

APPENDIX II

SIX INUIT MYTHS

BY KAKO AND AUPUDLUK

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The Thunder and Lightning

There was once a boy and a girl who were brother and sister. They were left behind by the other people in their band because they did not have a mother or a father.

The brother would tell the girl, "What do we want to be? What do we want to be? Do we want to be musk oxen? Do we want to be musk oxen? If we are strong black musk oxen we can fight with our horns."

Again the boy would say to his sister, "What do we want to be? What do we want to be?"

His sister would answer, "We could be polar bears. But if we become polar bears we might fight each other."

They were sitting inside the rocks of an old tent ring when the little boy asked his sister what they wanted to be.

He said, "Do we want to be thunder?"

The girl remained completely silent and began to concentrate on the old tent rings that surrounded them. The boy found two rocks that were tools, that were left behind by their band and had been used for making fire. The girl found a skin and stretched it into a drum. Then the orphan boy started to strike the two rocks together and great sparks leapt from his hands. He had made lightning. The girl started to hit the drum that she had made and it thundered. Each beat on the tight skin made a beat that roared across the land. And so the abandoned children became thunder and lightning. The sister was thunder, the brother was lightning and they went in search of the people that were not kind to them when they lived together in the same camp. The people had been cruel to the boy and girl so they went to

their band's camp and raged a thunderstorm on them. The brother and the sister made the thunder and lightning last for many days until the wicked people were all killed. People came to see the destruction from other hunting camps. They found the people there were all dead, killed because they had been so cruel to the little boy and the little girl.

The distant travelers who came to see these wretched people that had been in this first thunderstorm were in the exact same position as when the thunderstorm started. Some people were sitting up, some people were standing up, some people were lying down, some people were working, cooking, some people were playing, children playing, including the babies, from the eldest to the youngest, the people never moved even when the other people came to see them.

And the dogs, some of them were lying down, some of them were standing up, some of them were under the rocks trying to get away from the thunder. They were all looking, staring vacantly at the same empty open ground.

And one traveler touched a dog and it disintegrated to a pile of ashes. So all the travelers went about and touched all those people that were in the thunderstorm. They all became ashes.

The brother and sister that had become thunder and lightning had done that to them because those thoughtless people were so cruel to the orphans. So that is why my mother and father used to tell me never to be mean to children who do not have parents because children that are not loved by anyone can become anything, an animal, the thunder, anything that could be vengeful and dangerous.

The Man Who Killed Visitors

There was once a man who had his igloo on a trail between camps so many people used to stop by and visit. But this man was not a very nice man. He was always thinking of killing other people. One night when a visitor fell asleep this man decided to kill him even though he was visiting and was sleeping.

First the man went outside and got his sled ready some distance away from his igloo and hitched up his dogs so that he could escape right after he killed the visitor. But when he went back to his igloo the visitor had woken and said, "I am going to go now because I have had a little sleep."

And the man thought, "What a pity, I was going to kill him."

So the man followed his visitor out and when he was not looking he stabbed him from behind in the back. When the people heard that the man had killed his visitor the relatives told one of the strong men in the camp what had happened and said, "It is all right. He is dead now. We cannot do anything."

Because the relatives had known that the visitor was going to kill him anyway. So the people said to the man who had killed the visitor, "It is all right. He was going to kill you anyway. It is all right that you killed him. We cannot bring him back now."

A long while later they were going to have a drum dance and the people were ready to go to the drum dance and one of the people told the man who had killed the other man, "Do not sing your song. Do not sing your song when we're having a drum dance. Don't forget that. You must not sing your song."

But the man sang his song when his turn came. When he began to dance he sang his song. And the minute he sang his song the relatives of the man who he had killed stabbed him from all around. Many knives were stuck in the man.

The Orphan Boy

There was once a little orphan boy who tried to visit an old man. The little boy had just lost his mother and when he came to the old man's house the old man would laugh at him. He would laugh at the little boy and give him food to eat. He would sing a song to the little boy.

My slave boy, my slave boy
My little slave boy, my little slave boy just there
You just there, my little slave boy
Go and get your mother's rump which is in the grave
It is in the grave,
Go and get your mother's rump and eat it.

And the old man would laugh at the little boy after he sang the song that made the little boy so very unhappy.

One day the little boy got home to where he was staying with a woman that had adopted him and said, "Woman, that old man sings to me. He sings to me about my dead mother. He says I have to go and get my mother's rump and eat it. That is what he says."

The woman asked the little boy, "How does he sing it?" and the little boy sang

My slave boy, my slave boy
My little slave boy, my little slave boy just there
You just there, my little slave boy
Go and get your mother's rump which is in the grave
It is in the grave,
Go and get your mother's rump and eat it.

And the little boy told the woman, after he sang the song, the old man would laugh at me.

The woman who was looking after the little boy told him, "Little boy, next time he sings that song to you about your mother sing him a song about this story. That old man killed his brother-in-law; he killed his brother-in-law and put him into the sea by tying him to a seal so that his brother-in-law would be pulled under the water."

He could not wait to sing the song to the old man so he hurried to his house to visit. The old man sang about the dead mother again so after he sang the song the little boy sang his song to the old man too. It went like this.

Old man, old man
 Old man just there.
 You have killed your brother-in-law with a seal,
 That he had speared.
 You tied your brother-in-law to the seal,
 So that he would drown.
 You killed your brother-in-law.

And as soon as the little boy finished singing that song, he ran out.

The old man said, "What a thing to say. What a thing to think about."

The old man got very angry. He put his boots on, bit his knife between his teeth, and ran out to chase the little boy.

The little boy ran around the igloo and the old man followed him, trying to catch him. They ran around the igloo for a long time, faster and faster, until the little boy began rising up into the sky. The old man went up into the sky as well. And they became two stars forever to be seen.

The Blind Boy

Once there was a blind boy, who had a mother and a sister, they were at home with very little food. That very day a polar bear came by, he looked at the ice window and scratched it. The mother was extremely scared, she could not handle the bow and arrow, so she gave it to the boy who was blind. The mother aimed for her son, he let go the arrow and the blind boy, Anigat, heard the polar bear sliding down the side of the igloo from the window.

"I have shot a polar bear," said Anigat very excitedly.

But the mother was quiet for awhile. "No, no, you haven't shot him, you haven't killed him. You missed him. He ran away."

And the boy was moved into the snow porch so the mother could skin the polar bear in secret. She and her daughter alone were eating.

When the little boy was put into the porch the mother gave him dog food, his little sister wanted to help but she couldn't because she was only a child. So when the mother was feeding her she would take some of her own meat and put in into her clothes to hide it. By doing this she thought she could save her brother.

But the mother became suspicious when her little girl was so fast, and she would tell her, "You are eating too fast. How come?"

The little girl would answer her mother, "I am hungry. That is why I eat fast."

After the little girl and her mother had eaten the polar bear meat, the little girl would go to her brother and she would give him some polar bear meat so that he could live like a human, not like a dog.

But Anigat did not want to eat the polar bear meat in case his sister was found out by the mother. Then the little girl, his sister, would cry and cry until Anigat would eat the polar bear meat.

Spring came and Anigat asked his sister, "Have you heard any loons crying out there yet? Have you heard any loons crying out there on the lake yet?"

The little sister answered, "Yes I have heard the cry the loons up there upon that lake."

So the brother Anigat told his sister, "Sister bring me up to that lake."

The little sister brought Anigat to where the loon was and the sister said, "Here's where I hear the cry of the loon."

And Anigat told his little sister, "Sister, leave me here."

Anigat's sister was worried, she did not want to leave her brother, she cried, because she knew that he could not find his way back. The little girl was crying so Anigat told his sister, "Little sister, pile up rocks starting from here and I will follow them down to our tent. I will not get lost. Go on home. While you go on your way, remember to pile up those little rocks so that I may feel them and I will come home also."

When Anigat's little sister had gone, he sat in front of the lake and heard someone coming out of the water. It was the loon and the loon came straight up to him and licked his eyes.

"Oh," Anigat thought. "Oh, they hurt. Oh how much they hurt. But I must not say anything."

And the loon asked Anigat, "Do you see anything?"

Anigat said, "No, I do not see anything."

But he could see a little bit, he told a lie to the loon. Still Anigat sat waiting beside the lake and when the loon turned around he saw that the loon's back had no meat or feathers on it. The loon's back was all bones; and he sat there pretending that he did not see anything. After awhile the loon returned and, this time, he licked Anigat's eyes harder; this time it hurt very much and Anigat tried to be patient and not move away from the loon so that he might be able to regain his sight. Finally the loon stopped licking Anigat's eyes and the loon asked, "Do you see anything?"

"Yes, I see. I can see now. . I see the land and every detail on it, on the far side of this lake."

Now Anigat could see he started to go home and he looked on the ground and saw little pebbles and neat piles. They were so close to each other. His little sister had put them there so that Anigat could go home to the tent. All the way from the lake to the tent the little piles of pebbles so carefully made traced a perfectly clear path. Anigat looked around and he saw the polar bear skin drying in the sun. And Anigat went into his mother's tent and he asked her, "Whose polar bear skin is that out there drying in the sun?"

The mother said, "Oh, those people who just passed by, they just left me, I got it from them."

And Anigat's mother told Anigat, "Anigat eat. I have just eaten. I am now warm and I am full up. Why do you not eat so you may be full up and warm like me?"

But Anigat only said, "I will eat only when I catch my own food. I will eat, only when I catch my own food."

When he repeated that his mother began to cry, wanting Anigat to eat. So Anigat ate.

After Anigat had eaten he and his sister went out of the tent and she saw some white whales out in the bay. Anigat went down to the seashore with his sister and harpooned many white whales. They had plenty of food now. After some time when they had already killed enough Anigat asked, "Do you love your mother sister?"

The sister answered, "No, I do not love her because she was cruel to you and she always thinks in the wrong way."

So Anigat put a rope around his mother's waist as if to help with the hunt, he was going to harpoon another whale. Then Anigat got ready to aim with the rope around his mother's waist and when the mother saw a baby whale she said, "There's a baby one, there's a tender one, there's the one that's good to eat. Aim at it Anigat. Aim at it."

Anigat saw the baby whale but there was a big white whale just behind it. He pretended to aim at the baby one but when he aimed, he aimed for the big white whale and harpooned it. As soon as the harpoon stuck, Anigat and his sister ran away from their mother as she was being dragged into the sea. She ran for a long time on land, by the shore, across the rocks but when she was going to be pulled in she jumped into the sea. As she hit the water, the big white whale went out to where the sea was deep and Anigat and his sister watched on and when the big white whale came up to the surface to breathe, Anigat's mother was kneeling on top sweeping the hair back from face

and eyes. She sang this song:

My son,
 My son,
 My son tied me at the end of a rope to this whale.
 I was up there,
 Now I am here,
 In the water.
 My son,
 When you were born I took care of you,
 I took care of you the best way I could.
 When you were on the wet sleeping bag,
 I dried it up for you.
 I did all those things for you,
 My son,
 My son who did this to me.
 This will be the end of me.
 This will be the end of me.

And each time the whale would dive the woman would say, "The end of me."

After that Anigat and his sister went away from where they had been living with their mother and on the way they got thirsty. Anigat told his sister, "Sister get me some water from that crack."

His sister lowered a pail on the end of a rope down into the crack and brought up some water for her brother and herself. As they walked on further, they saw some bits of food and blocks of snow that had been used for a wind break by some people who had been fishing. A little while later they came to where there were some people, Anigat was thirsty again and he asked his sister to get some water for him. But she said, "I am scared, my brother, I am scared. I do not know these people."

But Anigat told his sister, "Sister do not be scared. I will protect you. Whatever happens, I will protect you."

He reassured her until at last she went into one of the igloos and said, "My brother outside, he is outside, he wants some water to

drink. I came here to get some water if you have it."

The oldest of the people said, "There's the pail. It's full of water. It is there. Take it. But first, take your parka off before you go out."

Those were the people with the long nails. When she turned around to go out, all the people that were inside the igloo jumped on Anigat's sister and clawed at her back and ate the bits of flesh that they tore off in their nails.

Anigat was beginning to worry and was about to go in through the porch when he guessed something was very wrong so he jumped in through the ice window and killed all the people that were trying to eat his sister's flesh. The flesh was all gone, stripped to the bone like the loon that gave Anigat his sight.

An old man who was still alive pleaded, "I told my young people, I told my youngsters that Anigat will come, Anigat will come and kill them. Anigat will come and save his sister. I told them that. But they did not listen."

With these words the breath went out of him and he died. He was still licking his fingernails when he died.

Anigat and his sister walked on and had walked a long way before they finally reached some more signs of other people. There were some snow blocks that had been used for the wind break and inside them Anigat and his sister found some bits of meat and a few bones picked clean. When they tried to eat some of the good ones, they immediately turned into bones. This strange food that Anigat and his sister had discovered were the leftovers of the people who have no anus. When

they came to their iglòos Anigat was thirsty again so he told his sister, "Sister go get some water. I am thirsty."

But she did not want to go because she was scared and her back was still raw from what happened the last time so Anigat said, "I will save you again. Go get me some water for I am thirsty."

So Anigat's sister went in to one of the igloos and said, "My brother, Anigat, who is outside, wants some water, so if you have water I came to get it for him."

Then one of the people said, "You shall have a husband now, and Anigat shall have a wife, tell him to come in and drink his water inside our igloo."

She ran outside smiling at her brother and said, "You have a wife now and I have a husband. We are told to come in and you can drink the water."

In due time, Anigat's sister, who was now married, became pregnant and her mother-in-law was making preparations for the birth. She would collect caribou sinew and plat them into a cord and she would keep on sharpening her uloo, the woman's knife. Anigat's sister was scared because she had never had a baby before but her mother-in-law reassured her.

"Do not be scared. It's got its own way out and it will go out the way it should. Please do not be scared."

When Anigat's sister had the baby the mother-in-law sang,

My daughter-in-law, my daughter-in-law,
Your daughter-in-law, your daughter-in-law,
Our daughter-in-law, our daughter-in-law,
She has had a boy, a boy, a baby boy.
He's got an anus, he is a boy.
Let me have an anus.

After she sang the song everyone tried to make an anus with their sharp uloos but some cut in the wrong place and they died and other people would cut in the right place and they would have an anus and live. The ones who succeeded were very happy and that night they had a drum dance.

Anigat's sister was resting at home because she had just had the baby. The drum dance was in the next igloo and while she was resting someone would come in, blow out the lamp, kiss her and then quickly go out again. When she heard the drum dance starting up again she put some soot on her face and on her nose because she wanted to find out who came hurrying in to kiss her. She waited. Then just as she heard the noise of someone approaching a man got on top of her and kissed her and quickly jumped out of the bed to go outside again. Then Anigat's sister heard laughter from the igloo next door. She got up, grabbed her uloo, went inside and cut off one of her breasts. She knew that her brother, Anigat, had kissed her and she asked her brother, "Anigat, you think that I taste good? Here, have this."

Anigat was very ashamed of what he had done and so he asked his sister, "Sister let us have a blowing contest."

So everyone had a candle and the people went around the igloo and tried to blow each other's candles out.

Anigat's candle was put out by his sister so he became the moon and she became the sun.

The People With No Legs

The men with no legs were out hunting when an Eskimo man came to their village and he went into one of their houses where an old lady was living.

When the Eskimo man came in the old lady was worried for his safety so she told him, "Come here, come behind my bed and hide. I will hide you there. My two sons will come home soon."

Not long after that one of them did return from his hunting. The old lady told her son, "There's a human being here and he is scared so I am hiding him."

When his mother told him that, the man with no legs replied, "That's all right but if there's a human being here let me see him."

Then the Eskimo man got out of his hiding place and when the man with no legs had seen him he was satisfied and told him to hide again.

The younger son came in next and remarked, "I smell a human being."

The old lady looked at her son and replied, "My son, there is a human being here. He is scared, so I hid him."

"That's fine," he said. "If there's a human being here let me see him."

The Eskimo man got out of his hiding place again and the man with no legs said, "Good, now you stay out and sit with us and eat with us."

So the Eskimo man sat between the two brothers with no legs and the younger one asked him, "What do you eat? Polar bear meat or human beings?"

And the Eskimo man answered, "I eat polar bear meat."

And that is what they ate.

Then the brothers said to the Eskimo man, "A man without legs will come to our igloo. He will be here after we have finished eating. He is the strongest man in this village and he has a weapon."

The two young brothers showed him what kind of weapon he had and they taught the Eskimo man how to fight with it. It was a rock shaped like an uloo, an Eskimo woman's knife, and it was covered in fat. It was slippery but the Eskimo man said, "I will use this. This small weapon is just right for me."

One of the brothers warned him again, "Remember, that the strongest man will come after we have eaten and before he comes in he will get ready to fight you. Before he fights you, he will move his arms back and forth and that is the sign that he is ready to attack."

Not long after that they heard someone approaching the igloo and a man with no legs came in through the door.

He came in smiling and said, "Oh, we have something to eat now. We have something to eat now. Some fat meat. We will eat a human being now. We will eat a human being after I have killed him. My children and my wife will be happy."

The Eskimo man remembered what the two brothers with no legs had told him and he took the rock which was shaped like an uloo and got ready to use it. The man with no legs was smiling because he thought that he was going to kill this Eskimo and have him for supper. As soon as the man with no legs swung his arms out, the Eskimo threw the uloo shaped rock into the neck of the man with no legs. He died right away and the minute he fell onto the ground some people from the porch, other people with no legs, took him out and ate him. Then the two brothers who were helping the Eskimo man took their knives and

jumped into the proch. They made a lot of noise and in a little while the two brothers came back carrying a body and some arms of the people with no legs. A little boy with no legs came in, he was eating a rib of a human being.

He looked at the body of the dead man who had been brought in, went up to it, licked it with his tongue and said, "I thought my father was skinny but he is so fat and delicious."

The Eskimo man and the two brothers with no legs and the old lady waited for the people with no legs to go to sleep then late at night when they were all asleep the two brothers told the Eskimo man, "Young man, we are scared too, so you have to escape by yourself. Right now what you must do is get a sled ready. When you are ready, you must go as fast as you can because we know that they will follow you and try to kill you and eat you." And the two brothers explained carefully to the Eskimo man, "When they follow you and when they catch up with you, the leader of the dogs will try and trip you up, when you're running, with the rope he is pulling the sled with. Be sure to keep as far away as you can from the lead dog. Go right now, quick. And remember the lead dog will urinate and bark just before he attacks you. And remember where you killed the man with no legs today. Make sure you hit the same spot. Do that with your bow and arrow and the dog will die. But if the dog does not die immediately, with your first shot, be sure to hit him at the edge of his ear and then he will die for sure with your second shot."

So the Eskimo man went and he had not gone very far when he saw that the people with no legs were following him. He went as fast as he could. The people with no legs were catching up with him. The

first dog team to reach him was the one the two brothers were telling him about. There was a big lead dog and he was getting closer. He went around the Eskimo man and when he had circled him the big lead dog urinated many times then he was barking. The young Eskimo man knew he was ready to attack so he took his bow and arrow and shot him in his neck. But the dog did not die and the Eskimo man remembered what the brothers had told him. He took his bow and arrow and shot the dog again, this time on the edge of his ear. Now the dog was howling and he barked and yelled and ran down towards the sea and the other dog teams ran back to their igloos. The man with no legs tried to call the dog back.

The dog's name was Alulaq and the man with no legs tried to stop his dog shouting, "Alulaq, Alulaq, stop, stop, Alulaq, Alulaq, stop, stop."

The young Eskimo man heard this man with no legs yelling until he went into the sea and then he went home to his own family and own people.

The Cannibal

There once was a man called Igoumarasukyukyuk who had eaten his mother and his father and his children.

When he had finished the children his wife was the only one left. When Igoumarasukyukyuk went hunting his wife took her old parka and stuffed it full of dry grass and stood it up so that it looked as if she was bent over. She left her old parka kneeling inside the igloo while she waited outside. A storm began to blow but she just sat there beside the igloo and waited for the snow to cover her up.

Igoumarasukyukyuk came back home from his hunting, went inside the igloo and saw what he thought was his wife kneeling down. He pretended to be brushing the snow off his caribou clothes with his snow knife but the moment he looked up he stabbed his wife's parka. When he found out there was only grass inside it, he said to himself, "Why did it look like a human being? Why?"

Then he used his knife to search for his wife outside around the igloo. Igoumarasukyukyuk sunk the knife deep into the snow around his igloo and almost got to where she was buried under drifts. He almost cut his wife's finger and the knife would almost touch her hand. At last he gave up and went inside the igloo and slept. Now his wife took her chance and ran away to where there were other people and waited for her husband because she knew he would come. When the man came to look for his wife he went to every house in that village until he went into the igloo where his wife was. One of the people said, "Igoumarasukyukyuk you have eaten your children, you have eaten

your father and mother."

Igoumarasukyukyuak did not say anything for awhile then replied,
"Who said it? Who told you?"

And the man answered, "Your wife said it, your wife told us."

And Igoumarasukyukyuak said, "My wife has eaten her children too.
She cut off their little feet and their little hands. She has eaten
their little feet and their little hands."

Then his wife answered back to him, "Yes I have eaten those
parts. I have eaten them. When I was cooking them and when I was
cutting them I cried. I cried and I cried."

Igoumarasukyukyuak went away.

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