



## Translation

In a large forest of birch trees there was a kingdom. The king, who was named Lok'a, had a knife hidden in his crown.

In another part of the forest there lived a creature named Epe. It had long hair on its entire body, but walked like a person on two long legs. When people would travel through its part of the forest, Epe would create a magical illusion of a large, evil army. The magical army would take the travelers to Epe, and it would say to them, "You must choose. Either my soldiers kill you, or you give me all of your things and are not killed."

Outside of the forest lived a man named T'idu. He hated and was disgusted by the king, but he desired the king's sister, Thiye. He wanted to take her from her home in the forest and marry her. To accomplish this, he made a plan.

He had been told of the actions of Epe with the travelers in the forest, and he thought, "If I can make Thiye and Lok'a encounter Epe, Epe will take Thiye away from Lok'a. Then I'll be able to trade with Epe, and have Thiye for myself. Lok'a might bring his army (which is bigger than mine), but my army and the magical army combined will be bigger than his!

T'idu told Epe his plan, and promised to trade with it after the capture of the king's sister. Epe sent the magical army after Thiye and Lok'a, took Thiye, and gave her to T'idu.

But Lok'a ran home and gathered his soldiers. He and his followers surprised T'idu and his soldiers before they could leave the forest. The two real armies and their leaders fought until Lok'a used his crown's hidden knife, and the battle ended. T'idu and his followers fled the forest, and Thiye returned to her home.

(Note that the T'owal text does not use any gendered terms or pronouns, but I have used them here for clarity, following the genders indicated in the UNLWS torch.)

## Transliteration

e sonden do fyonte le hú mínol. bmétho minol hu Lok'a há hyán hontsu pasyo mo.

wís sí fdu hu Epe tyót sgen sonden. há mó p'áth yi le e hliyi sos mo, tu mó só il sin swa tsin slod yu yi. e pwa tuf sin le e tyot sondem mo sál swa tsim p'ith Épe fén fan kseg kwet do sk'étut le. kséd sk'étut le p'ith ts'un swa xi Epe sí tuf le, a lál swa mó bós í. "hlég xmen hné. fút li hné sk'étut le su, ix wás li hné kúth ex hne sú, a fút hox li hné."

wís sín hu T'ídu sígu sonden. kwét a wútsyup bmétho mó, tu p'éf mó thwí bmetho hu Thiye. p'éf mó ts'úm bos dne dus bos e sonden a thbáha bos. ús í ót, sál mó fén t'es..

mén tso we mó fén le Epe o si tuf le e sonden, a wól mó í. "os ól sú tsés i, Thiye a Lók'a bwúd li Épe, túl k'a li dne Lok'a Épe Thiye. ól li nul ot sú ts'óhef o Epe, a há li sú t'an Thiye. p'of ts'un Lók'a sk'étut le mo (uli then sk'étut su), tu sk'étut su a sk'étup p'ith úli k'a then sk'étup mo!"

T'ídu mén fén t'es mo Épe, a últs'a mó ts'óhef o bos nul fen tul thwi bmetho. gwíd Épe sk'étup p'ith le Thiye a Lók'a, a túl Épe Thiye, a wás Épe Thiye T'ídu.

tu nás Lók'a dús mo, a sdóye mó sk'étut le mo. p'út Lók'a a sí yeftsu le mo T'ídu a sk'étut le bos, psíl ót í, ól li bós dné sonden. kséd ubsul yu sk'étut le a sí thdat yu thdó de i, tsím bmétho hyán hontsu pasyo mo, a bwét fén thdo. nás dne sonden T'ídu a sí yeftsu le mo, a xí lot Thiye dús mo.

# Alphabet

l	<i>a</i>	[ə]	ʝ	<i>o</i>	[ɔ]
ll	<i>á</i>	[e:]	ʟ	<i>ó</i>	[ow]
lɔ	<i>b</i>	[b]	lɔ	<i>p</i>	[p]
ɬ	<i>d</i>	[d]	lɔ̄	<i>p'</i>	[p']
ɛ	<i>e</i>	[ɛ]	ʝ	<i>s</i>	[s]
ɛ́	<i>é</i>	[ej]	ɬ	<i>t</i>	[t]
ɛ̄	<i>f</i>	[f]	ɬ́	<i>t'</i>	[t']
ɟ	<i>g</i>	[g]	ɛ	<i>th</i>	[θ]
ɛ̄	<i>h</i>	[h]	ɬ	<i>ts</i>	[t̪s]
ɬ	<i>i</i>	[i]	lɔ̄	<i>ts'</i>	[t̪s']
ɬ́	<i>í</i>	[i:]	ʟ	<i>u</i>	[u]
ɬ̄	<i>k</i>	[k]	ɬ	<i>ú</i>	[u:]
ɬ̄́	<i>k'</i>	[k']	lɔ̄	<i>w</i>	[w]
ɬ̄̄	<i>l</i>	[l]	ɔ̄	<i>x</i>	[x]
ɛ̄	<i>m</i>	[m]	ɛ̄	<i>y</i>	[j]
ɟ̄	<i>n</i>	[n]			

In some cases assimilation occurs that changes the place of articulation of a final consonant to that of the following initial consonant. These changes are reflected in spelling, so you may see the same word with different final letters in different contexts.

word-final ɟ (*n*) may become ɛ (*m*)

word-final ɬ (*d*) may become lɔ (*b*) or ɟ (*g*)

word-final ɬ (*t*) may become lɔ (*p*) or ɬ (*k*)

## Punctuation

- .	Period/full stop (used as in English).
= .	Paragraph-final period/full stop.
· ,	Separates clauses only; not used to separate members of a list, indicate pauses, etc.
↵ !	Exclamation mark (used as in English).
L “ J ”	Opening and closing quotation marks. An underline extends under the quoted text. Also used for names and other proper nouns.
⌋ !”	Ligature of exclamation mark and closing quotation mark.
Z ( Δ )	Opening and closing parentheses. An underline extends under the parenthetical text.

## Grammar Overview

In general, T'owal avoids excessive redundancy; the plural marker *le* is omitted if a number is specified, and tense markers are omitted if context makes the tense clear. In this text very little tense marking is used, which is intended as a sort of “storytelling style” (the lack of a tense marker does not indicate the present tense!). When tense markers do appear, they are used to refer to points earlier and later in the story. Similarly, although gender can be conveyed in T'owal the default is always gender-neutral, with gender specified only when necessary for expression or disambiguation. In this text I have chosen to omit references to gender as being unimportant to the narrative as a whole.

T'owal is primarily right-branching, with one major exception noted below. There are four parts of speech: nouns, verbs (including adjective- and adverb-like stative verbs), conjunctions, and interjections.

Rather than using “subject” and “object,” I define each verb as having a certain number of potential nominal arguments which usually occur in a fixed order. In this document I denote these as  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ , etc. Though the first argument is often an agent of some sort, this is not always the case; (see *kwet* and *tuf* in the glossary for relevant examples).

While the nominal arguments occur in a fixed order, the placement of the verb relative to those arguments is free, giving various possible word orders (e.g.  $VA_1A_2$ ,  $A_1VA_2$ ,  $A_1A_2V$ , etc.). The first phrase of a clause may be partially left-branching to allow something other than the head of a phrase to come first (e.g. “In a hole in the ground there lived ... ” rather than “There lived in a hole in the ground ... ”). Non-clause-initial phrases are always right-branching.

Within any given clause, the finite verb and its nominal arguments (specifically, the heads of the verb and noun phrases) are all marked by changing their first vowel from lax (*a, e, i, o, u*) to tense (*á, é, í, ó, ú* respectively). Any verbs or nouns that are not marked are dependents of one of the marked words. If there is more than one marked verb in a clause, the first one is the finite verb and any others are infinitives functioning as nominal arguments. Multiple clauses within a sentence are always divided with commas to make it clear which nominal arguments go with which verb.

Unmarked verbs and nouns have various meanings depending on context:

1. an unmarked verb dependent on another verb may be interpreted as an adverb, or as the head of a prepositional phrase if followed by an unmarked noun (see below)
2. an unmarked verb dependent on a noun may be interpreted as an adjective, participle, or even the head of a small dependent clause (with the preceding noun corresponding to its  $A_1$ )
3. an unmarked noun dependent on another noun is a possessor
4. an unmarked noun dependent on a nonfinite verb has the role of its  $A_2$  (note that “nonfinite verb” may refer either to an unmarked verb or a marked one that is acting as a nominal argument of a finite verb)

In some instances, an unmarked verb followed by an unmarked noun is best translated as a preposition and its object. For example, with *sin* “person,” *dne* “to leave,” and *sonden* “forest,” you could translate *sin dne sonden* as “a person leaving a forest” or “a person who is leaving a forest” according to (2) and (4) above; but with *nas* “run” added in, *sín nás dne sonden* is best translated as “a person is running from the forest.”

In other cases an unmarked verb may be interpreted as an infinitive, especially when following certain nouns. In such a construction the infinitive acts as a possessing noun. For example, *si* is a noun indicating an animate agent, and is almost always followed by an unmarked verb, as in *si thdat* “leader” (lit. “doer of leading”). Similar words to watch out for in this text are *fén* and *pwa*.

## Glossary

Words are listed with unmarked vowels only, and without the assimilations noted on page 2.

	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<b>and</b> (can coordinate clauses or phrases; note the placement of commas to tell the difference.)
ᵐᵒᵐᵉᵗ	<i>bmetho</i>	<b>n</b>	<b>monarch</b>
ᵐᵒᵓ	<i>bos</i>	<b>pn</b>	(obviate animate pronoun; see entry for <i>mo</i> .)
ᵐᵒᵐᵉᵗ	<i>bwet</i>	<b>vi</b>	<b>end</b>
ᵐᵒᵐᵉᵗ	<i>bwud</i>	<b>vt</b>	<b>encounter</b> ( $A_1$ encounters $A_2$ )

ᄡᄢ	<i>de</i>	vt	<b>until</b> (A <sub>1</sub> lasts until A <sub>2</sub> )
ᄡᄢᄢ	<i>dne</i>	vt	<b>leave, go away from</b> (A <sub>1</sub> leaves location A <sub>2</sub> ; when used adverbially, the usual translation is “from”).
ᄡᄣ	<i>do</i>	vi	<b>large</b>
ᄡᄣᄣ	<i>dus</i>	n	<b>home</b>
ᄢ	<i>e</i>	vt	<b>at, in, on, etc.</b> (general locative; A <sub>1</sub> is in location A <sub>2</sub> ).
ᄢᄣ	<i>ex</i>	vi	<b>all, every</b>
ᄢᄣᄣ	<i>fan</i>	vt	<b>see</b> (A <sub>1</sub> sees A <sub>2</sub> )
ᄢᄣᄣ	<i>fdu</i>	vi	<b>alive, live</b>
ᄢᄣᄣᄣ	<i>fen</i>	n	<b>action, event, instance</b> (may simply refer to any action, but often followed by an unmarked verb; in this case, the verb is a possessing infinitive and the meaning is “an instance of __ing,” e.g. <i>fen t'es</i> “plan” (n) from <i>t'es</i> “plan” (v), or <i>fen fan</i> “sight, vision” from <i>fan</i> “see.”)
ᄢᄣᄣᄣ	<i>fut</i>	vt	<b>die, kill</b> (A <sub>1</sub> dies (of cause A <sub>2</sub> ); A <sub>2</sub> kills A <sub>1</sub> )
ᄢᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>fyonte</i>	n	<b>birch tree</b>
ᄣᄢᄣᄣ	<i>gwid</i>	vd	<b>send</b> (A <sub>1</sub> sends A <sub>2</sub> to recipient or location A <sub>3</sub> )
ᄣᄣ	<i>ha</i>	vt	<b>have, own</b> (A <sub>1</sub> has A <sub>2</sub> )
ᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hled</i>	vt	<b>choose</b> (A <sub>1</sub> chooses A <sub>2</sub> )
ᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hlyi</i>	n	<b>body</b>
ᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hne</i>	pn	<b>you, your</b> (“your” only when unmarked and following another noun as a possessor)
ᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hontsu</i>	vi	<b>hide, hidden, secret</b> (A <sub>1</sub> is hidden, or A <sub>2</sub> hides A <sub>1</sub> )
ᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hox</i>	vi	<b>no, none, not, zero</b>
ᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hu</i>	vt	<b>be, exist</b> (A <sub>1</sub> exists, or A <sub>1</sub> is A <sub>2</sub> . May be used adverbially for identification, e.g. X <i>hu</i> Y = “X, which/who is (called) Y”)
ᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>hyan</i>	n	<b>knife</b>
ᄣᄣ	<i>i</i>	n	<b>that, this, the following</b> (usually refers to the next clause or sentence as a whole)
ᄣᄣᄣ	<i>il</i>	vt	<b>similar</b> (A <sub>1</sub> is similar to A <sub>2</sub> ; used in this text as a preposition meaning “like” or “in the manner of”)
ᄣᄣᄣᄣ	<i>ix</i>	c	<b>or</b>

Ɔ1	<i>k'a</i>	vi	(forms the future tense when used adverbially; see note on tense above)
ƆJ5A	<i>ksed</i>	n	<b>group, organization</b>
ƆVE	<i>kuth</i>	n	<b>thing</b>
Ɔ85A	<i>kwet</i>	vt	<b>hate</b> (A <sub>1</sub> is hated by A <sub>2</sub> . If A <sub>2</sub> is dropped, then A <sub>1</sub> is implied to be hated by the speaker or by people in general; in other words, A <sub>1</sub> is terrible or evil.)
919	<i>lal</i>	vd	<b>say, speak</b> (A <sub>1</sub> says A <sub>2</sub> to A <sub>3</sub> , or A <sub>1</sub> tells A <sub>2</sub> A <sub>3</sub> (i.e. A <sub>1</sub> is always the speaker but A <sub>2</sub> and A <sub>3</sub> do not have a fixed order))
95	<i>le</i>	vi	<b>multiple</b> (plural marker; omitted if it is clear from context)
9A	<i>li</i>	vi	(When used adverbially, conveys a general irrealis mood, indicating that the described action does not necessarily actually occur)
97A	<i>lot</i>	vi	<b>again</b>
689	<i>men</i>	vd	<b>tell</b> (A <sub>1</sub> tells A <sub>3</sub> about A <sub>2</sub> )
6A999	<i>minol</i>	n	<b>country, kingdom, nation</b>
69	<i>mo</i>	pn	(proximate animate pronoun. Used for most third-person animate referents, so the referent may switch fairly freely; the obviate pronoun <i>bos</i> used mostly for disambiguation)
91J	<i>nas</i>	vi	<b>run</b>
9V9	<i>nul</i>	vt	<b>follow</b> (A <sub>1</sub> follows A <sub>2</sub> in time)
9	<i>o</i>	vt	<b>with</b> (A <sub>1</sub> is with A <sub>2</sub> ; when used adverbially, the usual translation is “with”.)
99	<i>ol</i>	vt	<b>be able, can</b> (A <sub>1</sub> can do A <sub>2</sub> )
9J	<i>os</i>	c	<b>if</b>
9A	<i>ot</i>	n	<b>that, this, the preceding</b> (usually refers to the preceding clause or sentence as a whole)
Ɔ1E	<i>p'ath</i>	n	<b>hair, fur</b> (refers to a single strand)
Ɔ86	<i>p'ef</i>	vt	<b>desire, want</b> (A <sub>1</sub> wants A <sub>2</sub> )
ƆA8	<i>p'ith</i>	n	<b>magic</b> (when used as a possessor, may be translated as “magical”)
Ɔ96	<i>p'of</i>	vi	<b>maybe</b>
ƆVX	<i>p'ut</i>	vt	<b>surprise</b> (A <sub>1</sub> surprises A <sub>2</sub> )
Ɔ1J89	<i>pasyo</i>	n	<b>crown</b>



ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>psil</i>	vt	<b>precede</b> (A <sub>1</sub> precedes A <sub>2</sub> in time)
ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>pwa</i>	n	<b>moment, occasion, time</b> (may be followed with an unmarked verb; in this case, the verb is a possessing infinitive and the meaning is “the time that __ happens.” A following noun is an argument of that verb, so the full meaning is “when __ does __.”)
ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>pyen</i>	vt	<b>carry, contain, hold</b> (A <sub>1</sub> carries or contains A <sub>2</sub> )
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sal</i>	vt	<b>make</b> (A <sub>1</sub> makes A <sub>2</sub> )
ᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sdoye</i>	vt	<b>gather</b> (A <sub>1</sub> gathers A <sub>2</sub> )
ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sgen</i>	vt	<b>other, different</b> (A <sub>1</sub> is different from A <sub>2</sub> )
ᵋᵋ	<i>si</i>	n	<b>doer</b> (when followed with a verb, creates an animate agentive noun, i.e. someone who does that thing (much like English “-er”). e.g. <i>fdu</i> “live” → <i>si fdu</i> → “creature, living being,” or <i>thdat</i> “lead” → <i>si thdat</i> “leader”)
ᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sigu</i>	n	<b>exterior, outside</b>
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sin</i>	n	<b>human, person</b>
ᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sk’etut</i>	n	<b>soldier</b>
ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>slod</i>	n	<b>leg</b>
ᵋᵋ	<i>so</i>	vi	<b>walk</b>
ᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sonden</i>	n	<b>forest</b>
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>sos</i>	vi	<b>complete, entire, whole</b>
ᵋᵋ	<i>su</i>	n	<b>I, me, my</b> (“my” only when unmarked and following another noun as a possessor)
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>swa</i>	vi	<b>usual, habitual</b> (when used adverbially, conveys the habitual mood)
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>t’an</i>	vi	<b>alone, only</b>
ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>t’es</i>	vt	<b>intend, plan</b> (A <sub>1</sub> plans for A <sub>2</sub> to happen)
ᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>thbaha</i>	vt	<b>marry</b> (A <sub>1</sub> marries A <sub>2</sub> (as in A <sub>1</sub> and A <sub>2</sub> get married))
ᵋᵋᵋᵋ	<i>thdat</i>	vt	<b>direct, lead</b> (A <sub>1</sub> leads A <sub>2</sub> )
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>thdo</i>	vt	<b>fight</b> (A <sub>1</sub> fights A <sub>2</sub> )
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>then</i>	vt	<b>exceed</b> (A <sub>1</sub> exceeds A <sub>2</sub> . When used adverbially, forms a comparative, with a following noun as the comparand, e.g. <i>sín úli then fyonte</i> = “the people are more numerous than the birch trees”)
ᵋᵋᵋ	<i>thwi</i>	n	<b>sibling</b>

𐌸𐌹𐌵𐌹𐌺	<i>ts'ohef</i>	vt	exchange, trade
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>ts'un</i>	vt	bring, take (A <sub>1</sub> brings/takes A <sub>2</sub> to a new location)
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>tse</i>	vt	cause (A <sub>1</sub> causes A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>tsin</i>	vt	use (A <sub>1</sub> uses A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹	<i>tso</i>	vi	(forms the passive voice when used adverbially; the order of the verb's arguments is reversed, allowing different arguments to be dropped)
𐌸𐌹	<i>tu</i>	c	but
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>tuf</i>	vt	move, travel (A <sub>1</sub> moves or travels, or A <sub>2</sub> moves A <sub>1</sub> )
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>tul</i>	vt	acquire, get, take (A <sub>1</sub> takes A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>tyot</i>	n	area, place
𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌹	<i>ubsul</i>	vi	real
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>uli</i>	vi	numerous
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>ults'a</i>	vd	promise (A <sub>1</sub> promises A <sub>2</sub> to A <sub>3</sub> )
𐌸𐌹	<i>us</i>	vt	intend, for (A <sub>1</sub> is intended for A <sub>2</sub> ; in this text, A <sub>1</sub> is an action intended to bring about a result A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>was</i>	vd	give (A <sub>1</sub> gives A <sub>2</sub> to A <sub>3</sub> )
𐌸𐌹	<i>we</i>	vi	forms the past tense when used adverbially; see note on tense above
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>wis</i>	vt	reside (A <sub>1</sub> resides in location A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>wol</i>	vt	think (A <sub>1</sub> thinks A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺	<i>wutsyut</i>	vt	disgust, disgusting (A <sub>1</sub> disgusts A <sub>2</sub> ; A <sub>2</sub> finds A <sub>1</sub> to be disgusting)
𐌸𐌹	<i>xi</i>	vt	go (A <sub>1</sub> goes to location A <sub>2</sub> . When used adverbially, the usual translation is "to.")
𐌸𐌹𐌺	<i>xmen</i>	vi	necessary (when used adverbially, the meaning is essentially "must"/ "need to")
𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌹	<i>yeftsu</i>	vt	follow (A <sub>1</sub> follows the motion or leadership of A <sub>2</sub> )
𐌸𐌹	<i>yi</i>	vi	long
𐌸𐌹	<i>yu</i>	vi	two