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Recorded: 20th May 2009

Cassette Number: 273

Title: When the corn was ripe, another man ate it (“Joari pacik zhe, warek moc azhuaw”).

There was a time, a very old time ago...a king like this, yeah... a king,... not being married...was living alone. **Not being married**, yeah, **he was arranging for a wife** (he was planning an arrangement marriage), yeah....But listen to this: “She (my future wife) should be a newborn baby. There is no trust in women” he said.

Sometime later a baby **daughter was born** to a man. Then taking this baby girl in her swaddling clothes with him, the king was taking care of her. In the middle of the sea he built **a house**. He thought, “In the middle of the sea nobody can come”. After making the house, he left the baby girl there. He was looking after her dearly. So, she grew up by the king’s care. Getting older, let’s say, she was now living **with him**. But, he didn’t touch her. That stupid king, who never touched her, never slept with her. “My portion of food I will eat anytime,” he used to say. With these thoughts he was living. Instead, hey people, **killing** a male mountain goat he used to **bring** it home for her. That man must have been an elderly respectable man, that is a king, or did he **turn into** a hunter? He was this kind of man. A great, wealthy man, ha! At that time, killing that markhor and bringing it home, I heard, he used to eat only the meat. In fact, he was eating only the meat. Instead, he would give to the girl only the **marrow** of the bones to **drink** and not the meat, of course. Living like this then, the girl became bigger and bigger.

Growing up the girl this tall [lit. size she had become] like a **young lady** she **had grown** into that her muscles had become this much strong. Like this strong her muscles had grown that she had turned into a sturdy and plump young girl. Very plump and healthy she was. A mature young woman she had grown into. “So, if I eat today my portion of food, if I eat it tomorrow, it will still be my portion of food”, the king was thinking. Treating her like this, he didn’t ever touch her, though.

Then from there, **from the other side** of the sea, a rich man’s son, from over there (that area), having seen her (the king’s “wife”) he got enchanted. He became infatuated with her. Like this he became. Indeed he was madly in love with her, watching her from there (from the other side, from afar). Being in love, he arranged it with an old woman to help him meet the girl. Hiring this woman, now, “some trick I will play **to her** (i.e., the girl)”, said he. Actually he hired the old woman, indeed. On the other hand, the old woman...going there and rolling herself up in the sand cheerfully, yet falling somewhere and becoming wet only **in the water**, she was surely shivering. Meanwhile, the king had come back (from

hunting) **carrying a markhor**. Going there with the markhor, he saw the old woman shivering. But he had to go home first. So he headed towards there.

There was a bridge (connecting the beach with the house). However, that bridge worked like this. It was working only with a lever [lit. key]: it either closed or opened with his (the king's) key. Now, it was locked with that key. That's how this time the king went there (to his house) with the key. When he pulled the lever [lit. **pressed the button**] of the bridge, it opened. He had already been there. The bridge was ready (drawn up. It didn't touch the land, so that nobody could cross it). So, **going to the other side**, again he had to do the same procedure with the bridge (to keep it open). **He said to his "wife"**, "Hey, a woman over there, that is, an old little woman is over there! She is shivering as she has fallen into the water in there. We will bring her here. She will do a little work for you, somewhere. She will do a few tasks for you," said the king. "Maybe you can bring her here, indeed!" said the "wife. So he **brought her** (to the house). And he did so. Finally that old little woman was actually living there (in the palace). Then the king **left**. He was going hunting by himself somewhere in the forest. While hunting, suddenly, he saw a markhor and brought it home. Then he gave his "wife" again only the marrow of the bones.

Afterwards, the old little woman started asking the king's "wife" questions. She started **talking to her**. She started asking her indiscrete questions. She brought her the situation: "that man (the king), is he your husband? Your father? **What is he to you? Your brother?**" And the young woman (the "wife"), said: "no, indeed he is my husband", said she. "**I don't understand** (why you are asking me). He is neither my brother, nor my father. I don't understand," said she. Later, the old little woman asked **from the rich young man** (who had fallen in love with the girl, the king's "wife") to bring her two partridges: one male and one female. After ordering them and bringing them there to the king's house, **she set them free**. When they (the partridges) started behaving like this (flirting each other), "**Watch them!** A husband and a wife, just like this they behave", the old little woman said to the girl. "So, like this, though, he (i.e., my "husband") is not...I don't know – **what should I know, he has not been** a husband **like this to me** up to now. Like this (like the birds' behavior) he has not been with me!" said the young woman. When she said that, the old little woman said, "I... shall I find such a husband **for you?** For you, I will present a handsome young man". "**Do it!**" said the girl.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, the bone marrow was filled out for this girl by her husband, the king. She ate it all. Then, going there, the old little woman operated the bridge (i.e. put it down) with a trick and brought in that young man. **Bringing him there, she made him one with the girl**: they went **into the bedroom** and in there what he did to her and what he didn't do...so now this girl as she became a non-virgin [lit. a **"tough" woman**],

it wouldn't be difficult for her to do it again. Since that one time, she had changed. If that very time she ever was in the same situation, i.e., to have sex **with a man**, she would be a mature woman. Her case was exactly like this: a tough (rough) woman. Nevertheless, **turning pale** with fear and **feeling weird**, she left.

Later, when the king **came** there and **saw** her, she looked very pale and merely strange. When he watched the way she was **walking**, **he saw that her walking** was also different. "Ha!" Then, **he understood**. That old little woman, "what work has she ever done, she has done it right", said he. "Ha, this was her work!" said he. Realizing what (the old little woman had done to his wife) that moment, early at dawn, he said, "**I am going hunting**", and **he left**.

Going over there, opposite, to a rather flat place, he found a kind of a pine tree with long needle-like leaves. Climbing on that tree, he sat on a branch. He was watching (his house). While **he was watching**, then, that young woman (his "wife") came out with a young man. They ate well, they themselves acting happily, and enjoying the food. **Being as such**, then they went inside, directly into the bedroom. Going there, what they experienced and what didn't they experience! Washing themselves thoroughly and becoming beautiful, they went out again. When they went out, the king, lying on the branch of the pine tree, said to himself: "Aha! That old little woman brought her into that situation (to have a lover). On the contrary, she (the old woman) has left aside my case (my desire), whatever that was. It was left aside. (It has been forgotten.) Ha! Since it (my dream to have a wife) was left behind, now what can I do? Now which wife should I have? She (this young woman) won't be my wife anymore", said the king.

Then, at that time, suddenly, it dawned on him, as he was still lying in the pine tree. At that moment, **another man loaded with cowhides** appeared out of the blue, **loaded with a lot of cowhides**. Being exhausted he had gone there. Going there, he took out his wife from in between the cow hides. Taking her out, they ate and they ate a little food together. After eating, he took her back and put her there **in between the cowhides**. Then **he also rested**. At that moment, that man so **tired** he was, that **he went to sleep**.

While he was sleeping, that woman (his wife) from in between the cowhides, **emerged**. Coming out from there, from in between the cowhides, she took out a big needle. This much big needle. Taking out the needle and blowing at it, she turned it into a man. That woman having kept that man for herself, she would turn him back into a needle and put him back there in between the cowhides. Then as the mood took her she was turning the needle back into a man and **was taking care of him**. Then, she would make him a needle again....then a man, and so on. Sitting there, they both enjoyed food. After eating

they were talking like that, happily, while the husband would not wake up as **he was sleeping** deeply. So tired he was, that tanner (lit. cowhide loaded man). Later again she would put the “needle man” back there in between the cow hides after turning him into a big needle, this much big needle; and again, she put [lit. gave] him in between the cowhides. After putting him there, she also **crept in there**, in between the cowhides. She surely did so.

Meanwhile, the king **emerged** from the tree and climbed down. From the pine tree he had been watching his own “wife” and now that he had climbed down even better. Climbing down there, he shook the tanner like this. When he shook him awake, the tanner indeed woke up and looked around. “Hey, friend, **let’s go to my house**” said the king. “You go! Hey man, wherever **you yourself are going, what work is there for me** [lit. what work do I have]? Tired as I am, **I myself have slept.**” He has been tired, right? **Being tired he has slept.** “Wherever you are going, what job is there **for me?**” said he. “Hey man, come here, hey, going home we will eat a little food. **You are very tired.** Let’s go”, said the king. “No, no, you go! Wherever you are going, what job is there **for me?** Don’t give me a headache [lit. my brain upset don’t make],” he said. The king became very angry with him. He said bad words to that man. Being angry, he swore at him. Then pressing him, indeed, defeating him, he took him to his house. “Let’s go! After coming to my house **you can go to any place away from here**”. Saying that, treating that man in such manner, putting pressure on him, he took him to his house.

Then he did as follows: **he set up six chairs, indeed**, yes, and **six small plates with vegetable sauce**. He arranged all this with his “wife” (i.e., he had ordered his wife to prepare all this). His “wife”, on the other hand, was **amazed**. “**What is he going to do with six plates?**” she wondered. He had arranged to put food into six plates. He served food into six plates on the table. **After putting** the food there in front of his guests he invited the tanner. He said to his wife, “**you go!**” He spoke to her like this, “darling”, he said, “take out your own friend, too (and bring him here)”, said he. “**The one whosoever you have put in there, inside the house**, that one also take out and bring him here!” said he. “**I...who have I put inside the house?**” she asked. She looked terribly astonished. “**Aren’t you going?** Hurry up! Be quick!” he said and scared her. Being scared, she went into the house. Going inside there, she said (to her lover): “Hurry! He is calling (inviting) you!” said she. “Hey, you are bothering me. I will not come. How can I go there?” he said. “No, no, be quick, quick!” said she. “Become fast” said she. Going close to him she said: “Perhaps **he will not kill you.** Therefore come! What can we do anyway? **That man must have seen us**” she said. Being in such a difficult situation [lit. being in need], the young man went outside, fully

embarrassed. He was extremely ashamed. **He was sweating** all over. Being in such a condition, he went there and sat down.

Later, the king said to that man, the tanner, “**that wife of yours...** you should also take out from the cowhides and bring her here. My “wife”, instead, **I didn’t hide** from you. Why are you hiding yours from me? Indeed, I am not hiding mine from you”, the king said. The tanner became shocked. (He said to himself): “how come **he has seen her?** What kind of a strange man is he?” he thought. He started making me crazy. How **did he see** us?” he said. He became somehow surprised. The king on the other hand, “why are you surprised my friend? My wife, instead, is here, **right in front of you**, indeed. But yours, where is she? She is also a woman,” said the king. Then the tanner took her (his wife) out from there, from **inside the cowhides**. Meanwhile that woman, by eating so much, she had also become fat, while this tanner **was travelling** loaded with the cowhides. “No one **could have known** about that.” On the other hand, his wife, a needle...turning a man into a needle and hiding him in there (in between the cowhides), her pleasures were fulfilled (lit. her own work was becoming complete for her).

Then, when the tanner made his wife come out, the king said to her, “your boyfriend also take out!” said he. “Take him out” said he. The tanner became shocked. He looked at the king astonishingly. “Ha! What is he (the king) talking about? What strange things is he saying?” he thought to himself. When he saw this: that woman (his own wife) was also embarrassed and moved backwards [lit. she was left behind]. And he remained speechless when the king ordered, “no, no, take him out quick! If you don’t take him out, **I will not release you!** I will cut you (I will kill you), right here, in the middle”, said the king.

Then, being ashamed, she took out that big needle exactly right there. Taking it out she **blew at** it and it turned into a **handsome young man**. A shiny young man. Then the tanner was more shocked. “Oh, that’s why it (my load) **was becoming** heavy for me. My idea was that she (my wife) getting very fat, was becoming heavier,” **he had thought**. “Nevertheless – in here, one more person being taken care of – she (my wife) must have been getting heavier for me. My impression is that giving her a lot of food I have made her fat. She was becoming heavy”, he had thought.

The wrongdoers, indeed, being embarrassed, were just standing there speechless. How could they eat? They were **not able to eat** anything. On the other hand, those **two** (i.e., the king and the tanner) enjoyed the food. The old little woman also **was unable to eat**. She was also sweating with embarrassment. Then, after eating well over there, the king and the tanner bade the wrongdoers come out. They treated that old little woman like this: they took her to the river and killed her. Then they threw her **into the water**. As for the two

wives, **after tying them** on **horse-tails** and after beating them and cutting them into pieces, they **threw them** into the river, too. Having killed them, they together finished off those women finally.

Afterwards, they themselves became wonderers. Being as such, they did not get married to any woman again – as there is never trust in women. “Look, having done all this i.e., **having taken care** of them (our wives) so dearly and nevertheless **having suffered** so much, we **were not able to be close to them** [lit. to reach them]. Those on the other hand, have taken another man for each one of them” they both said bitterly.

Later, they **went away** as two wonderers. Then, the tanner said to the king “you, how did you see?” on that point he continued, “you, how **did you see** her? My wife I mean” “My friend, I saw her, being so fat”. “This was also my thought, though: why is she heavy?” the tanner said. “**I have suffered** so much”. Then the king said, “I have also suffered. Offering my wife **marrow from the bones of a markhor**, that very woman **I have taken care of** so lovingly! On the other hand, I haven’t touched her. Now, she herself had been doing different things. **How should I have known?**” Saying these words, the two men together became wonderers. Abandoning the house, they then **walked away**.

This is the end of this story.