Inuit Life Writings and Oral Traditions:

Inuit Myths

Selected and Compiled by Dale Blake
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II
Aubvik


Atausiatlun i tupimminik salummasailtun i takujuvinik aubvimik Kâkasâlittangani tusasimanialtlugu uKatillugu, "TuKunnanga, sugusigigajakKama."

Tatamisimanialtluniugaluak angutiminik tusagami tikilininganik, ilisâtlatuvinik aubvimik kiatingata iluanut takutigumangimut.


Atausiatlun i unnusami aippanga tupattuvinik tusagami sunamikkiak Kiamimik. Aubvigok nigikkataugumajuvinik. Sininguaniallitun i angutinga takunnâtluggaluak annanga nigikkatillugu. Kotluni illimit makittuvinik, aubvik silamut âniatlugu ulimanialtlugu avitlugu. Ulimamtauq ausimatalanalitlun i amâmasimajaminik
annamit. Annak Kiatsuasimaniatluni nakutsamut omajulukak kamagisimajanga omagunnaininganik.
The Caterpillar

Once upon a time there lived this married couple. They had been married for quite some time but they were still childless. She cried and she prayed but her prayers for a child were never answered.

One day she was cleaning out their tent and she saw this caterpillar. She was just about to squat it underfoot when it cried out, "Don't kill me. I will be your child."

She was amazed and puzzled but, hearing her husband approaching, she hurriedly poked the caterpillar inside her blouse so that he would not see it.

For a whole year she kept her secret from her husband. She breast-fed the caterpillar and treated it as gently as if it were her own baby. The caterpillar grew and grew until it was too big to carry around inside her blouse. She made a bed for him in the corner of the tent where the husband would not see him.

As the caterpillar grew, the woman grew thinner and thinner. Her husband kept asking her what was wrong but she was afraid that if she told him about the caterpillar, he would kill it. She had grown to love the caterpillar and thought of him as her child but at the same time, she was just a little bit afraid of it.

One night the husband was awakened by a strange crying. It was the caterpillar asking to be fed. He pretended to be asleep and watched as his wife got up to feed it. In anger, he rose from the bed, took the caterpillar outside and
chopped it in half with his axe. When he chopped it, all the blood gushed out of him that he had been sucking from the woman. The woman cried in relief that the parasite that she had been harbouring was no more.