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A Prayer to the Wind

Hey! From the lower part of my body you will drive  
away evil things bad.

From the crown of my head you will drive them away.

From over my hands you will drive them away.

From within my backbone you will drive away evil  
things bad.

From above my feet you will drive away evil things  
bad.

(Then they blow to the wind.)

Hey! Gwel-way-a-did-ee ba-id-ee-ye-gih-widda k-aiwa  
ilts!akw.

Dak-hawalak-indee ba-id-ee-ye-gih-widda.

Dak-iyudee ba-id-ee-ye-gih-widda.

Hats!ek-ts!-igidee ba-id-ee-ye-gih-widda k-aiwa  
ilts!akw.

Dak-saldee ba-id-ee-ye-gih-widda k-aiwa ilts!akw.

(Then they blow to the wind.)

When Hummingbird is Seen

The skills of Takelma medicine people work both good and harm. Since something from the person's body establishes the necessary point of contact, emmissaries, such as hummingbirds, pull hairs from the intended victim's head. The following is a medicine formula to counteract this:

You will die with it,

My hair,

When you pull it out from the side of my head,

Your house, inside,  
You will rot with it.

Wayloh-hoeg-wah-dah

Oulouk!itk

Dae-ibouut-bahsda,

Wilaiet gah-now

Wahawax-xiwig-wada.

When Hooting Owl Talks

News? Did you come to tell me?

Yonder along the Earth's Rib\*. Look! Who has been killed?

Far away, many people. There?

Did you see them there? Are they dying? That?,

For news, did you come to tell me?

Libbin ?di? Wee-gahs-dam?

Hey       date-gayaway-da.       ale-yoh!       Nek-dee  
t!loh-moh-man?

Hey-dada yap!a gwala. Geh ?di?

Alxai-giht geh ?di? Loho-yao? Ga ?di?

Gaahl libbin wee-gahs-dam?

\* The Earth's Rib is the Takelma way of referring to the North, a similar word, refers to the South. The reason for this is that the Takelma consider the Earth to be a living being. In like manner, the East is the nape of the Earth's neck, the West, her tail.

When Yellowhammer Talks

People, when they come he discovers them:

"People, they are coming!"

"That they keep coming.

People, you? Did you see them?"

That is said to him when he talks, Yellowhammer.

Yap!a ba-khamda alt!ayak:

"Yap!asi ba-khim!

"Rakh-ay-khmi-uda

Ma ?di? alt!ayagit?"

Ga nagan yiwiya-uda, T!ekw.

When the New Moon Appears

I Shall prosper, still longer I shall go.  
Even people, (Would that he died!) if they say of  
me.  
You! Just like I shall do,  
Again I shall rise.  
Even many beings then, when they devour you,  
Frogs, when they eat you up,  
Many beings, little snakes banded \*,  
Even those when they eat you,  
Still again you do rise.  
You! Just like I shall do in time to come!  
(Prolonged yelling:) Bo!!

Dap-oh-it-ee, dehhee k!iyak-dee.  
Is-ie yap!a, (Amadi lo-hoe) nexigi,  
Ma. Yay-a na-nat-ee,  
Hawie bay-deep-dee.  
Iss-ie k-ai-gwala hehnee hee-nagwas-bik-na,  
Lap-aim ga-isbik-na,  
K-ai-gwala, lasgum loox-gwat,  
Iss-ie ga ga-isbik-na,  
Gas-ie hawi bay-a t!ebet-am.  
Ma. yay-a na-nat-ee deh-exxa.  
(Prolonged yelling:) Bo!!

When It Storms, Toppling Great Trees

Away from here, pass.

Your digging stick,

Away from here, pass with it!

Mountainwards pass with it your sifting  
basket-pan!

To Wilamxa\* pass with it,

Your digging stick!

Not over here come with it,

Not over here come!

Your children, dead ones their bones,

Perhaps they touch them with their feet.

He-a-dad-a hih na.

T-gap-khiut-ee

He-a-dad-a hih naykw.

He-es-oh-a-mal hih naekw degesihht.

He-Wilam-kha hih naekw

T-gap-khiut-ee

Wedee me ginagwat

Wedee me gingat

Hahp-dee khilam yo-ook!ay

Yewee sallat!ak

\* Wilam-kha: Nearly ten-thousand feet high, Mt. McLoughlin, located to the east, is a dominant feature in Takelma culture.

When Screech-Owl Talks

Grisgwashan, Anthropologist Edward Sapir's  
Takelma informant, Siletz Reservation, 1909:

"One blows tobacco smoke towards the  
screech-owl and says,

Do you wish to eat?

Tomorrow I shall cause to be brought in five  
or ten deer.

So you will eat fat!

Blood you will eat!

You wish to eat?

And then the next day five or ten deer, they  
were caused to be so! That used to be done in  
Takelma lands long ago, but since we came to  
the Siletz Reservation that is not said  
anymore. Nowadays, when screech-owl talks,  
what is said is, "People are about to die!"

In the Long Rain

Hey! How long?

Will you cease?

How Long you have rained!

At the Earth's tail\*

Cat Tail rushes burn toward it

\* Earth's Tail: The Takelma believed the Earth is a living creature, the west corresponding to it's tail.

### When a Person Sneezes

It was believed that when someone sneezes, somewhere else someone is mentioning his name. To prevent harm through evil wishes, for words have power to create good and evil, the following was spoken:

Who are you?

Who is he that calls my name?

I shall prosper, you shall say of me!

One more day further I shall go!

Your breath shall blow good fortune toward me!

At the conclusion the speaker took a deep breath and slowly exhaled--symbolic of long life.