹⁰ Or: a·tâ·n·.

Mv pocus-leskv̄t vholocēn ʼtetahcen
ma(?) pocoslískat aholocí·n ʼtitáhcin
The old ax cuts the cloud in half,

ʼtekvpahket oskekot somkēpēs maket omakvnts.
ʼtikapáhkit óskikot sómki·pí·s ma·kít oma·kánc.
and it splits, it doesn't rain, it disappears, it's said.

Oskē atat vlvkeko fekhonnicetv okcvnwnv nvc̄om̄usis totkv̄n tvkp̄vlatvken amat
oskí· a·tâ·t alákiko· fikhonneycitá okcánwan nac̄ó·^mmoseys tó·tkan tákpala·takín o·mâ·t
When rain is coming, to stop it before it arrives, pour a small amount of salt in the fire,

oskekot somkēs makateu sasēs.
óskikot somkí·s ma·ká·tiw sâ·sí·s
and it doesn't rain and goes away, some say.

Momen vculvke nake makat vkvsv̄mvyēt arvyvtēt onkv̄
mo·mín acolakí nâ·ki ma·ká·t akasamáyi·t a·layáti·t ôḡka
Now I went about believing the things the old ones said,

vhvmkv nerē hvmken ohhv̄ytkvranēt ʼtvlofv vnakv̄n puhvpo hayēt
ahámka nilí· hámkin ohhayátkaḷa·ní·t ʼtaló·fa aná·kan pohapó· há·yi·t
so one time, we were going to spend the night in a camp that we had made near town;

yafkē hvse·vk̄rkv̄ ostat mahen welakeyof,
ya·fkí· hasi?akí·ḷka ô·sta·t mâ·hin wila·kiyô·f¹¹
in the evening about four o'clock, as we [two of us] went about

vholocē·lv̄stet honerv fvccv̄n akv̄wvpiket amat
aholoci·lástit honíḷa fáccan a·kawap̄êykit o·mâ·t
a black cloud rose up from the north

pvn̄ēt ahvlwēcen hēcet omeyis,
páfni·t a·hálwi·cín hî·cit¹² o·miyêys
and we could see it was quickly approaching,

estohmet oskē em vrvnakepvkē tayat vvolē naket sekon
istóhmit¹³ oskí· imaḷana·kipáki· tâ·ya·t awóli· nâ·kit síkon
but there was no place to take shelter as there was nothing near;

¹¹ M: Haas nb has wila·ki?ô·f.

¹² M: Corrected (MM) from hî·cí·t.

¹³ M: Corrected (MM) from sistóhmit.

oskē tat honnēt atet omat kērrēt fekhoniyet sehokēn;
oskí·ta·t hónni·t a·tít o·mâ·t kî·lî·t fikhonêyyit sihô·ki·n
we knew that heavy rain was coming, so we stopped and just stood there;

hoktē 'tepakeyvtē eslafkvn vm pohen
hoktí· 'tipâ·kiyati· islá·fkan ámpo·hín
the lady that was with me asked me for a knife,

a·ehmin ehset yvkapet ayet vhopakv pale-ostat mahen ahyet
a·ʔihmeyn ihsit yaka·pít a·yít ahopá·ka pa·liʔô·sta·t mâ·hin áhyit
I handed it to her, she took it, and walked about forty yards away,

eto rvkkēt hueren pvlhvmken erhuyiret ahueren
itó lákki·t hōylin palhámkin ilhoyéylit a·hōylin
and she was standing on the other side of where a large tree stood

hvse-vkērkuce palehokkolat mahe tis omvtēs.
hasiʔaki·lkócí pa·lihokkô·la·t¹⁴ mâ·hiteys o·matí·s
for about twenty minutes.

Osketv vlicēcet omat
oskitá aleycî·cit o·mâ·t
It started raining,

vholocē tat 'tekvpahket hvsossv-fvccvn ayen
aholocí·ta·t 'tikapáhkít haso·ssafáccan a·yín
and the cloud parted, [one part] went east,

hvsvklatkv fvccvo ayen
hasaklá·tka fáccaw a·yín
and [one part] went west;

oskat estomusat pohken essomhokehpen
oskâ·t istō·ⁿmosa·t pô·hkin¹⁵ issomhokíhpin
the rain let up, and both [clouds] disappeared,

ra-atet 'rvlahket
la·ʔâ·tit 'laláhkít
and she came back and said,

¹⁴ M: Haas has pa·lihokkô·li·t written as another option.

¹⁵ M: Corrected (MM) from *oskí·ta·t istō·ⁿmosa·t pô·fkin* 'she blew a little for the rain'.

“Oskē tat ’setekvpahket essomhokepeko” makemvts.
oskí·ta·t ’sitikapáhkít issomhokípiko·^ ma·kimác
“The rain parted and disappeared.”

Ohrolopē pale-cahkēpē cahkepohkakat mahe tis omēs.
ohłolopí· pá·lí cahkí·pi· cahkipohká·ka·t má·hiteys ô·mí·s
It might have been about fifty-five years ago.

Mvt “oskē sentvckety” maketv cvnhonricusat vm ocvtēt os.
mat oskí· sintackítá ma·kitá canhónleycosá·t amo·catí·t ô·ns
It was then that I truly believed that expression “to stop the rain.”

Hofonē haken em pohvyan vm onvyekvntvs, oskē sentacket, sentvckekatē.
hofóni· há·kín ímpo·hayâ·n amonayíkantás oskí· sínta·ckít sintáckiká·ti·
A long time later I asked her and she wouldn’t tell me whether she had stopped the rain
or not.

Momen hvttvm oskē somkat,
mo·mín hatâm oskí· somká·t
And again, when rain disappears,

“Echus-elēcvt likan oskē asohhvteket omēs” makakvnts.
ichosilí·cat lēyka·n oskí· a·sohhatíkot o·mí·s má·ka·káne
they used to say, “Where a child-killer lives, it will not storm.”

Nettahvse kvlvksē haket
nitta·hasí kaláksi· ha·kít
When the sun becomes crescent shaped

monkat heckeko haken yomockat
mónka·t híckiko· ha·kín yomo·ckâ·t
or when the sun becomes invisible and it gets dark,

sopaktv·rvkkot loken omēs,
sopa·ktafákkot lo·kín¹⁶ o·mí·s
a big toad has swallowed it,

nerēhvseu matvpomē haket.
niłi·hasíw ma·tapó·mi· ha·kít¹⁷
and the moon is like that, too, they say.

¹⁶ M: Haas nb has lawkín.

¹⁷ M: Corrected (MM) from ma·kít.

Hvrēssē vholocē omē sopvkhvtkē vfolotkusē tis ocat,
hali·ssí· aholocí· ó·mí· sopakhátki· afolótkosi·teys o·câ·t
When the moon has a whitish cloud-like circle around it,

“Oskvrannen hvset ehuten hayet omēs” maket;
óskala·nín hasít ihótin ha·yít o·mí·s ma·kít
they say, “It’s going to rain and the moon is making itself a shelter”;

hvse ehute ofvn ’kolaswvt heckvkēt on omat,
hasí ihóti ó·fan ’kolá·swat hickakí·t ô·n o·mâ·t
and if stars can be seen within the circle of the moon’s shelter,

oskekon netta yvfyakēs:
óskikon nittá· yáfya·kí·s
it will not rain for several days:

’kolaswv hvmkat netta hvmkan vrahkv̄t omēs.
’kolá·swa hámka·t nittá· hámka·n aláhk̄at ô·mí·s
each star stands for one day.

Momen “Hvrēssē vn̄akusē ’kolaswv likan hvse ehiwvt omēs” maket okvnts.
mo·mín hali·ssí· an̄·kosi· ’kolá·swa leykâ·n hasí (?) ihéywat ô·mí·s ma·kít o·kác̄n
And it was said, “The star nearest to the moon is the moon’s wife.”

’Kolaswv hokkolē eten̄akuecusē kakan Wotko-Turwvn hocēfet,
’kolá·swa hokkô·li· itin̄á·k̄ôycosi.¹⁸ ka·kâ·n wo·tkotólwan hoci·fit
Two stars right close together were called Raccoon’s Eyes,

honerv fvccv ’kolaswv likan ’Kolas-Vyekon hocēfet;
honíla (?) fácca (?) ’kolá·swa leykâ·n ’kola·s?ayíkon hoci·fit
and the star toward the north was called the Star-Doesn’t-Go;

hvyatkof a·ossē ’kolaswv likan ’Kolas-Rvkkon hocēfet, Hvyvtēcv hocēfet,
haya·tkô·f á·?o·ssí· ’kolá·swa leykâ·n ’kola·slákkon hoci·fit hayatí·ca hoci·fit
the star that comes out at daybreak was called the Big Star or Morning Star,

momen ’kolaswv tucenē etenakuecē vpokan ’Kolas-Senēcvn hocēfet,
mo·mín ’kolá·swa tocciní.¹⁹ itina·kóyci· apo·kâ·n²⁰ ’kola·ssiní·can hoci·fit
and the three stars sitting near each other were called the Stretched Stars,

¹⁸ M: Or also: itina·k̄ôycosi.

¹⁹ M: toccí·ni: ‘three’ or tocciní: ‘group of three’.

²⁰ M: I.e., Orion’s Belt. MM is not sure about siní·can.

Ue-Svkcvoqv tis 'Kolas-Perro tis kicakēt omvnts.
oysakcáwKateys²¹ 'kola·spíłłoteys kéyca·kí·t o·mánc
and there were what they called the Water Dipper or the Star Boat.

'Kolaswv kolvpake etenakusē vpokan 'Kolas-Coklofkvn kicet
'kolá·swa kolapá·ki itiná·ⁿkosi· apo·ká·n²² 'kola·scokló·fkan²³ keycít
The seven stars that sit really close to each other were called Kolas-Coklofkv.

Mv 'kolaswv kolvpakat 'tvlvlvkēt hērusēn vpokēt omvtē tat
ma 'kolá·swa kolapâ·ka·t 'talalakí·t hí·ⁿłosi·n²⁴ apó·ki·t o·matí·ta·t
Those seven stars were once neatly lined up;

nokosen entohket opelof·rvkkon svkfullet
nokósin into·hkít opilo·flákkon sákfollít
they went driving a bear in a big swamp,

vkkehosahket fullet 'yvtelokat estomis vpokvtēt on omēs.
akkihosáhkit follít yátilo·ká·t²⁵ istô·meys apo·katí·t ô·n o·mí·s
and forgot their way and sat scattered about.

Momet vtotketvo enhorrvkēt ont tasahcof,
mo·mít atotkitáw inholłakí·t ônt tá·sa·hcô·f
And they are lazy to work, and in the spring

somēcvttet nak lokcē hakakofvn erylēt omēs makakvnts.
somî·catit²⁶ nâ·k lókci· há·ka·kô·fan ílyeycí·t ô·mí·s má·ka·kác
they disappear, but return when the fruit ripens, they used to say.

'Kolaswv tis wecatiyet totkv ont cvpkē hakē somkan
'kolá·swateys wica·tēyyit tó·tka ônt cápki· ha·kí· somká·n
When a star sparks like fire and becomes long and disappears,

'kolaswvt aholanet omēs kicakvnts.
'kolá·swat á·hola·nít o·mí·s kéyca·kác
they used to say the star is defecating in this direction.

²¹ M: Haas nb has oysaksáwKateys.

²² M: I.e., the Pleiades or Seven Little Sisters.

²³ M: Corrected from 'kola·ssokló·fkan.

²⁴ M: Corrected from hí·ⁿłosin.

²⁵ M: Corrected (MM) from ya 'tilo·ká·t.

²⁶ M: Haas nb has somēycatit.

’Kolaswv wecattat ētvpomēt totkv ont hopvyēn ayet ersomkat
’kolá·swa wica·ttâ·t i·tapó·mi·t tó·tka ônt hopáyi·n a·yít ílsomkâ·t
Similar to the star that sparked, when [a star] goes out of sight a long distance like fire,

tenētkē okēt pohkēt ocan “Mēkko·rvkkot latket okēs” makakēt omvnts.
tini·tkí· ô·ki·t po·hkí·t o·câ·n mi·kkołákkot la·tkít o·kí·s má·ka·kí·t o·mánc
and what sounds like thunder is heard, they used to say, “The big king has fallen down.”

Vholocē omusē cutkusē sutv ’tewvlypkē wakkan
aholocí· ó·mosi· cótkosi· sotá ’tiwalápmi· wa·kkâ·n²⁷
That which looks like a small cloud lies across the sky:

“Este·ēlv ennene” monkat “Puyvfekevke ennene omēs” kicakvnts.
isti?í·la inniní moṅkâ·t poyafikcâlki inniní ô·mi·s káyca·kánc
they used to say it’s the “Path of the Dead” or the “Path of the Spirits.”

Vtokyehattē vtokfenētkē vtoyehattē tenētkē ’tepakat
atókyiha·ttí· atókfíni·tkí· atóyiha·ttí·²⁸ tini·tkí· ’tipâ·ka·t
Lightning that flashes, lightning and thunder together

naket estont okēs makakvtētis omēs
nâ·kit ístónt o·kí·s má·ka·katí·teys o·mí·s
mean something is happening, it was probably said.

Momis mvtan kerrvks.
mô·meys máta·n kíłłaks
But I don’t know that.

Ēkvnv ohfulleyat elec v encokele ocēn etohlikēt omēs.
i·kaná óhfolliyâ·t ilíca incokíli ó·ci·n itohléyki·t ô·mi·s
There are pillars underneath this earth we walk on, and the earth is sitting on them.

Mv cokele tat osa·rvkkot omēs makēt vcuvlke ponvyēcaken pohvyvntvs.
ma (?) cokílita·t osa·łákkot ô·mi·s ma·kí·t acolakí ’ponayí·ca·kín po·hayántas.
Those posts are great pokeweeds, I heard the old men tell.

²⁷ M: I.e., the Milky Way.

²⁸ M: Corrected (MM) by deleting atóklíka·ppí· after this word.