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Germaine Arnaktauyok

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WAY BACK THEN

# ᑕᐃᑲᑦ ᐱᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ WAY BACK THEN

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Written by

ᑎᑦ ᑎᑎᑭᑲᑦᑕᑦ

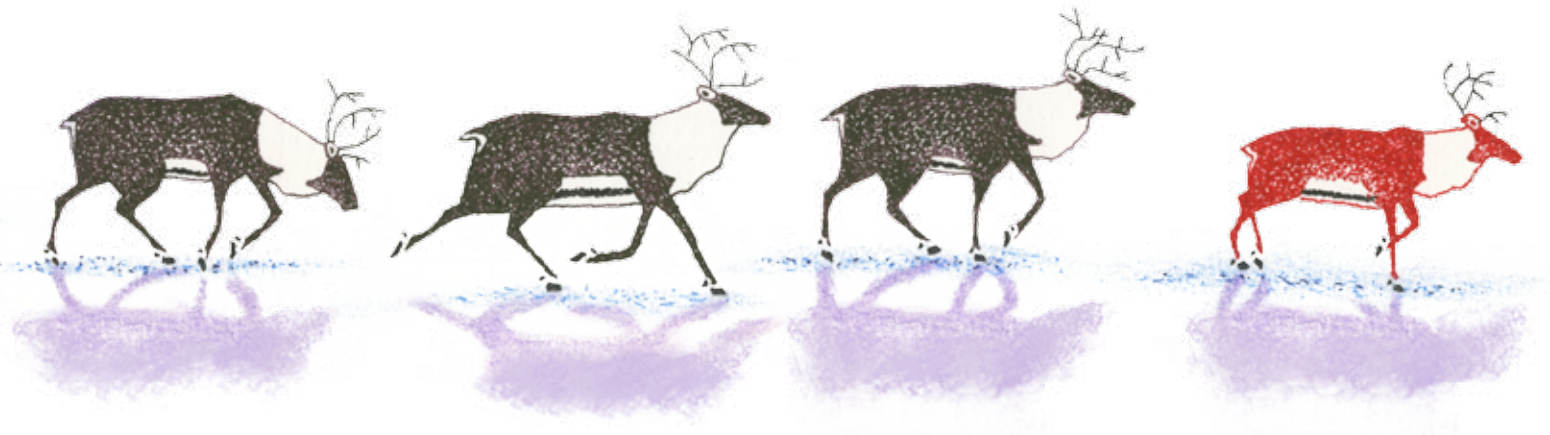
Neil Christopher

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Illustrated by

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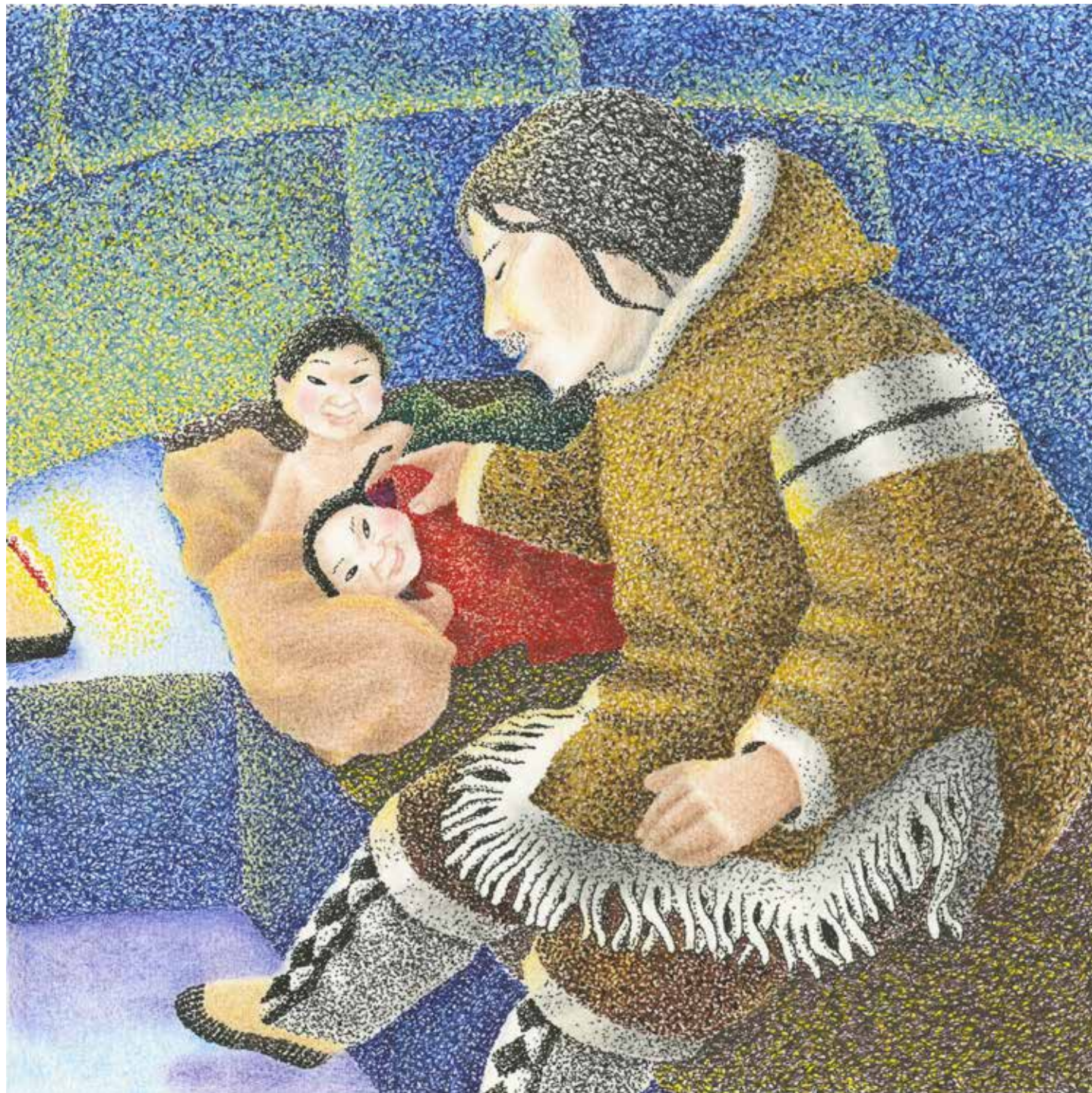
Germaine Arnaktauyok











ბებო აქვს ორი შვილი, ერთი გოგონა და ერთი ვაჟი.  
“ღმერთები რომ იყვნენ მთები, რომელი უფრო დიდები იყვნენ?  
არა, არა, მთები იყვნენ უფრო დიდები და ორივე ბებიას  
წამებოდათ მთების შესახებ.”

ბებომ დაეწყო თქვიშაობა და დასწრება,  
დაიწყო მთების შესახებ და იცოდა რა უნდა  
შეეცა მთების შესახებ და მთების შესახებ.  
“ნია, მთების შესახებ არაფერი შენთვის ვერაფერია, ბებო  
დათქვიშაობს.”

“No, Ataata,” Nyla answered. “I want to hear about when the mountains were giants and there was lots of magic in the world.”

Kudlu looked at his two children and smiled. “Oh, you want a story about way back then? *Atii*, I will try to remember the stories my *ningiuq* used to tell about that time.”

Although the wind could be heard whistling outside and the temperature was dropping, it was warm and cozy inside the *iglu*. The *qulliq*’s soft light danced across the snow walls of their home. The children pulled their blankets close, and Kudlu began his story.

Διῆμις ἔζη ὅτε ἦν ἡμετέριον, ἰσορροπία  
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**Way back then**, when the world was very, very young, things were different than they are today. It is hard to imagine that time, as there was no night and day.

There was only a grey sky that never changed.

One day, a fox wanted darkness so it could steal from others without being seen. This fox was full of magic, so when it asked the sky for darkness, it became night. Just then, a raven was flying by, and it needed light to find food and things to play with. The dark sky was not good for the raven, so it asked for light. Then the sky brightened, and it became day.

Because these two animals could never agree, we now have day and night.











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**Way back then,** there were very few Inuit in the North. So the land started to give birth to children to help Inuit grow in number. These babies were found and adopted by people travelling across the tundra. When these babies grew to be adults, they looked the same as you and I, but they were children of the land.





Δ4Lb<sup>c</sup>ξ<sup>α</sup>β CηΔ<sup>ς</sup> σ<sup>ς</sup>ν<sup>ν</sup>β<sup>β</sup>ν<sup>ν</sup>δ<sup>δ</sup>ε<sup>ε</sup>Δ<sup>Δ</sup>ς<sup>ς</sup>η<sup>η</sup>ρ<sup>ρ</sup>α<sup>α</sup>ς<sup>ς</sup>.  
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 ε<sup>ε</sup>η<sup>η</sup> ε<sup>ε</sup>ρ<sup>ρ</sup>ε<sup>ε</sup>α<sup>α</sup>ε<sup>ε</sup>.

**Way back then,** the sea was almost empty. There were no seal, no belugas, no narwhals, not even walruses could be found. Even fish didn't exist in the earliest days. Can you imagine that?

There was once a beautiful girl who refused to take a husband. However, one day she was tricked into marrying a bird spirit. This spirit took the woman far away from her home before revealing himself, and his cruel nature. From this woman's fingers were born many of the sea mammals we know today, such as ringed seal, bearded seal, and belugas.

“መኖሩ ርዕይ ለገረገጽ ልሳን ነው።” ርዕይ ለገረገጽ ነው። “ለሰ ለገረገጽ ለገረገጽ ለገረገጽ ነው።”  
 “ሰ ለገረገጽ ለገረገጽ ለገረገጽ ነው። ለገረገጽ ለገረገጽ ለገረገጽ ነው።”  
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“That is what the world was like way back then,” said Kudlu. “Now close your eyes, and go to sleep.”  
 “We cannot sleep yet! Tell us more, Ataata,” Nyla replied.  
 Makpa yawned and added, “Yes, there must be more to tell.”  
 “Shhhhh,” Kudlu hushed his children. “I will tell you a bit more. Lay your heads on your pillows. Close your eyes and try to imagine what I am telling you.”







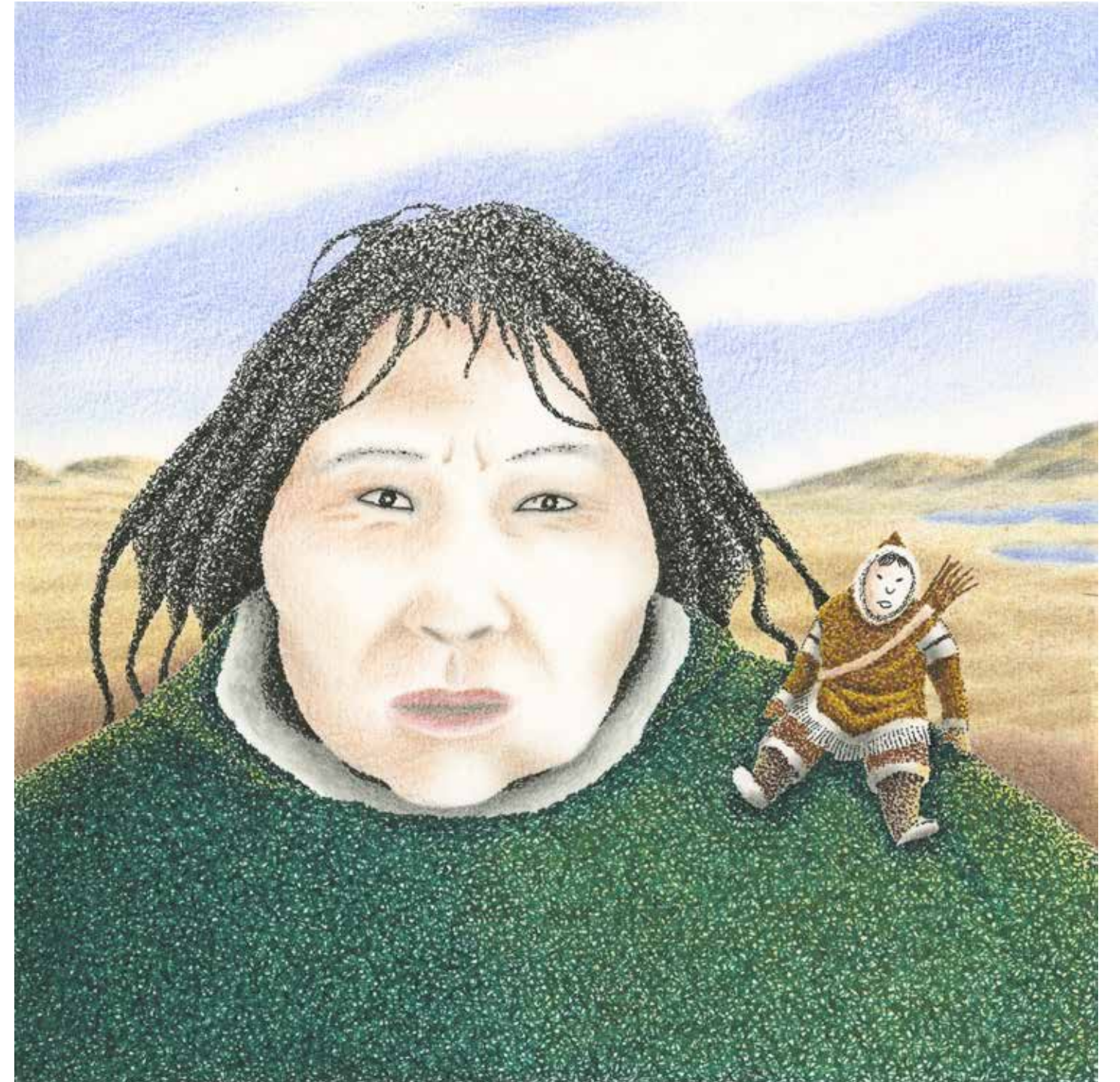




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**Way back then,** there lived one huge giant who was friendly to Inuit. This giant adopted an Inuit hunter as his son. Together they travelled across the Arctic looking for adventure and animals to hunt.

Can you imagine what it must have been like for the little hunter to sit on his giant father's shoulder and look out onto the world?



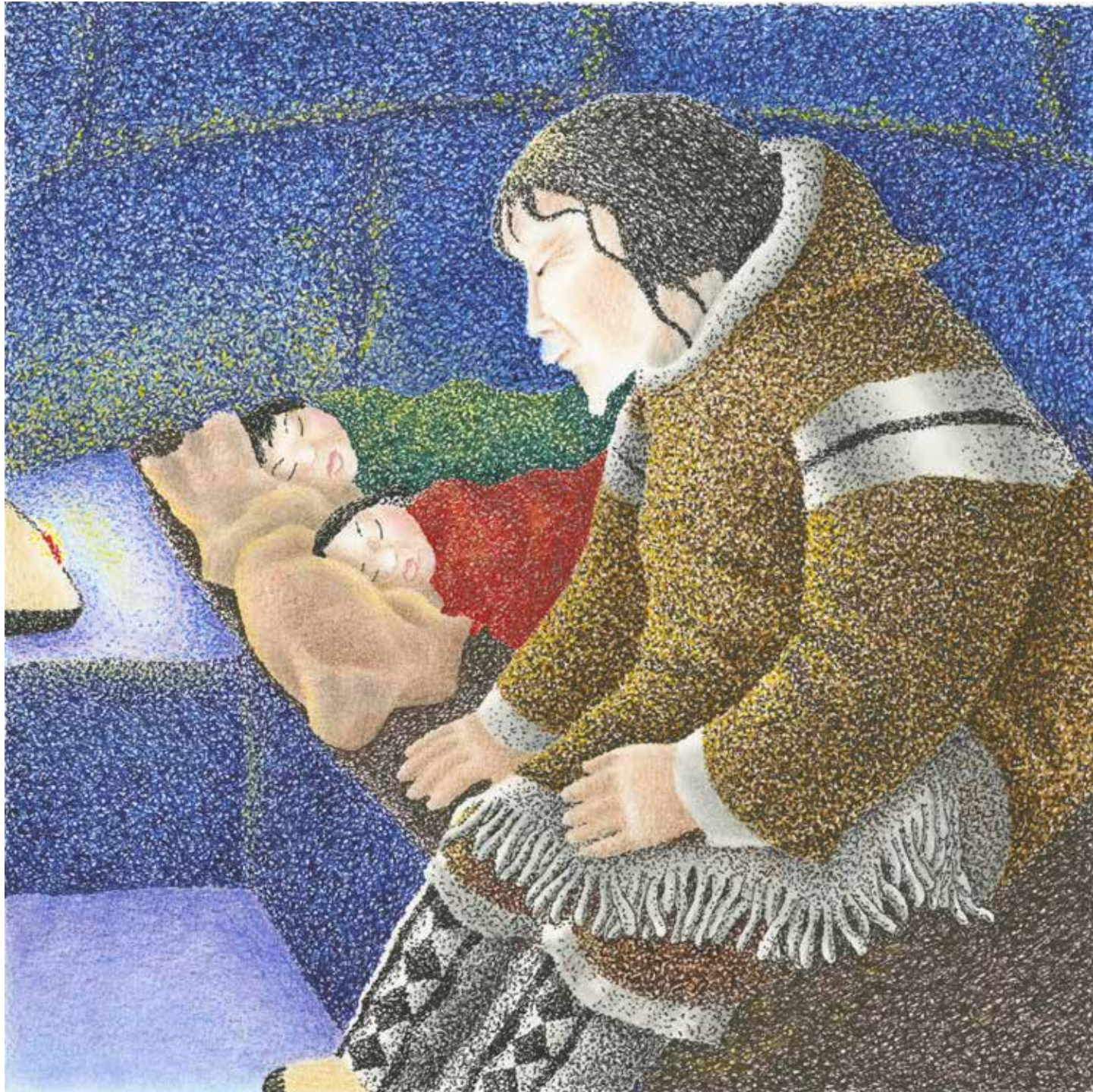


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<μCββCΔγβρLργβ ΛββCββ<βζσζ.

**Way back then,** there was even a baby giant named Narsuk. Narsuk was an orphan. He had lost his parents long ago, and he was left crying on the tundra. But the land took pity on Narsuk and gave him the sky as his home. It is said that this baby giant is so strong that he can knock down a mountain with a kick!

Now Narsuk lives above the clouds. And when he gets upset, as all children do, his tantrums cause storms and blizzards.





ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ. ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ  
ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ. ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ.

“ᑲᓪᓗᑲ, ᑦᓱᑲᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ,” ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ.  
“ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ. “ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ.  
ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ.”

ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ, ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ ᑲᓪᓗᑲ  
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**Kudlu looked at his children.** Their eyes were closed and they were breathing softly.

“My kulait, I am glad you are asleep,” whispered Kudlu. “I didn’t have much more to tell you. You see, when I was a child, I always fell asleep before my grandparents got to the end of each story, and I never heard the endings.”

Smiling to himself, Kudlu made sure his children were well covered with their blankets. He dimmed the qulliq’s flame, and all was quiet in the world, except for the soft whistle of the wind outside.



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