

# Aŋaqa Sisike — The Wingless Gosling

Traditional Folk tale

July 15, 2022

This story is one of the most well-known of the traditional Itelmen tales, and versions have been published with Russian and English translations in previous collections. The version presented here reflects the Sedanka-Tigil dialect group and was told by †Tatjana Nikolaevna Bragina (Tigil), recorded 10 April 1994 in Tigil, and transcribed/translated with the assistance of Ljudmila Egorovna Pravdoshina (Sedanka). This version incorporates light edits by Pravdoshina such as replacing a handful of Russian lexical borrowings with corresponding Itelmen forms (noted in [brackets]) and editing out false starts and other evident disfluencies. I am also grateful to the late Alexandr P. Volodin for additional suggestions and correction, and to Irina Monich for her assistance in preparing the on-line text. The recording with an earlier transcription is available via [itelmenslovar.org](http://itelmenslovar.org).

- (1) k-zun<sup>1</sup>-qu-kne-ʔn qsə-ʔn  
PRT-live-ASP-PRT-PL goose-PL  
‘There lived some geese.’
- (2) qsə-ʔn k-ənsxt-eʔn tʃiʔn p'e-ʔn i miʔ qsə-ʔnk  
goose-PL PRT-give.birth-TRNS.PRT.PL 3PL.POSS child-PL and all 3PL.LOC  
sisi-ʔn-č k-sk-kna'n  
wing-PL-DIM PRT-make-PRT.PL  
‘The geese gave birth to their children, and they all grew wings.’ (lit: ‘... and wings grew/made to all of them.’)<sup>1</sup>
- (3) a kniŋ-i-čχ-enk qaʔm sk-kaq  
but one-V-DIM-LOC NEG make-NEG.PRT  
‘But one little one didn’t grow any.’ (lit: ‘But to one little one they didn’t grow.’)

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<sup>1</sup>In the Sedanka dialect group, subject pronouns may appear in the possessive case. This sentence is ambiguous as to whether *tʃiʔn* 3PL.POSS should be parsed as a pronoun doubling the subject or as the possessor of the object.

- (4) laml k-peskos-knen  
summer PRT-go.by-PRT  
'Summer went by.'
- (5) qat lq-aq k-le-qzu-knen.  
already cold-ADV PRT-become-ASP-PRT  
'Already it was becoming cold.'
- (6) qsə-ʔn mił k-siŋ-qzu-kne-ʔn  
goose-PL all PRT-fly-ASP-PRT-PL  
'The geese all flew (away).'
- (7) enu-ʔn qaʔm siŋ-kaq [k-l-qzu-kne-ʔn]  
DEM-PL NEG fly-NEG.PRT PRT-AUX-ASP-PRT.PL  
'Those ones didn't fly.'
- (8) k-kʔuli-qu-in tχiʔn qaʔm sisi-kin  
PRT-pity-3PL.POSS asp-prt.trans NEG wing-NEG  
'They pitied the/their wingless one.'<sup>2</sup>
- (9) "xałč" enu k-χene-knen qaʔm sisi-kin qsas-čax  
EXHORT DEM PRT-say-PRT NEG wing-NEG goose-DIM  
'"It's time" said that one, the wingless gosling.'
- (10) "tuza-ʔn q-siŋ-qzu-sx, kma [q']-oms-qzu-βum-sx  
2PL-PL 2IRR-fly-ASP-2PL, 1SG 2.IRR-leave-ASP-1SG.OBJ-2PL  
'"You (should) fly away (and) leave me.'
- (11) a to tuza-ʔn mił xte-ank qetit-ał-sx"  
otherwise 2PL-PL all here-LOC freeze-FUT-2PL  
'"Otherwise you will all freeze."
- (12) k-siŋ-qzu-kne-ʔn qsə-ʔn  
PRT-fly-ASP-PRT-PL goose-PL  
'The geese flew (away).'
- (13) xałč k-siŋ-qzu-kne-ʔn yaa-nk, enu qsas-čax min qaʔm sisi-ki'n  
TEMP PRT-fly-ASP-PRT.PL high.up-LOC, DEM goose-DIM REL.PRON NEG wing-NEG  
k-čaća-qzu-knan i k-ŋrep-qzu-knen:  
PRT-cry-ASP-PRT and PRT-sing-ASP-PRT  
'When they were flying high up, that gosling which was without wings began to

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<sup>2</sup>The ambiguity of the pronoun *tχiʔn* as possessor or subject leaves the coding of this sentence ambiguous between VSO and VO.

cry and to sing:’

- (14) “aŋaqa sisike ipʔelin sisike”

[The gosling’s song]<sup>3</sup>

- (15) qneŋ enu-ʔn qsə-ʔn k’-əlizi-kne-ʔn, k-k’ot-kne-ʔn  
right.then DEM-PL goose-PL PRT-return-PRT-PL PRT-come-PRT-PL  
‘Right then those geese returned (and) came (back).’
- (16) qsas-čax k-xene-qzu-knen:  
goose-DIM PRT-say-ASP-PRT  
‘The gosling said:’
- (17) “əŋqanix tuza-ʔn əlizi-sx?  
why 2PL-PL return-2PL  
“‘Why have you returned?’
- (18) q-siŋ-qzu-sx  
2IRR-fly-ASP-2PL  
‘Fly (away)!’
- (19) a to qat miŋ siŋ-qu-in, em tuza-ʔn qaʔm siŋ-kaq”  
otherwise already all fly-ASP-3SG only 2PL-PL not fly-NEG.PRT  
‘Otherwise all have already flown, only you haven’t flown.’”
- (20) qsə-ʔn li pəl-q k-kʔuli-qzu-an qaʔm sis-kin, k-xene-kne-ʔn  
goose-PL very big-ADV PRT-pity-ASP-PRT.TRANS NEG wing-NEG PRT-say-PRT-PL  
‘The geese very much pitied the wingless one, and said:’
- (21) “q-kzeʔ-č. nt’-oms-qza-aʔ-in.  
2SG.IRR-stay-2SG 1PL-leave-ASP-FUT-2SG.OBJ  
“‘Stay. We will leave you (behind).’

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<sup>3</sup>The plaintive song of the gosling is left unglossed as the words here are no longer transparent in Itelmen. In the version of the story collected by Jochelson in 1910-1911 (K2.6), the song is translated as ‘Mother, mother, you have abandoned me without wings.’ The source of the song here may be a similar expression, but in Koryak: A. P. Volodin (personal communication 1996) suggests that *ipʔelin* is a rendition of Koryak rendition *ye-pela-len* ‘PRT-abandon-PRT’, while *sisike* is presumably from the Itelmen root *sisi* ‘wing’, but the form suggests the Chukchi privative ending *-ke*, rather than the Itelmen analogue *-kin*. Jochelson gives the first word of the song as *xəŋe(qe)*, glossed as ‘mother’, but all contemporary speakers treat *aŋaqa sisike* as the gosling’s name.

- (22) *tol'ko esli k'oł-ał-in knank jimx [čača-laχ] qoβsk'el-čaχ*  
 only if come-FUT-3SG 2SG.DAT woman red-ADJ parka-DIM  
*tzəl-əz-nin, noč'z-ał-in, zaq piki-kaq*  
 wear-PRES-3>3SG call-FUT-2SG.OBJ NEG.IMP go-NEG.PRT  
 'Only, if a woman comes to you wearing a red parka, calling you, do not go (to her).'
- (23) *a esli jimx k'oł-ał-in atx-laχ qoβsk'el-čaχ tzəl-əz-nin,*  
 but if woman come-FUT-3SG white-ADJ parka-DIM wear-PRES-3>3SG  
*q-piki-xč.*  
 2SG.IRR-go-2SG.SUBJ  
 'But if a woman comes to you wearing a white parka, go (to her).'
- (24) *k-siη-qzu-kne-ʔn*  
 PRT-fly-ASP-PRT-PL  
 'They flew (away).'
- (25) *njaačił aηaqa-čχ k-x<sup>w</sup>ti-knen, k-ηrep-qzu-knen*  
 alone Angaqa-DIM PRT-remain-PRT PRT-sing-ASP-PRT  
 'Angaqa remained alone, and sang.'
- (26) "aηaqa sisike ipʔelin sisike"  
 [The gosling's song]
- (27) *k-čača-qzu-knan. k'-βit-qzu-knen kołx<sup>w</sup>-čχ-ank βu'n*  
 PRT-cry-ASP-PRT PRT-swim-ASP-PRT lake-DIM-LOC DEM  
 'He cried. He swam there on that little lake.'
- (28) *k-əlčqu-in-(n)in tsxal-astas k-k'oł-knen*  
 PRT-see-TRNS.PRT-3CL fox-AUGM[?] PRT-come-PRT  
 'He saw a fox come.'<sup>4</sup>
- (29) *qneη i k-χene-knen*  
 right.away and PRT-say-PRT  
 'Right away she (the fox) said.'

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<sup>4</sup>The distribution of the clitic element (*n*)*in* is not described in previous works and appears to be characteristic of the Sedanka-Tigil dialect. Impressionistically, it most commonly occurs following a transitive verb with a third person subject and is optional, in the that speakers will assent to the same sentences without the clitic in the same contexts. The clitic was not considered a separate element for the purposes of the word order analysis.

- (30) “q-k’oł-č kəma-nk-əŋ !  
 2SG.IRR-come-2SG.SUBJ 1SG-DAT-DAT  
 ‘‘Come to me!’’
- (31) kməɮβun m-txunt-qzu-in kza”  
 1SG.EMPH 1SG.IRR-raise-ASP-2SG.OBJ 2SG  
 ‘I will raise you.’’
- (32) qsas-čax k-χene-knen:  
 goose-DIM PRT-say-PRT  
 ‘The gosling said.’
- (33) “kma xenč knank m-piki-kičen  
 1SG NEG.FUT 2SG.DAT 1SG.IRR-go-1SG.SUBJ  
 ‘‘I won’t go to you.’
- (34) knin qoβsk’el [čača-lax]”  
 2SG.POSS parka red-ADJ  
 ‘Your parka is red.’’
- (35) tsxal k-χaqane-knen  
 fox PRT-be.angry-PRT  
 ‘The fox became angry.’
- (36) “qa’m k’oł-ał-k-aq s-ič?  
 NEG come-FUT-INTR-NEG AUX.PRES-2SG  
 ‘‘You will not come?’’
- (37) kma mił knin i? t’-il-ał-čen.”  
 1SG all 2SG.POSS water 1SG-drink-FUT-1>3SG  
 ‘I will drink up all your water.’’
- (38) k’-il-in-(n)en mił kəłx<sup>w</sup>-čax, ul<sup>l</sup>u-l<sup>l</sup>ax kəłx<sup>w</sup>-čax em qsas-čax  
 PRT-drink-TRANS.PRT-3CL all lake-DIM little-ADJ lake-DIM only goose-DIM  
 βu’n k-βit-qzu-knen  
 there PRT-swim-ASP-PRT  
 ‘She drank up all the little lake. Only a little pond (was left) and there the gosling swam.’
- (39) mił nin k’-il-in.  
 all 3CL PRT-drink-PRT.SG.OBJ  
 ‘She drank all (of it).’

- (40) qneŋ i k-pčinti-t-knen  
right.away and PRT-burst-T-PRT  
'Then she (the fox) burst.'
- (41) k-əlčqu-in-(n)in jimsx-čax k-k'ot-knen atx-laχ qoβsk'el-čax  
PRT-see-TRNS.PRT-3CL woman-DIM PRT-come-PRT white-ADJ parka-DIM  
tzəl-əz-nin  
wear-PRES-3>3SG  
'He (the gosling) saw a woman coming, wearing a white parka.'
- (42) qneŋ k-χene-knen:  
right.away PRT-say-PRT  
'Right away she (the woman) said.'
- (43) "oj, kza, qsas-čax, ljaβaŋ kza qa'm siŋ-k-aq ɬ-ič?"  
INTERJ 2SG goose--DIM why 2SG NEG fly-INTR-NEG AUX-2SG  
'"Oh you, little gosling, why did you not fly away?"'
- (44) qsas-čax k-čača-qzu-knan, k-χene-knen  
goose-DIM PRT-cry-ASP-PRT PRT-say-PRT  
'The gosling cried (and) said.'
- (45) "kəma-'n sisi-'n-č n<sup>1</sup>etu  
1SG-POSS.PL wing-PL-DIM NOT.HAVE  
'"I don't have (little) wings.'
- (46) kma n-oms-qzu-βum  
1SG IMPRS-leave-ASP-1SG  
'I was left behind.'
- (47) tixt tsxal-enk miŋ i? kəɬx<sup>w</sup>-čχ-enk n-γil-čen  
here fox-LOC all water lake-DIM-LOC IMP-drink-3SG.OBJ  
'Here all the water in the little lake was drunk by the fox.'
- (48) ne'n kma ma? i m-βit-kičen?"  
now 1SG where and 1SG.IRR-swim-1SG.SUBJ  
'Now where should I swim?"'
- (49) enu atx-laχ qoβsk'el-čax enu k-ɬ-qzu-knen qustneku ənin p'eč,  
DEM white-ADJ parka-DIM DEM PRT-be-ASP-PRT Kutkh 3SG.POSS child  
sinəŋeβit  
Sinangewt  
'That (one with the) white parka, that was Kutkh's child Sinangewt.'

- (50) qneŋ k-χene-knen:  
right.away PRT-say-PRT  
'Right away she said.'
- (51) "mən-piki-k kəma-nk  
1PL.IRR-go-1subj 1SG-DAT  
'Let's go to me (my place)'
- (52) kməβum m-č'eŋ-qzu-in zunŋ-ki."  
1SG.EMPH 1SG.IRR-be.together-ASP-2SG.OBJ live-INFII  
'We can live together.'
- (53) k'-əlxφča-knan qsas-čax  
PRT-agree-PRT goose-DIM  
'The gosling agreed.'
- (54) k-piki-kne-ŋn χok-əŋ  
PRT-go-PRT-PL there-DAT  
'They went there.'
- (55) enu sinəŋeβit k-ŋ-qzu-knen, quŋneku-ŋin p'eč  
DEM Sinangewt PRT-be-ASP-PRT Kutx-POSS child  
'That was Sinangewt, Kutx's child.'
- (56) li č'in-aq k'-om-qzu-knen i k-ŋen-nu-qu-an-(n)in, i  
very pretty-ADV PRT-warm-ASP-PRT-3CL and PRT-CAUS-eat-ASP-TR.PRT-3CL and  
miŋ anqle k-peskos-knen  
all winter PRT-go.by-PRT  
'He warmed up well, and she fed him and the whole winter went by.'
- (57) qsas-čax βu'n i sinəŋeβit-enk i k-zunŋ-qzu-knen  
goose-DIM DEM and Sinangewt-LOC and PRT-live-ASP-PRT  
'The gosling lived at Sinangewt('s).'
- (58) anqle k-peskos-qzu-knen  
winter PRT-go.by-PRT  
'The winter went by.'
- (59) anoq xaŋč k'-le-qzu-knen, qsə-ŋn k-k'oŋ-qzu-kneŋn  
spring WHEN PRT-become-ASP-PRT goose-PL PRT-come-ASP-PRT  
'When it became spring, the geese came (back).'<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>This second part of this sentence is out of sequence in the story, and comes after a break for tea that has been edited out.

- (60) sinanɟɛβit sisi-ʔn-č nβen k-sk-aʔn  
 Sinangewt wing-PL-DIM LOC PRT-make-PRT.PL  
 ‘Sinangewt made little wings then.’
- (61) k-ʔən-tʰi-ʔin-(n)i'n qsas-čχ-ank i k-t'ə-nin-(n)in  
 PRT-CAUS-wear-TR.PRT-3CL.PL goose-DIM-DAT and PRT-take-3>3SG-3CL  
 əz-ank  
 outside-DAT  
 ‘She put the wings on him and took him outside.’
- (62) k-χene-knen:  
 PRT-say-PRT  
 ‘She said:’
- (63) “q-taβoŋ-xe'n tinu'n sisi-ʔn-č”  
 2.IRR-try-2>3PL DEM.PL wing-PL-DIM  
 “Try these wings.”
- (64) qsas-čax k-siŋ-qzu-knen  
 goose-DIM PRT-fly-ASP-PRT  
 ‘The gosling flew.’
- (65) ul<sup>1</sup>u-q k-siŋ-qzu-knen  
 little-ADV PRT-fly-ASP-PRT  
 ‘He flew a little.’
- (66) tenaq li niča-q k-k'oʔ-knen  
 back very quickly-ADV PRT-come-PRT  
 ‘He came back very quickly.’
- (67) k-pəŋlo-an sinanɟɛβit-enk  
 PRT-ask-TR.PRT Sinangewt-LOC  
 ‘He was asked by Sinangewt:’
- (68) “nu mank-s? taβoŋ-e?n sisi-ʔn-č?”  
 well how-? try-3PL.OBJ wing-PL-DIM  
 “Well, how was it? Did you try the wings?”
- (69) “e. t-taβoŋ-čeʔn.  
 yes 1SG-try-1>3PL  
 “‘Yes, I tried them.’

- (70) nado qula-ʔn sisi-ʔn-č sk-əs”  
 need other-PL wing-PL-DIM make-INF  
 ‘(You) need to make other wings.’
- (71) sinəŋeβit ek’ən-iʔn sisi-ʔn-č k-sk-[aʔn],  
 Sinangewt different-PL wing-PL-DIM PRT-make-[TR.PRT.PL]  
 k-ʔən-tʃi-in  
 PRT-CAUS-wear-TR.PRT  
 ‘Sinangewt made different wings and put them on him.’
- (72) “tinuʔn q-taβoŋ-xeʔn”  
 DEM.PL 2.IRR-try-3PL.OBJ  
 “Try these.”
- (73) k-ʔən-tʃi-ʔi’ n-(n)in qsas-čax  
 PRT-CAUS-wear-TR.PRT.PL-3CL goose-DIM  
 ‘She put them on the goose.’
- (74) k-siŋ-qzu-knen  
 PRT-fly-ASP-PRT  
 He flew.
- (75) li mečəŋ k-siŋ-qzu-knen  
 very far PRT-fly-ASP-PRT  
 ‘He flew very far.’
- (76) k’-joβa-ʔaʔn-(n)in qsə-ʔn k’oʔ-kilat  
 PRT-meet-TR.PRT-3CL goose-PL come-NOM.PL?  
 ‘He met geese coming.’<sup>6</sup>
- (77) k-pəŋlo-aʔn:  
 PRT-ask-TR.PRT.PL  
 ‘He asked them:’
- (78) “kəma-ʔn isx, laχsx, zlatumx-eʔn, lilixʔ-eʔn əlčqu-sx-eʔn?”  
 1SG-POSS.PL father mother brother-PL sister-PL see-2PL-3PL.OBJ  
 “Have you seen my father, mother, brothers and sisters?”
- (79) “χeneʔ zal-k siŋ-əz-iʔn  
 DEM behind-LOC fly-PRES-3PL  
 ”“There, they are flying (along) behind.’

<sup>6</sup>The form of the embedded suffix does not match to other descriptions, but may be influenced by Koryak plurals in *-at*.

- (80) *tali q-jaβna-xeʔn.*  
 PRTC 2.IRR-meet-2SG>3PL  
 ‘Go meet them.’<sup>6</sup>
- (81) *k-siŋ-qzu-knen qsas-čax k’-joβa-ʔaʔn-(n)in əna-ʔn isx i*  
 PRT-fly-ASP-PRT goose-DIM PRT-meet-TR.PRT.PL-3CL 3SG-POSS.PL father and  
*laχsx i zlatumx-eʔn i lilixʔ-eʔn*  
 mother and brother-PL and sister-PL  
 ‘The gosling flew and met his father and mother and brothers and sisters.’
- (82) *enu-ʔn li pəl-q k-γənkiβi-kne-ʔn*  
 DEM-PL very big-ADV PRT-rejoice-PRT-PL  
 ‘Those ones rejoiced very much.’
- (83) *k-ʔo-qzu-an tχi-ʔn k-qetit-knen da i k’-isx-knen*  
 PRT-think-ASP-TR.PRT 3PL-POSS.PL PRT-freeze-PRT PRTC and PRT-die-PRT  
 ‘They thought he had frozen and died.’
- (84) *a na əŋki-s seŋ-zo-z-[in] k-χene-knen eny:*  
 BUT 3SG for.then-? fly-AROUND-PRES-[3SG] PRT-say-PRT thus  
 ‘But he is then flying around, and says:’<sup>7</sup>
- (85) “*sinəŋeβit-enk kma n-txunʔ-qzu-βum anqle*  
 Sinangewt-LOC 1SG IMP-raise-ASP-1SG.OBJ winter  
 ‘I was raised by Sinangewt in the winter.’
- (86) *kma qaʔm qetit-k-aq t-ʔ-qzu-kičen*  
 1SG NEG freeze-INTR-NEG 1SG-AUX-ASP-1SG.SUBJ  
 ‘I did not freeze.’
- (87) [*n-qite-qzu-βum*] *i sise-ʔn-č n-sk-čeʔn*  
 IMP-raise-ASP-1SG.OBJ and wing-PL-DIM IMP-make-3PL.OBJ  
 ‘I was raised and wings were made.’<sup>8</sup>
- (88) *mən-siŋ-kas, m-ənksxli-t-sxineʔn təzβ-ank enu sinəŋeβit*  
 1PL.IRR-fly-INF 1SG.IRR-show-T-2PL 2PL-DAT DEM Sinangewt  
 ‘Let’s fly, I can show you this Sinangewt.’

<sup>7</sup>The recorded verb may be *seŋ-zo-s-č*, representing a known sub-dialect variant in the form of the 3sg present.

<sup>8</sup>Sentence rephrased by native speaking editor. The first verb is evidently a Koryak borrowing.

- (89) k'-ənkɣəle-in-(n)in sinəŋeβit  
 PRT-show-TR.PRT.PL-3CL Sinangewt  
 'He showed them Sinangewt.'
- (90) qɣə-ʔn k-χene-kneʔn n(β)eʔn:  
 goose-PL PRT-say-PRT.PL then  
 'The geese said then.'
- (91) "muza-ʔn x<sup>w</sup>tean-k nt-ləmst-kza-aʔ-kičeʔn  
 1PL-POSS.PL here-LOC 1PL-spend.summer-ASP-FUT-1PL.SUB  
 "We will spend the summer here.'
- (92) xaʔč txle le-a-ʔ-in, siŋ-qza-aʔ-č χu om-laχ-aʔn  
 WHEN autumn become-FUT-PRES-3SG, fly-FUT-2SG there warm-ADJ-PL  
 mesta-ʔn-kəŋ  
 place-PL-DAT  
 'When it will become autumn, you will fly there, to the warm places.'
- (93) aŋaqaʔin sisikeʔin i nt'-ənkɣla-aʔ-č[en]"  
 Angaqa Sisike and 1PL-show-FUT-1>3SG  
 'And we will show them to Angaqa Sisike.'
- (94) qat aŋaqa sisike li p-leχ qɣas k'-le-knen, li čina-q  
 ALREADY Angaqa Sisike very big-ADJ goose PRT-become-PRT very pretty-ADV  
 k-seŋ-zo-t-qzu-knen  
 PRT-fly-AROUND-T-ASP-PRT  
 'Angaqa had already become a very big goose, and flew around very beautifully.'
- (95) ti'n-nu t-pentʔi-s-čen  
 DEM-PRTC 1SG-finish-PRES-1>3SG  
 'Here I have finished it (the story).'

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<sup>9</sup>False start and brief lines in Russian omitted here. The geese thank Sinangewt.