

“I feel the string has broken and gone away from me”



unpleasant to me;
 I do not
 hear the
 vibrating wh
 ringing sound
 I used to
 hear. I feel
 that the string
 must now be
 that wh[?] has
 broken (and)
 gone away
 from me.
 Therefore,

kwai-ya ka;
 ni yaiki me
 thui ||ka-||kau-
 in a, ni ka sin
 thui ha. Ni tha
 ||ka ti e, nu-
 in ||kasi thui-
 ko dda'a a,
 !kwa xu thoi
 ni. Ie tiken e,

*A means here, D. H. says, a ringing sound in the sky

people were those
 who broke for me the string
 Therefore
 the place became like this to me
 on account of it
 because they've broken the string
 I no longer hear the ringing sound through the sky.
 therefore
 the place does not feel to me
 as the place used to feel to me
 on account of it
 for
 the place feels as if it stood open before me
 because the string has broken for me
 therefore
 the place feels strange to me
 on account of it

Diä!kwain (c1840– c1875)
 words spoken in /Xam
 adapted into English by Antjie Krog

These /Xam words were recorded by Bleek and Lloyd 150 years ago. A page from their notebooks is reproduced on the left of this poster, the /Xam beside its English translation. For more detail, visit lloydbleekcollection.cs.uct.ac.za/data/menu.html
 The English adaption on the right of the poster is taken from "the stars say 'tsau' published by Kwela Books, 2004. Re-printed by permission. The /Xam were hunters-gatherers in southern Africa. Their way of life and their language are now extinct.

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