kw'els ilh xwel swiyqe'ollh...



When I was a young boy,

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...íwesthóxes tel mal xwelá te q'éwet.



my dad taught me about the drum.

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Ilh tset mílyil lite stetís kw'e Mission.



We were out setting nets close to Mission.

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thetsthóxes, “chexw schewot t'ít'elem”



He said “you are good at singing”

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tsel thet “li t'wa'a”.



I said “I guess so”.

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osu thetsthoxes:



So he told me something:

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“qe éwe ixw yewál ey telí kw'ewát.”



“but it doesn’t make you better than anybody else.”

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thetsthóxes mekw' st'elt'ílem e' stshéyelh.



He said all songs are prayers…

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qesu li te sqwélqwels.



…they are their own story.

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íwesthóxes kw'es kw'ómkw'em te q'éwet.



He also taught me that the drum is powerful.

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xaxa ye q'ewet tset.



Our drums are sacred

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ste'a kwa e'ewe kw'es lhálheqet



One should never put it down ...

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...te síla q'éwet xwelá te s'óthes.



…the grandfather drum face-down (on it’s face)

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qe éwe sti:ms kw'es q'éwetem.



Or don’t drum very hard.

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shxw'áylexw ye st'elt'ílem.



The songs are healing,

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qesu telí ye syewálelh ye áx̲elqel.



and the hides came from our ancestors.

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thetsthóxes kwulhíthelh...



He told me that long ago…

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..éwe lis ilótem ye slhellháli kw'es q'éwetems.



..women were not allowed to use the drum

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qe tl'o te kwóxwchestel hókwexes.



but they used the rattle.

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tsel xwel híkwstexw tethá s'íwes.



I still think high of these teachings.

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qelsu a:m xwelá kw'e mékw'wat.



And I share them with (give them to) everyone.

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tsel ew éystexw ye sew'íwes tel ma:l.



I very much appreciate my father’s teachings.

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