

THE TWO BROTHERS
WHO WENT AWAY ANGRY:
A SERI LEGEND

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The following story was gathered in Desemboque, Sonora in February, 1957, the informant being Roberto Thompson Herrera.

The symbol e represents the phoneme æ, the symbol r a voiceless uvular trill. *Chapa color* is the local Spanish name of a certain bush.

rika ʔapr iki-kóxookaŋ

1. koŋkák ʔiškoŋ ʔa séaaroŋaʔa.
2. ʔa tkwáaʔroxis.
3. ʔánt š-iki-titoix
4. ʔant iʔiin koŋ kontímaat.
5. ʔánt koŋ kwtaškaŋ
6. ʔánt-toi
7. ʔást koŋ kontitat
8. ʔár pak ʔákii-rtaʔkama kwtaškamma.
9. ʔóoraʔteme kwaxiik kóokx híno-taškaŋ
10. itnáišiŋka
11. koŋ ʔantox kóaaŋ kom ani-miikmoŋka.
12. itóneek,
13. máaniiprat.
14. ʔémee miiškaŋ ro itkwámroxipó.
15. tʔámookma ʔíipti ʔarikrtóoiti yoke.
16. tmíiima
17. tásiint iʔámook kop iti-tóii yoke.
18. or tpáktama koŋkáii š-otokotoŋ or itái yoke.
19. ʔmáir.
20. rokómka.
21. ʔiima.
22. ášiaʔaatíʔ maši tanópaalim
23. ma

FREE TRANSLATION OF TEXT¹

1. "Let's leave these people."
2. "Let's leave them then."
3. They left.
4. They went to Lower California.
5. They arrived at land,
6. they disembarked.
7. They went to the mountains;
8. they arrived where there was some water.
9. Sometime later two women (giants) arrived with them
10. they (the women) grabbed them.
11. They put them inside the folds of their skirts (at the waist).
12. They carried them;
13. they returned to camp.
14. They arrived at camp but didn't say anything.
15. As night came they lay down together, it was said.
16. They didn't sleep;
17. they were laughing in the night, it was said.
18. Then one of the old women lying down spoke to them in this manner, it was said.
19. "Shut up!
20. There's much noise!
21. Go to sleep!
22. What is there touching you?
23. Why don't you go to

matkwijima. 24. ?ántpima itámrox yoke. 25. or tóšai yoke, 26. ríka kašíim ?a róo?t. 27. koṅkáak ra?ráii ?órokírti?i ?a míi?t. 28. míšiīl ro mitéemoosox. 29. or tpáktama ?apr imíikmoṭka. 30. ?ápr itakmoṭkama 31. itáiši 32. itóaatxk ?íišxox ra? inḥíišxox ta?tárooḥiṅ 33. ?áitk ?aritáamoma itáalaxk. 34. isráp yátooṭkox ak mos ta?tárooḥiṅ. 35. kwár šir ?apr kóom iḥitnóoš inḥíišxox ra? itóaatxk ?íišxox ra? isrápkox ra? tár kwta?nárkai yoke. 36. ?óora?teme ?ántpimar ?arimai-yáryatka ?ititaiyáryat yoke. 37. ?óora?teme ríkaakáokḷ tára?kom ikot kwtaiyáryat yote. 38. ríka kí?t ?émee kímlaxk koi ?ipíttaala yoke. 39. or tpáktama kwáar ?askáax kom iti-ta?áxka 40. ríka ?apr kóitox kom itáokwtoxma 41. itáaitox yoke. 42. tokwiyáii ki? tóortaiyarima 43. kísiīl kix óor teee yoke. 44. ?inyáak ?ánt ?aa-róopp. 45. rnexan síiktox ki? román. 46. skáa-niiprat. 47. ór ompákta ro káii kix tášooxo nṭíiin yoke. 48. koptéokḷ kwi?itái ?ak kyáxox ?apá?ak ?a?narox

sleep?" 24. In the morning they talked, it was said. 25. They spoke in this manner, it was said: 26. "We found pretty things. 27. We found such very little, real-looking people. 28. They are small, but they have whiskers." 29. Then they took them out. 30. When they took them out. 31. they prepared them; 32. they scraped the soles of their feet and the palms of their hands. 33. They stopped when blood seeped out. 34. They also scraped their fontanelles. 35. Next they rubbed whale brains into the palms of their hands and the soles of their feet and their fontanelles, it was said. 36. Sometime later they changed in size every morning, it was said. 37. Sometime later they were the size of the giants, it was said. 38. The finders who brought them to camp married them, it was said. 39. Then they mounted their balsas, 40. they killed whales, 41. they ate them, it was said. 42. After they were living for a long time 43. the younger said in this manner, it was said. 44. "My brother, the end of the year has arrived. 45. The *chapa color* is bearing fruit. 46. Let's return home." 47. But the older returned alone, it was said. 48. He disembarked

tápp yoke. 49. ʔaskám káakox š-iti-tix, 50. koŋkák kiʔ táar pak iti-toi toktoima kínoo-tápp yoke. 51. kwáam áał kix kwtamiit yoke. 52. or tpáktama kwitatóomrox yoke 53. ʔant ani-ʔiiʔak. 54. rnít ano-míiʔ. 55. ʔóra-ʔteme táttaar yoke. 56. kwáam kix íkaał š-otokwtix, 57. šír timoka ʔánt ak kwtáappma, 58. kwtaʔiışx šír šikwsípee ráʔtatamošma, 59. itérł, 60. iškáprła ʔak ʔani-tarkim 61. íkii-totopšma 62. kwipátx ak iti-kwitkášr yoke. 63. or tpáktama ʔatái káoksrax š-otok-tiʔma. 64. itáai. 65. iřít kix kwitkáair yoke. 66. kwáam áał raʔa ríka kišiił raʔ koi šír iřit-ikáair kix ánn-ak ani-takiŋ. 67. ʔant š-iki-tíin yoke.

(on Tiburón Island) in front of San Esteban Island at the place called kýaxox, it was said. 49. Seated on a large balsa, 50. he arrived where some of the people were living, it was said. 51. He inquired about his wife, it was said. 52. Then they told him, it was said 53. the place where she lives. 54. "She lives in rnít." 55. Sometime later he went, it was said. 56. The one had married the woman (the giant's first wife), 57. when the giant arrived at the camp, 58. he strung his bow as he thought to protect himself (from the giant). 59. He (the giant) grabbed him, 60. he put him in his armpit 61. as he squeezed him 62. he squashed open his (the man's) side, it was said. 63. Then there was a long cloth. 64. He prepared it. 65. He tied a band around his head, it was said. 66 He put his wife and children inside his headband. 67. He left, it was said.

¹The story may be condensed in the following way:

1) Two brothers decided to leave the Seri people and crossed over to Lower California. Once they had arrived they climbed up into the mountains.

2) There the brothers met two giant women who grabbed them and having tied the brothers up in the folds of their skirts carried them away to their camp.

3) During the first night they spent in the camp of the giants, the brothers laughed a great deal and the women complained about this.

4) On the next day the women spoke to the other giants saying, "We found these pretty little things! They are very much like people and with whiskers too!"

5) The women then took the two brothers and scraped the soles of their feet, the palms of their hands and their skulls. They also rubbed whale brains into them.

6) The men became giants and married the giant women. The brothers went about on their balsa crafts, killing whales and eating them.

7) But after a year had passed, the youngest said to his brother, "Let us go home."

8) In spite of his advice it was only the elder that returned to the Seri tribe. He landed on Tiburón Island and asked where his wife was. When he was told that she lived in a certain place he went there and saw that she had a new husband, or lover. When the latter tried to shoot arrows at him, the giant squeezed him in his armpit and killed him.

9) So it was that the giant returned to his wife and children. He took a piece of cloth and wound it about his head, putting all his family in it. Then he went away to other parts. (F. H.)