

[Image 4628: Everyone listening in tipi – with Eileen’s hands up like antlers]

[Eileen behonı dahóretth’á nıbálı ch’ughe yé]



Caption: *Eileen wanted to share one of her stories with the kids.*

Caption: Eileen bunagheazeu bareaze hél yunızı honı behél honı.

[Image 4900 or 4905: Picture of antlers on own (life them out - or hands)]



Caption: *The sucker fish’s jaw bone. What does it look like to you?*

Deldél yetth’éné.

Edlaghe lalkáth-a neba.

[Our Stories Sidebar]

Our Stories: How Female Moose Lost Her Beautiful Antlers

As Told by Eileen Beaver

Nuwe honı: Yunızı Denie Ts'udai bedé Nioftsını yeghâ nailchu nı honı. Eileen behonı.

A long time ago, animals had the power to do anything they wanted. Animals could talk, trees could talk, even the grass and rocks could talk. They still do, but most of us don't know how to listen any more. Back then, both male and female moose had antlers. They loved their antlers. They were proud of their antlers. At that time, they were allowed to take them off but they were to watch over them.

Yunızı tthá ʔatthé ch'ádi bjkózé nátsere t'a t'ası yorélı dé bets'én heddhélu bets'ie. Ch'ádi dene tsén dene yatı dayaltı hadııleu, dechén naʔáh dene yorétthau, t'ogheu tthe tth'ı dene ts'én dayaltı nısnı. ʔélo nuwets'én dayaltı kulu dı ıá dene yóréttháıle nısnı. Ku ʔeyınıku Denıyaneu Denıye ts'úda denıdé háyetyanı nısnı. Bedé ghá hadı. ʔeyınıku bedé háyéle ha sǫhót'ele kulu ʔetéh yek'eghélnı haʔá nısnı.

One spring, the male and female moose came down by the river to eat, just as the sun was coming up. They were wading in the water because they love the water plants—the fresh, juicy, and crunchy underwater plants. But, this one morning the female moose was getting impatient when the plants got caught on her antlers. She said, “I'm just going to rest my antlers on the rocks over here while I eat.”

ʔıla ıuk'e nuddhére nıkú, bıdene sá háʔá, denıyaneu denıye ts'úda shehétıh ha ıésbalái náre nıʔás. Desyé dzegheʔás tıoght tuyé néshe baghéde t'a – tıogoth, tıogh nédler, yérelghaz tu yenéye tıogoth néshe. Ku, dıbıdene denıye ts'úda bayeʔıle hajáh tıogh bedé náre nıtıh k'éldéth. Denıye ts'úda hadı, “sedé hástııu ıá yuwe tthe theʔá k'e nısʔa ha shéstı nast'éh ts'én.

The male moose said, “No! Creator says we’re not allowed to leave it alone. We’re supposed to take care of our things and care for our bodies.” “It will be okay,” she replied. “If anything happens, it will be your fault,” he warned. She took off her beautiful but heavy antlers and laid them on a rock, thinking, “It’ll be alright. It’s just while I enjoy my breakfast.”

Deniyáne hadí, “ ǵǵle! Niołtsine nuwełnı nuwe ǵedé théne thúla sáná. ǵeté edésúuniu edésóodı hası.” Deníye ts’údaı hádı, “ǵéhaǵne haǵle yełnı.” “ǵę ǵesájáh dé, nën gháre nenótt’éh hásıh yełnı,” Deniyáne denıts’úda hałnı, Deníye ts’úda bedé benat’ıhu nedáth betthı ghá hahet’áu tthe k’e níǵáu hanıddhën; “ǵesahene háıle bıdéne shesthıh tǵı hat’e.”.

Meanwhile, a sucker fish was running up the river. Sucker saw the beautiful antlers on the rock and thought, “I’m going to play a trick on her and steal it,” he thought. All of a sudden the sucker fish twirled and jumped up and got a wee bit bigger. He twirled and jumped up again, and again got a wee bit bigger. He twirled and jumped up again, and again got a wee bit bigger. Each twirl and jump got him just a bit bigger until he was big enough to grab the antlers with his mouth and jump back into the water. The antler was so big that it hurt his mouth so the sucker quickly tried to reverse his twirling to regain his small size. As he shrunk, the antlers shrunk too, but they were stuck inside his mouth.

ǵeyını ku, Delděl łuhelgós hanuddhere. Lá deděl tthe k’e deníye ts’údaı bedé k’e theǵá theǵıu beghásothéne nıddhen, “Beghá súdı há bedé beghá nésǵı ha,” nıddhen. T’ághá deděl dzenareghıtu tu tahálgósu edeǵás neyé k’e. Hanát’ı suwanułǵáu dzenareghıtu tu tahálgósu ǵelógh yeǵaze neyéh. T’ághá kadhı edéáze néyáu deníye ts’údadé yéłnáu tu yé heléyı. Deníedé delděl bedá beáze necha bedá ǵeyá. Deldélé néchıle hésne haǵá nıddënu bedághıłıaı naregëthu nahattherıu nechıle nadlı kulu denıts’udadé deldëldá ye ǵenełkëth.

To this day the animals must pay for their ways. Sucker paid for his thieving mischievousness. Creator made him keep the heavy antlers in his mouth as a reminder for stealing. Since then sucker fish mouth became pointed so they can only suck. His kind became food for others to survive upon. This reminds them (and us) not to steal from others. The Creator told the moose although you loved your antlers, you did not respectfully care for it and responsibility for both sacredness. The male moose you told the female “whatever happens will be your own fault,” you will lose your antlers every fall and grow them back. This is a reminder to help your female kind from making bad choices. The female moose you asked, “what could happen,” then forgot to care for your antlers. I am taking this gift from you. When the female moose calls she sounds like she’s crying because she is brokenhearted and wants her beautiful antlers back. From that day on female moose have not had antlers. This reminds us to look after the gifts Creator has given us.

Dó díri dzine ts’én ch’ádi edénedhi k’éłtazíh benání ha. Deldélé ɬeltthi náltthërleu néɰia. Niołtsine dedél deníye ts’údadé néɰa bék’etlází bedá ye denidé théltá. Bets’l ɰáne deldélé ɰası dahěltúh bedá díchúu Ch’andi deldéléthén t’a dághená nısní. (Dene) edeghá níɰih hach’á benaihlíni há. Niołtsine Deníye ts’én hadı, ɰedsúhuudileu edesóhúułniléa nedé beghánıtah kulu játs’í nedé ka dathılɰá ha. Deníye yáne xaiyetázı nudhëre dé nedé neghá hałtth’ire tth’ı naneshé ha. Ts’uda ts’én hainınu, “talası haja dé nën nułt’e ha” dínıa, ɰeyı ka nedé játs’ı xaytás ket’ıa nedé hałtth’ire. Dó tajáh sı benolıni ha. Nën tth’ı deníye ts’úda ɰetéh nedé bek’eghlínılea játs’ı nedé neghá náıschu. Gháre “edlaghené ha” nıddhënɰu beghánılá nıt’á. Beghánıtah hulı nede bek’anıthıɰáa beka hıtsá há. T’áne netsá hórétthá díri neteɰá yenálnı. ɰeyı t’a dene deldélé hlúu deldélé tthı helbéz sheghetih dé denidé deldéldá háyeltju díri yunızı hónı benálnı ha nısnı.

[End Our Stories Sidebar]