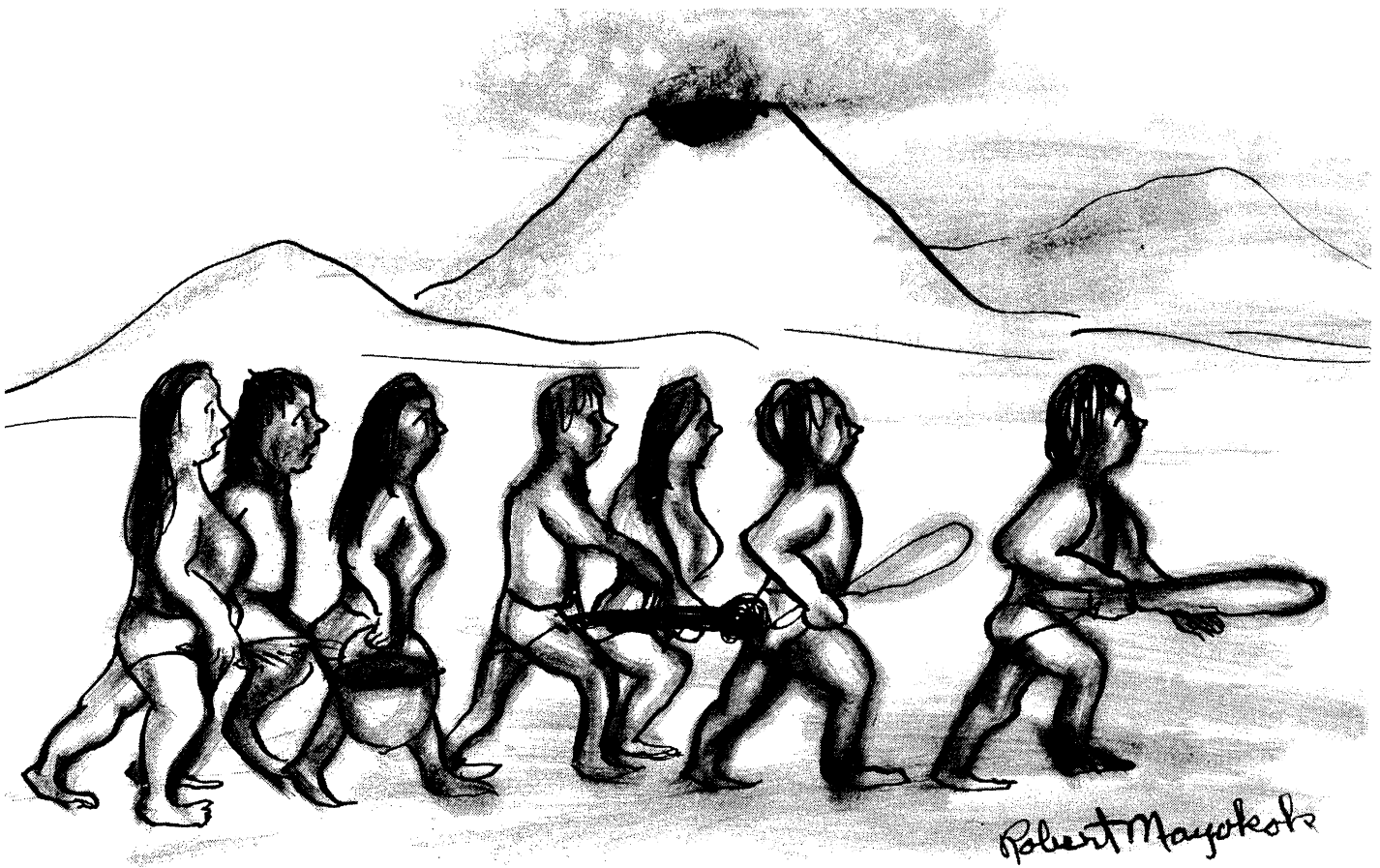


.....IN THE BEGINNING

by

ROGER SILOOK



Piinleghani

Saavlam Apellgha

IN THE BEGINNING

by

ROGER SILOOK

Eskimo Author

with

illustrations

by

ROBERT MAYOKOK

Eskimo Artist

*

an introduction by

Ed Fortier

Executive Editor

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INTRODUCTION

Here, in simple words and drawings, is the story of mankind as revealed by two Alaskan Eskimos proud of their race and its history. Roger Silook, born on St. Lawrence Island and now a resident of Nome, tells the story of man's evolution as it reached him, passed from generation to generation down through the dim corridors of time. Robert Mayokok, pioneer Eskimo artist, gives authentic shape to the author's words.



Roger Silook,

The economy of words used in telling the story in no way diminishes its value to modern man, who has been stuffed to numbness with a flood of meaningless words on what he is and how he came to be. Roger Silook is now part of the Caucasian world, but he was born into the simple Eskimo world and from this vantage point he gives us a new and unique report on the road traveled by man to reach his present state.

As man's present performance indicates, he is less than divine in solving the problems which confront him on all sides. There was a time, according to Author Silook, when man learned how to build a house by studying the ants, caught fish by modeling his nets after the spider's web. The message of "In The Beginning" may be that now is the time for man to regain his lost wisdom and once again start learning from the lower primates.

*ED FORTIER
Anchorage, Alaska*

**I N
THE
BEGINNING**

According to Eskimo history that was handed down from generation to generation, this part of the world (Alaska) was inhabited by the Eskimos some thousands of years before Christ. But still the Eskimos before that time have no knowledge at all and perhaps not even stories other than their own survival and hardships in the stone age. It was known that this part of the world was the warmest place on even the whole world then and it was warm all three hundred and sixty-five days a year. It was so warm these people were known to be naked, perhaps in the first creation of man.

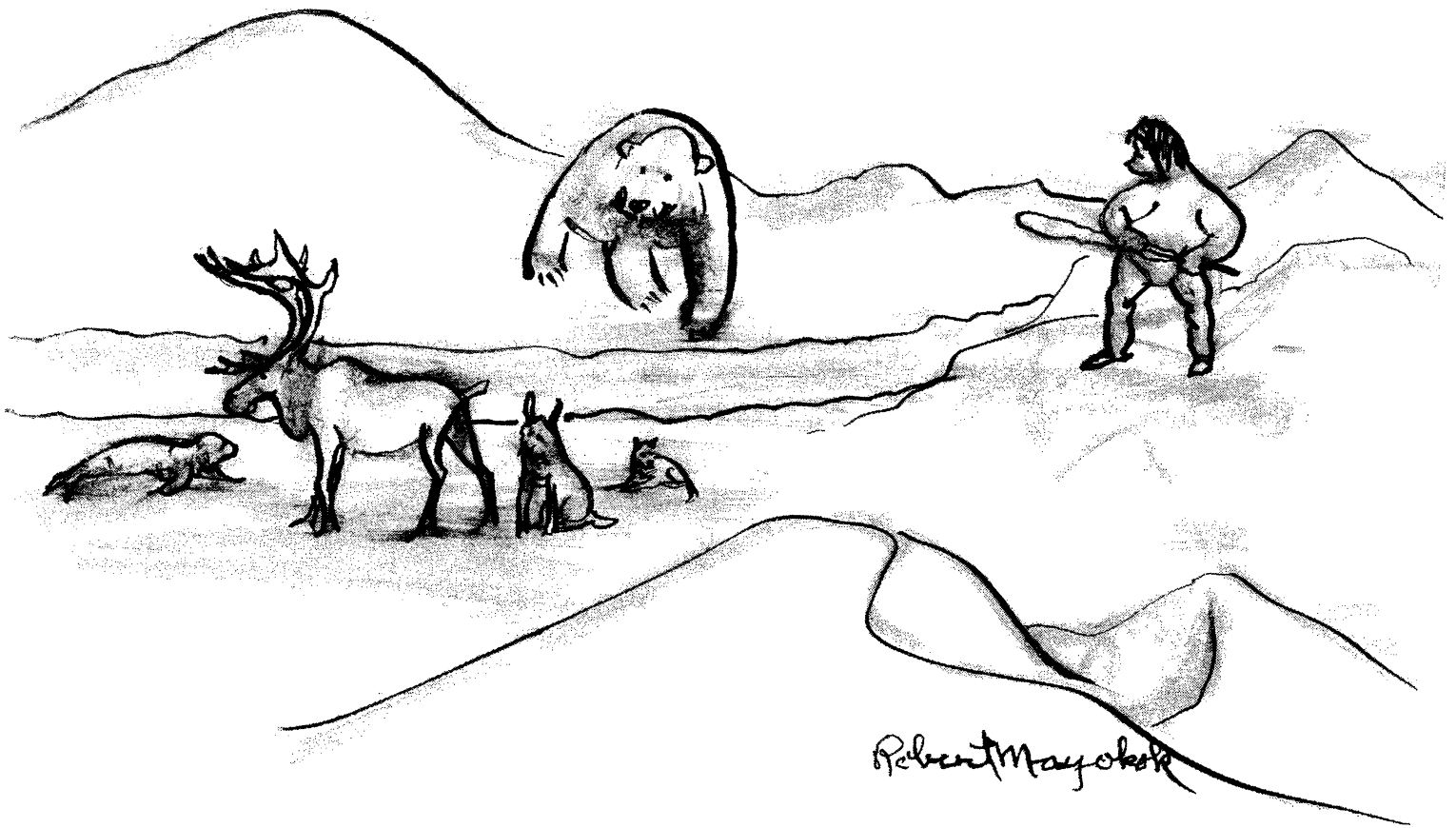
Yupiget pillghitni, ungipamsugwitni taagegkerugllak ima, uuk-nanguq nuna (Alaska) nelikaqegkangat Yupiget. Qafsina thousand ayumiqulleq sivungani Kiyaghneghem allgellghan. Aamta iwernga Yupigughngaaghmeng taam sivunga nallukegkangat, talwa ungipamsugwiinguut, iwerngaun neqamikegkaat unguvanaqelleghteng, pi-yaqliilleghteng salin uyghagmeng sanqutkengnguluteng. Neqamikegkaat uukna nunataghhaaneng tamaghhaaneng puqlalleghpigaacaq, puqlatkayuk qamaglluku 365 aghneq ayumiqulleghni. Puqlam repall yugwa amsikaghmesalghii, katam tawaten yugwem ulimayuwhaallghatun.

This story, of course, is very valuable information as it is true and has been handed down through the memory of each generation. As this story is not told before in any book in any part of the world, I hope that anyone who reads it will know that this part of the world was inhabited by the Eskimos from the creation of the world or the Beginning. It must have been like a garden of Eden one time.

Una ungipamsuk ipa megnunaghtuq qayughllak ipangulghii, tazima-ken ima ungipamsukaataangukangat avaqutameggnun nagatelleghme-gestun. Nunataghhaani tamaghhaani ungipamsukumangitutanganeng igakun, sunanguq atightulghiim qamaglluni liigikligu ukum tunganga nunam, Yupiget nelikaat ima piinleghmeng naliini ulimayug-waallghaneng nunam kenlekluku. Entaqun tazimani piitesighaghvi-gatun Eden-em ayuqsalghii.

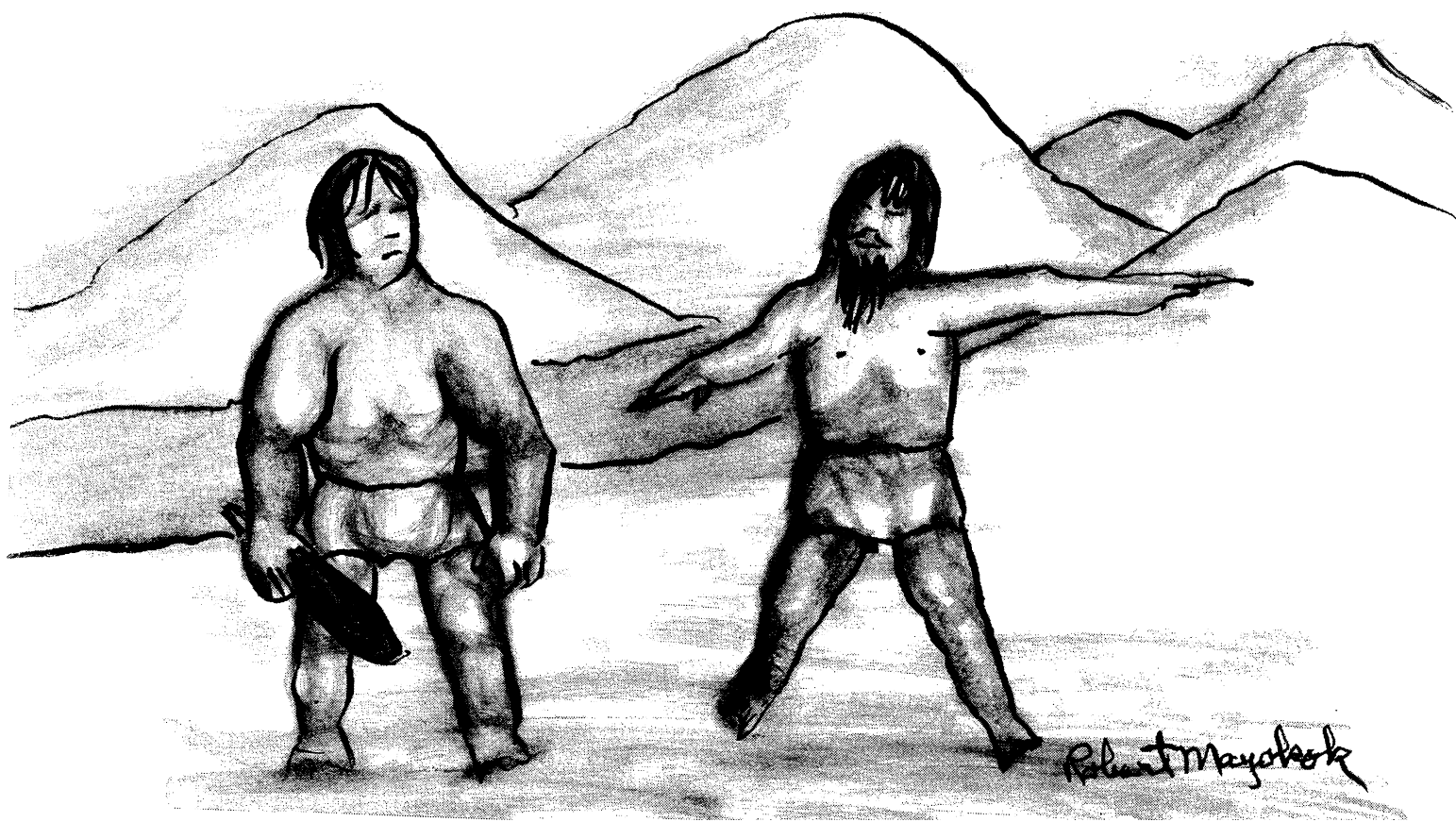
The very story everybody remembered perhaps when a man started to get knowledge, was that the animals were plentiful in one spot somewhere here in Alaska where the most beautiful mountain and the most beautiful river were. It is not known the exact spot as the great flood changed the whole world since then. But the people were known to be living like animals without clothing and perhaps surviving on plants only.

**Entaqun tamangan neqamikegkaa tazimani yuuk sumeghtaghagh-
yaaghtaqqngami Alaska-m nalighnegha naayghalegllak, kiilegllak pi-
nighllagmeng teghikusaghlagmeng allaagghiinaghmeng. Naansaata-
nga taana nalluneqnalghii, nuna uleveghllagaqqngami qamagtengng-
waaghluni allanguhtekaalghii. Iwerngaqqun neqamikegkaat yuuk ta-
waten teghikusastun kiyaghtengnguyalghii aatkangunani amallu enta-
qqun tawaten piitesighaghhaghqqun unguvanguyalghii.**



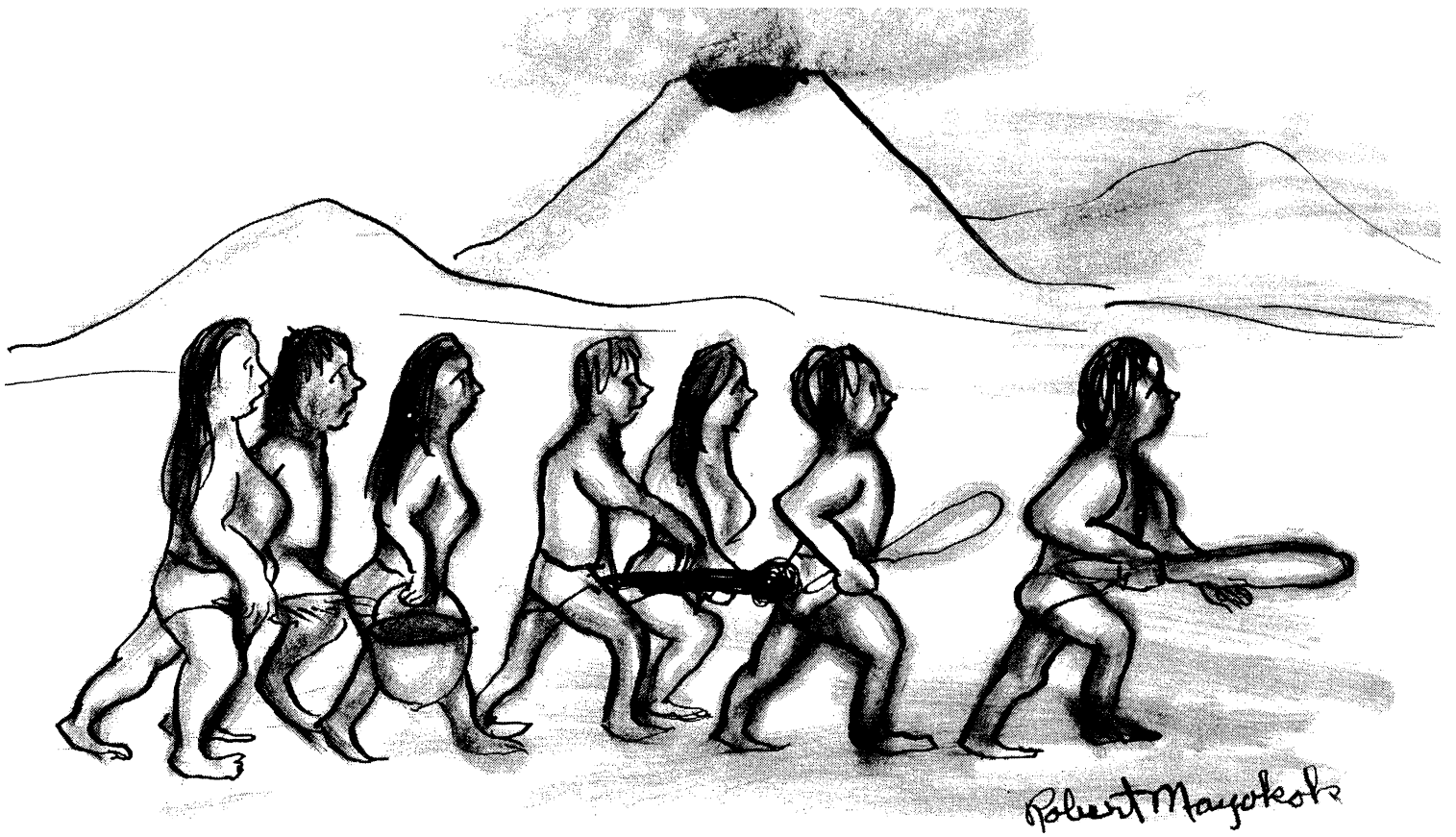
It was one young man's habit that every morning he came over to the beautiful river to watch the animals feeding and drinking. And he scare away any bigger animals who try to hurt the smaller ones.

Kiyaghneqegkanga ataasim nukalpigam unaanneghatni pinighllagegnun kiigwegnun aglaghluni esghapagaqegkangi teghikusat neghniimsulghiit, meghelghiit kiigwegneng. Ama qimagtaghaqegkangi angenghi teghikusam aqnightinaqutkelghiit mekestaaneghmeggneng.



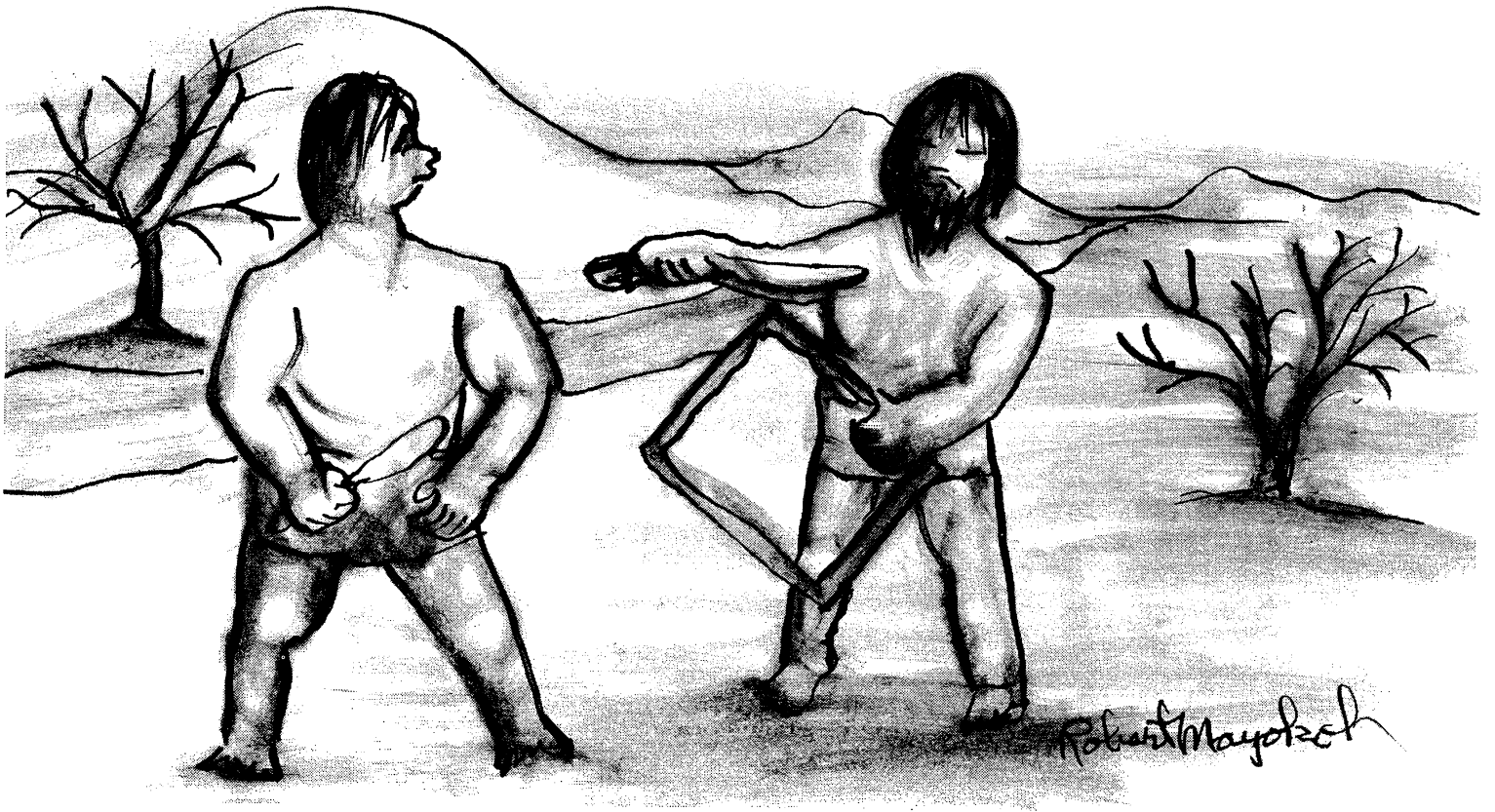
One day as the young man came to the beautiful spot, the animals were not there. Not a single animal was in sight. Instead he met an old man sitting on the river bank at just about the same spot where he used to sit every day. The old man speak to him and warn him. The young man went back to the other people and get them together. He ask them to get ready to leave right away as the old man told him the beautiful mountain is going to erupt very soon. Without hesitation the people got ready and all started a southward course.

Ataasimi aghneghmi alia tawaten nukalpigaq tawavek takukum-taaghminun piyalghiimi kii, teghikusaqraggiiteftuk. Talwanguq ataasighhaq teghikusaq aliinqaghhiiteftuk. Legan'nguq taawa nanevgaghllaq nallaghaa aqumtaalghii kiigwem esnengani tawani elIngan aghhunneghatni aqumgavikumtaaghmini. Nanevgaghllagem aleghqughaa, kelengasaghaa. Nukalpigaq uteghnighluni yulgutni qerngughu-testii. Pimakangi yataaghqutesqelluki, igleghsaqleggiinaaghtesqelluki nanevgamun ungipaasimaniluni pinighllak taana naayghaq whaa qanlenguqun guunnaqniluku. Yulgutanga tamaana taayughqulluni elngaataall yataaghquragkiighluni igleghtut taagavek uqegghmun.



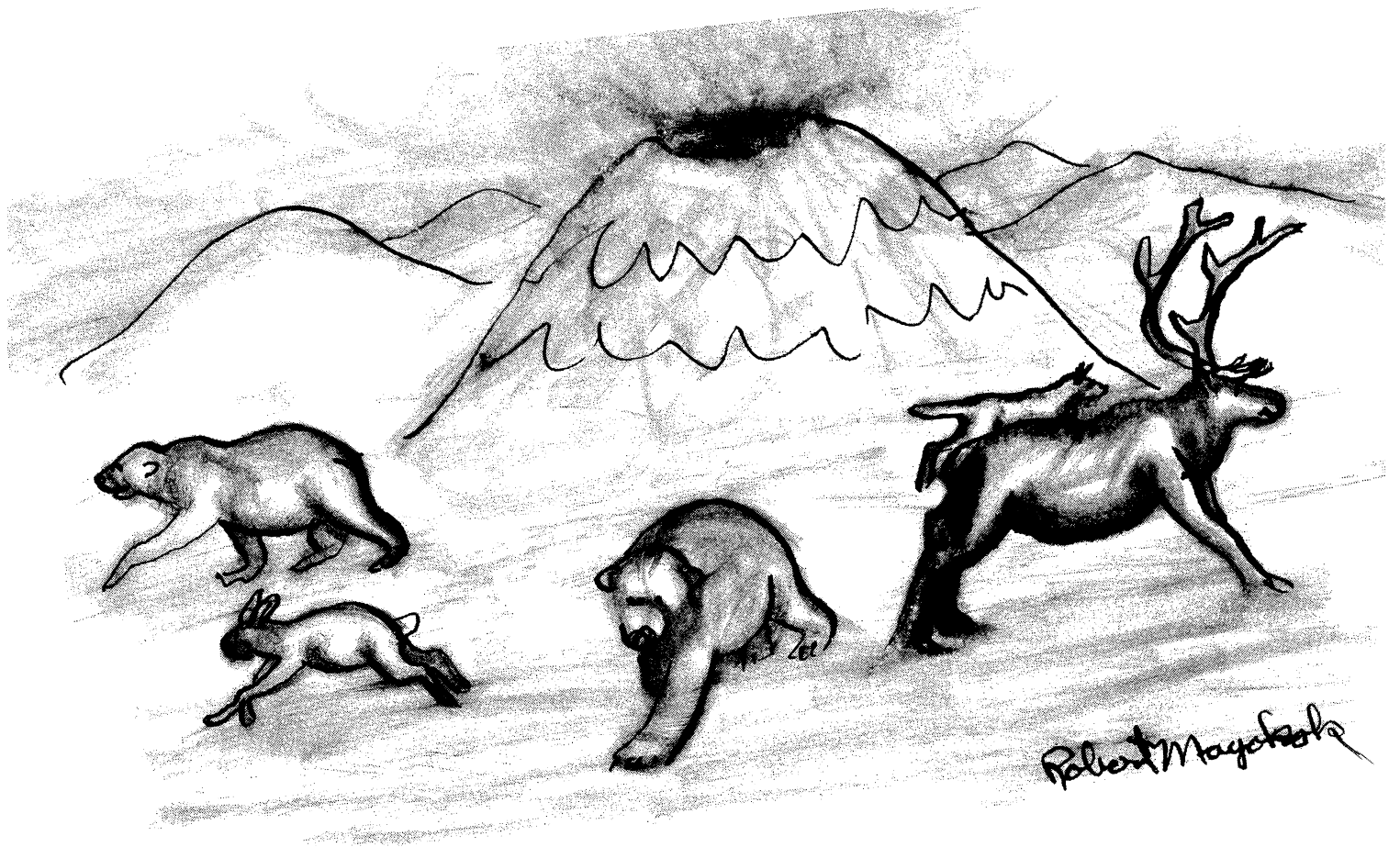
Next day the same young man came back to the river bank to see the mysterious old man again. Sure enough, he was there exactly on the same spot and there were still no animals in sight.

Aghtengngan unaami taana nukalpigaq uteghtuq tawavek kiigwem esnenganun taana nanevgaghllak alia esghaghna-luku. Llaaghanwha-nguq taawa tawanllaataghpetuq nemini tawaten'nguq taawa aliillgha teghikusaqraggiillaataghpetuq.



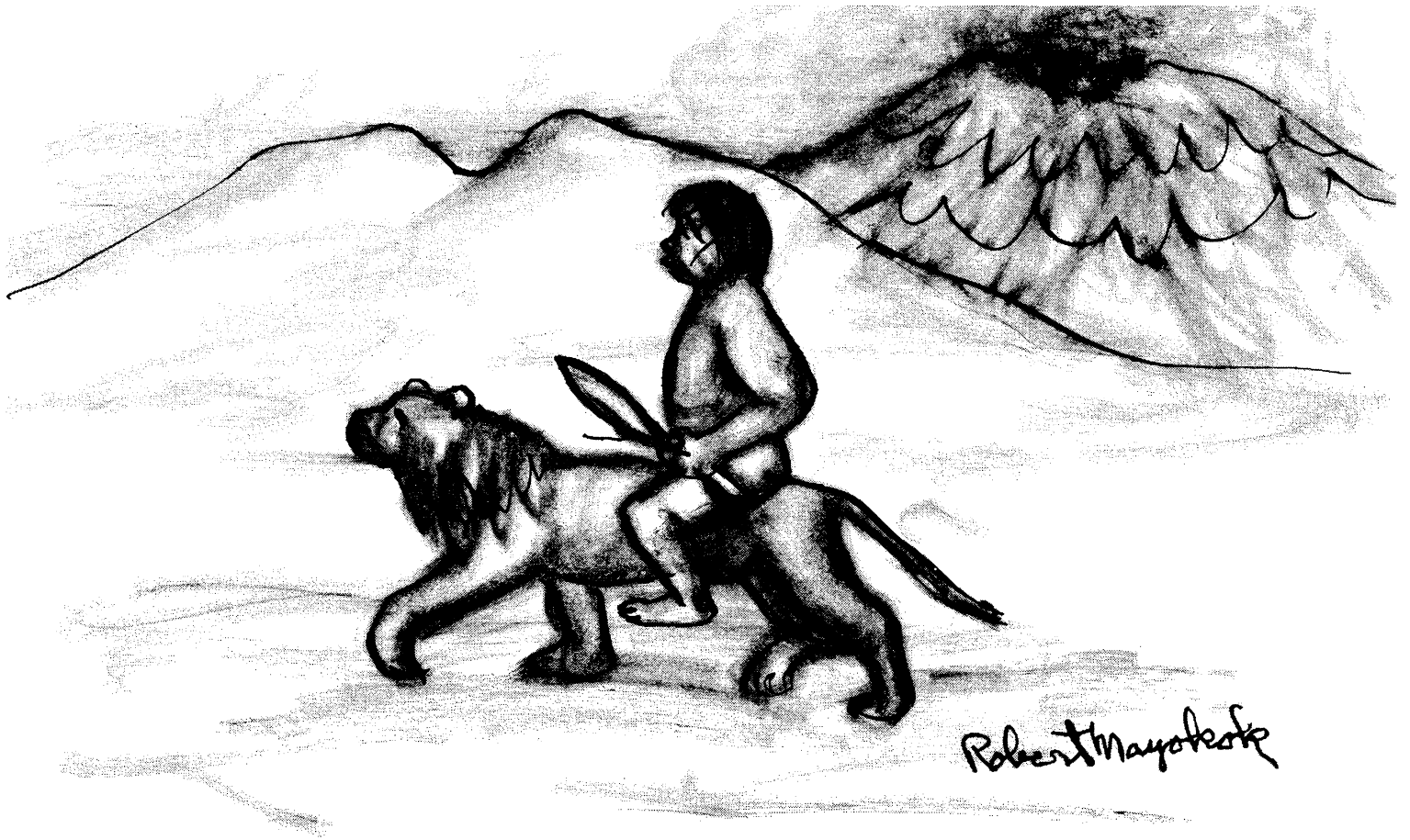
This time the old man taught him how to count the moons. He took a branch and with his knife he shape a branch like a four corner square. He ask him to count the days as the new moon comes. "At the end of the moon you must make a notch on one corner of the branch. Continue this until you make three notches on one corner and then turn the branch to the next corner and do the same." Then the old man told him that about the fifth moon or notch on the branch, the ground will get hard and white. "But I will be with you to teach you what to do," said the old man. "You will not see me but I will be in your mind just the same." Then the old man disappeared.

**Tawani taawa nanevgam apeghtughwaa naten tanqit kestelleghqameng. Avayaq tuguluku liighqaa savigmineng tawaten estamaneng kangighighluku, liighqengngwaangllaghaa. Qelghaa aghneghet kes-tesqelluki ima whaken tanqiq piinghaatanganeng. "Naangegkan tanqiq nevlighnaken avayaq ataasikun kangighaakun. Tawaten iglegghu-
nnaken kenlanga pingayugughtelleghpenun nevlillghet ataasimi kangighaani, enkaam mumiglluku tuunglighhaanun kangighaan taanallu tawaten pinaken." Taagken nanevgam ungipaataa nani taakwani tallimaani tanqim nalighmeng nevlillghan avayaa, nuna tangeghtughl-
leqniluku qateghsimaghmi. Iwernga nanevgam pii, "Tawanllequnga, elpenillequnga apeghtughnaluten sallegghqameng. Esghaghnaanghi-
taghpenga, iwernga tawatengwaaq paninang umyugaghpenillequnga." Taagken nanevgaq aviighutuq.**



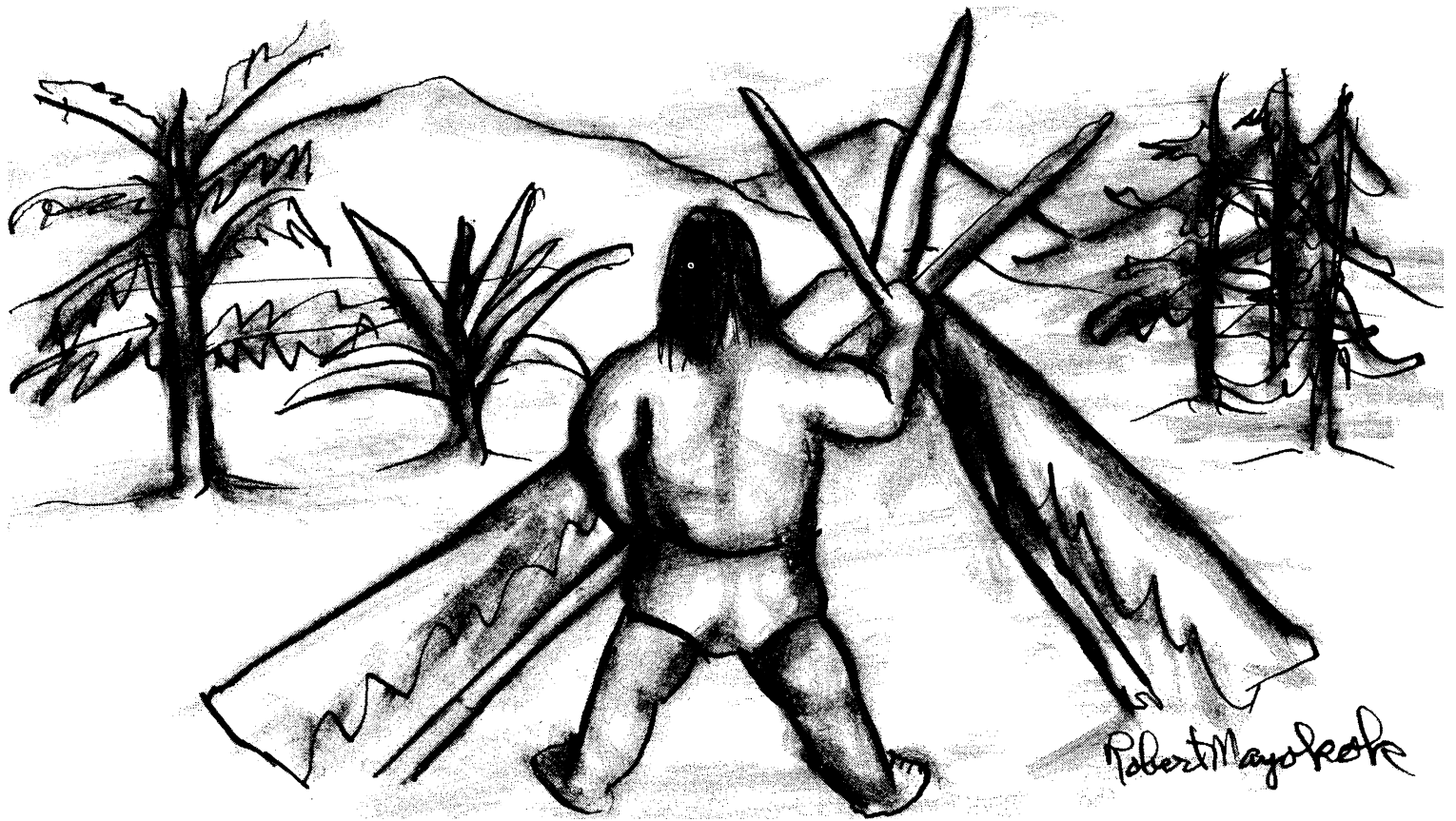
Just about that time the beautiful mountain started to smoke and it erupt so fast that the red hot lava started to flow down the mountain side. The animals all started to panic and run southward. The young man run right along with the animals. The animals not even scared of each other in their panic and fright and every animal tried to escape the erupting mountain and the flowing lava.

Taagken entaqun tawani taana pinighllak naayghaq agepsugh-taaghluni, guusalghiimi sukatepiglluku qamaken legan keneq aanuq, maaquq legan kiigwestun naaygham minglengakun asitmun. Teghi-kusaq alingruughulluni pangalgutuq uqeghhmun. Legan ellngallu nukalpigaq ketanquuq teghikusanun maligulluni. Talwa ellmeggneng teghikusat alikunneghitut qimagnaqem guullghiimeng naayghameng kiigwestun maaqelghiimeng keneghmeng.



Then the young man remembered that the old man had said that he could ride on any of the animals. He jump on a lion, at least it is now believed to be a lion. The lion did not care and ran on and on with the man on its back. When they catch up with the others and are far enough away from the erupting mountain, the lion stopped and the man got off his back. He was so exhausted even though he rode the lion's back all the way.

Nukalpigam taagken neqaataa nanevgam pillgha nagun alngunak teghikusakun qimugsighyaghqaaniluku. Nalugutuq lion-em qaaynganun, maaten whaa piyaguskangat taana uugtekaa lion-nguniluku. Lion-em talwa elpekenghitaa taawa pangalegtuq yuuk qaaymikun u-sikluku. Kaatulluku ilanganun, uyavalghiik taagken guullghiimeng naayghameng, lion-a aghuliighyan yuuk ateghtuq. Piyalghiimi yuuk meghnuumalghii qimugsiingughngaaghmi tumelqusiq lion-em tunutangakun.



The people settled down again in this area and made it their usual habitat.

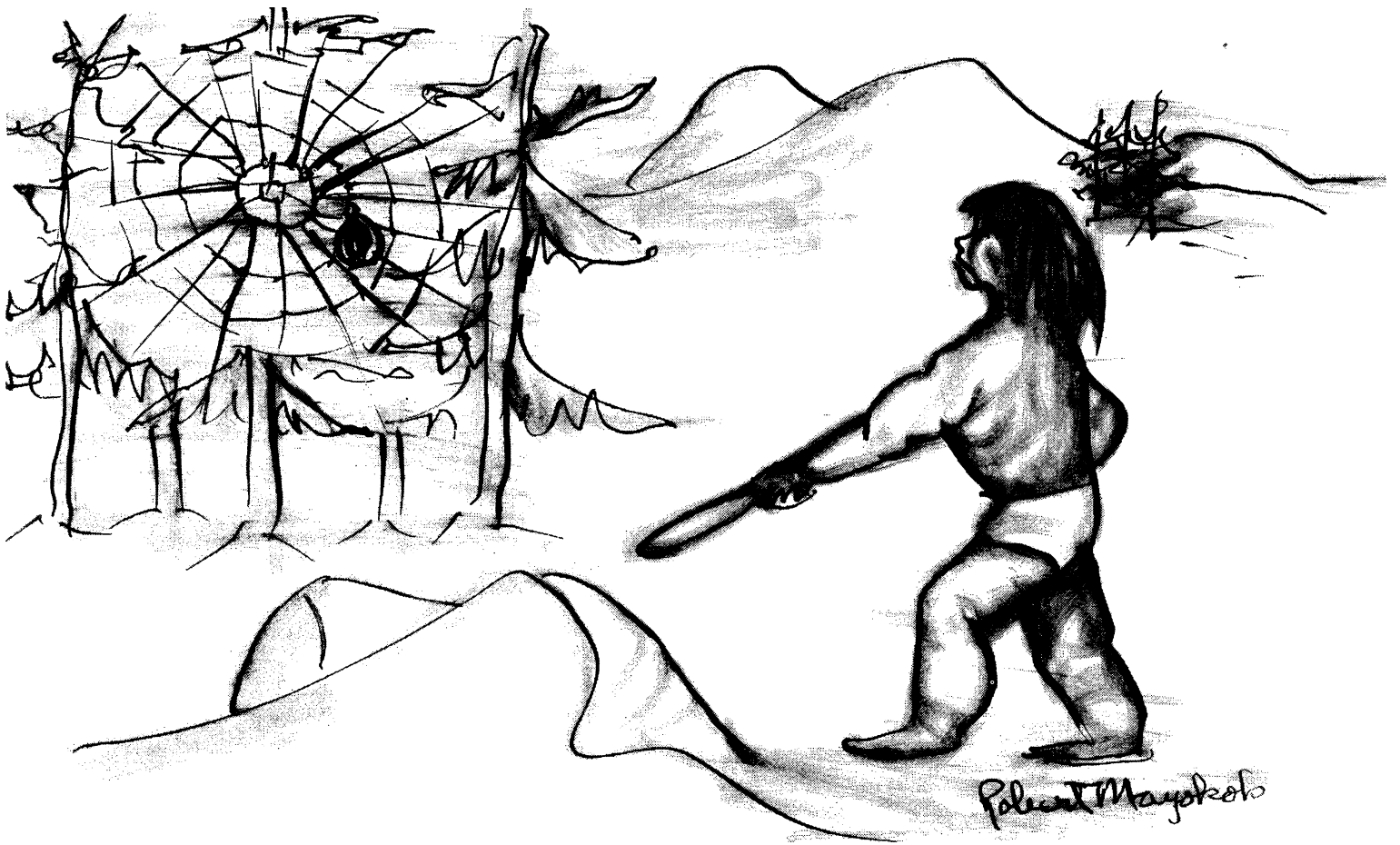
One day the young man went out for a walk and saw numbers of ants making their homes. When he came back from his walk, he got all the people together and told them what he had seen and about his plan to make homes. So then they all started to dig holes in the ground and they used branches over them and even cover them with leaves too.

It was good!

Taakwagun Yupiget nelilaatagtut taakwna kiyaghfilillaataghaat.

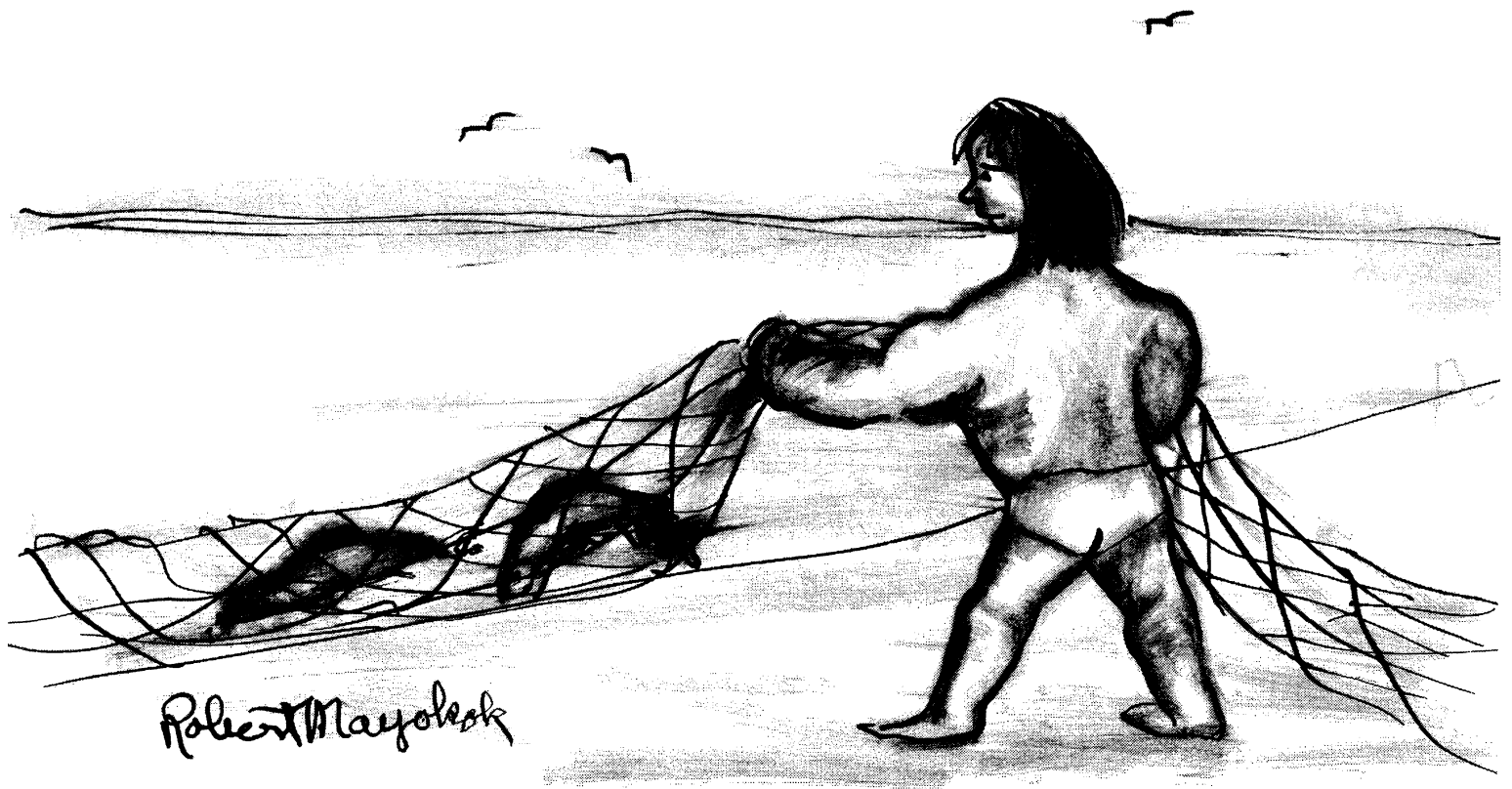
Aghneghmi ataasimeng piyaataaghluni nukalpigaq esghaamakangi ant-et nekaghqangllalghiit. Piyaataaghneng uteghnighluni, yulgutni tamaana qerngughlluku ungipaatii esghaqaminengllu nekaghqamengllu ulimanaqegkemmineng. Taagken elngaatal qamaglluteng tamaana yuuk qamaglluni laaguquutuq nunakun, laakameng qulangi avaya-meng takaghqughvikluki ququngaghmeng qantaghteghiit.

Imaninguq pinightuq!



Again the young man went for a walk and this time he came to a small creek and watch the fish swimming around in it. Beside the creek there was a spider making his net. The young man watched the spider make a net and it even caught a fly in it while he is making it. The man think about the spider and the net and the fish in the creek. That spider give him an idea to catch fish.

Alla tawaten nukalpigaq piyaataaagluni maaten kiiyeghwaaghegnun kaalluni iqallugwet esghapagumakangi tawani. Taawanguq kiiyeghwaaghem saaghwani apayepayiiq negaghpangllaghaqeftuq. Nukalpigam esghapagaa apayepayiiq negaghpangllalghii. Enmis esghapangnaaghmigu naaptuq nguuyngaaghghmeng paninang ulimanguluku. Yugwem sumeghtaghaatkii apayepayiiq negaghpagallu, iqallugwetlu kiiyeghwaaghegnilnguut. Taam apayepayiighem nutaghameng sumeghneghmeng liitestaa naten iqallugtelleghqameng.



Robert Mayohok

After he came home, he picked some vines growing near there and he tie them all together, trying to copy the net the spider made. After several failures he caught one small fish. He worked hard and every time he improve his work he get more fish.

It was good!

**Uteghnighluni neminun, taakwani saghnaluni qantaghani piitquut-
ngalghiimeng vegmeng, petuguquutii aatak elqughaghnaqepiglluku
negaghpak apayepayiighem ulimakaa. Pillgilliqam tagtalngani una-
kenglughtuq ataasimeng amsakaghtaghhaghmeng iqallugmeng. El-
ngaatal qevuulluni qepghaghtuq, pinighataghaghluku pinighsanegh-
minigu taawa uglaghataghaghluki iqallugtaqelghii.**

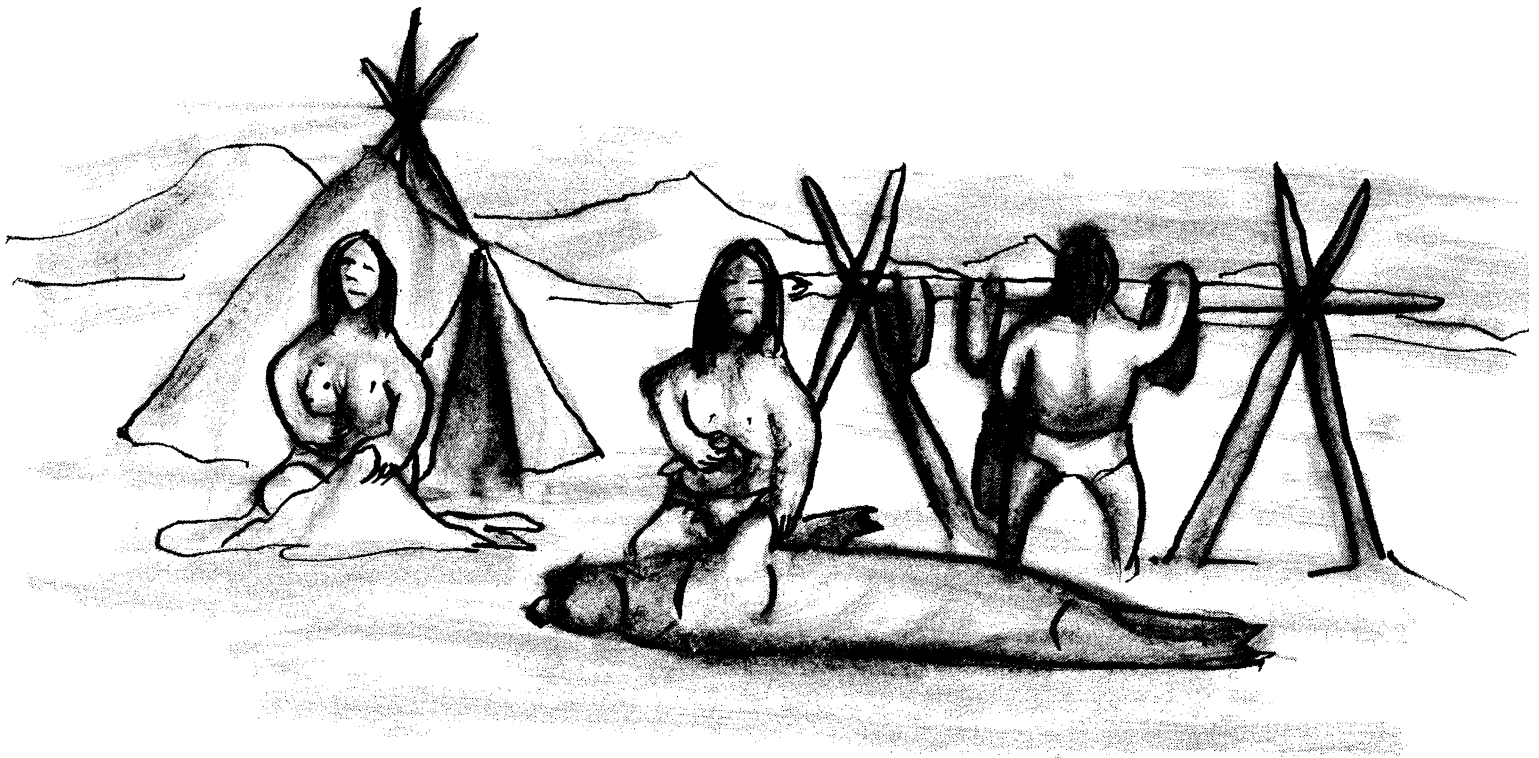
Imaninguq pinightuq!



Robert Maysokok

The man cut notches on the piece of branch he has with him, according to the moons, like the old man told him to do. It was now on the notch which the old man said that the ground would be white. Early the next morning he went out from his new home and find the ground hard and white. He took some of the white in his hand and it melted. That was the beginning of mild winter here in Alaska.

Yugwem taawa taana avayaq nevlighughwaa ellminiInguq tawaten tanqitgun, tawaten nanevgam apeghtullghatun. Tawavek nevlillegmun'nguq Iliighaqeftuq nanevgam pillghani nunam qategghfigkaanun. Unaami unaangupiglluku aanyalghiimi nekengghamineng nuna tangeghtughlluni qatetun. Tamaaken qateghrakegtameng tugunneghmini legan'nguq aga ughugaqut. Taawa taananguq Alaska-mi ukani uksughyugwaallghuftuq.



Robert M. Kayakok

The time between all this and the first disaster is not known as the Eskimos have no written history. Anyway, this first disaster had taken place somewhere around four or five thousand years before the great flood covered the world. This was the time the sun eclipsed behind the moon for three straight days. This is probably the first sign of change in the seasons and the world. It got so cold in the three days while the sun was behind the moon that animals of long ago died of exposure. This cleaned out the entire lot of short-haired animals and most of the hot climate animals died then too.

Aflunga uumllu sivulighpigaamllu naafqiillghem nallukaat qayughllak Yupiget ungiilnguut igakun igaqegkameng. Iwernga entaqun una sivulighpigaq naafqiilleq pikaalghii nalikek estama, tallima thousand ayumiquilleq sivungani nunam. ulevelleghllagan. Una pikaalghii siqineq talughlluni tanqim tunutanganun pingayut aghneghet atughaqngami-ki. Entaqun una sivulighpigaakaq allangughnegha eslamlu, nunamllu. Tawani pingayut aghneghet atullghani siqinghem talughlluni tanqim tunutanganun aqlaghaghqwaakaq repall ayumiim teghikusaa tuqulaghaatkaq nutaan aqlaghaghhutem. Uum repall qamagtekii melqegh-questaallghi teghikusam, allullukillu tuququqii puqlalnguum teghikusii.

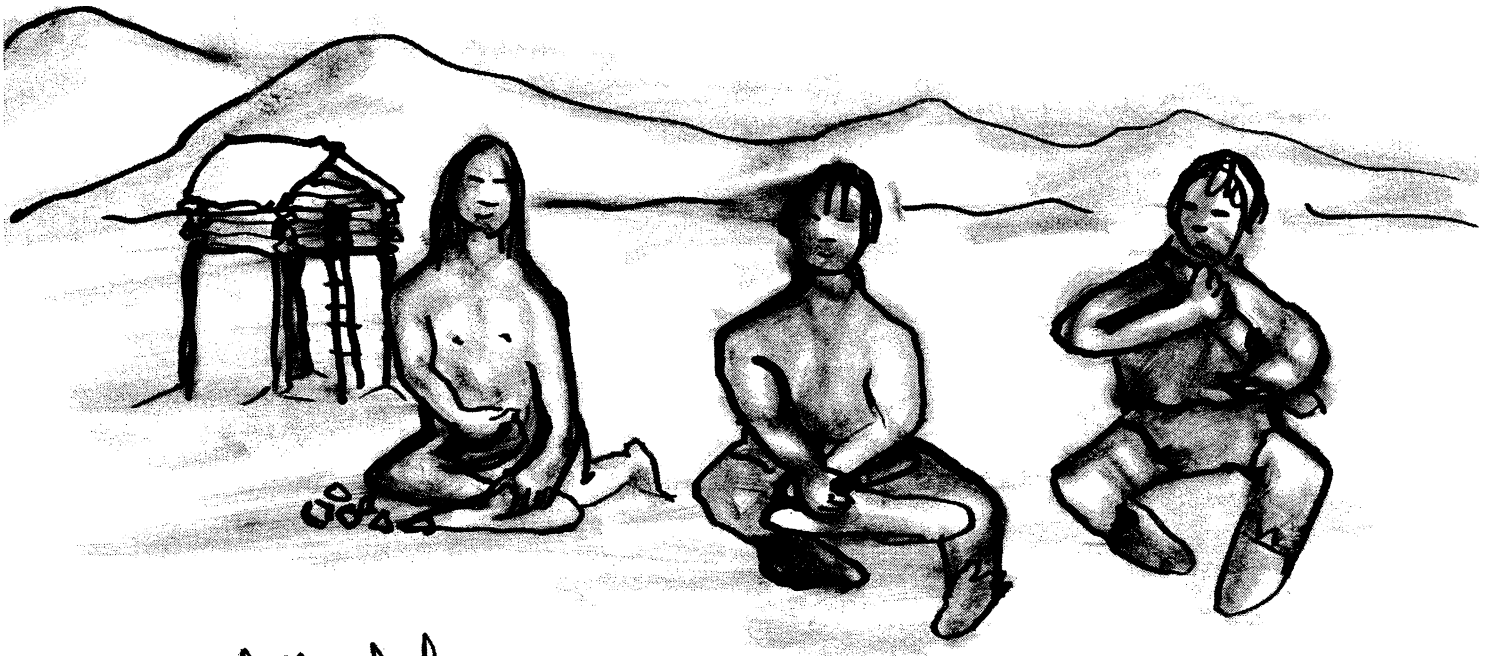


After the eclipse the people found many animals frozen to death all over the country. A lot of the animals had already been dead at the time of the first snow fall. Some man found out how warm the skin is after he skinned one animal and put the skin over his own body. So—many animals were skinned and used to cover their bodies. Later they found it was more comfortable and warmer to tie the skins around their waist and other parts of their body.

It was good!

Tawani siqinghem qaamellghan kingunganeng yugwet naalkegkaat uglaq teghikusaq kumlaaghqelluni tamangani. Uglaq teghikusaq tuqulaghaatkaalghii ima qanigughsuwhaaghaqngan. Saam yugwem naalkegkaa amiiram maqaghtulanga ataasiq teghikusaq aftaluku amii-raa uligutaqngamigu yugusimikun. Uglaq teghikusaq amiiriightuqaat uliguluku yugusimeggnun. Taam kingunganeng naalkegkiit wata pinighataghalghiit amiirat petugteneghmegteki qukamegteggunllu, ilangakunllu yugusimeng.

Imaninguq pinightuq!



Robert Mapplethorpe

It is not known how long a time it was between the eclipse and the flood other than people's learning and solving their difficulties as the world and the seasons change. Little was known about the flood as the survivors must have been very few.

Nallukegkangat naten tagkaan kiyaghtelleghteng siqinghem qaa-mellghaneng ulevelleghmun, iwerngaun neqamikegkaat liitelleghteng, pinighsaghaatalleteng piyaqliilleghmeggneng nunallu, eslallu allangughtaungan. Ulevelleq nallukekaniqangat entaun qayughllak siip-neq palasqughhaakaq.

According to what the Bible tells there was a flood in Noah's days and it is believed that this part of the world maybe had some survivors too. A large raft is being discovered somewhere behind Unalakleet on one of the ranges. This raft is found on top of the hill where it rested on the edge, showing one corner from the edge. It is believed that four families had lived on the raft for some time but nobody really knows this for sure as the Eskimos have no written history.

Bible-et apellghitni nani taakwani Noah kiyaghlluku ulevegkaalghii enkaam sumeghtaghaatkegkaat uuknanganillu nunam siipnelgunayukan. Maaten whaa paga naalkegkangat angyaghllugllak nani Unalakleet-em tunutangani tespagani naayghani. Una angyaghllugllak naalkegkangat qemim qaaynganeng iqugmikun tekilluni ataasiq kangighaa piisluni. Sumeghtaghaatkelluki liigikegkaat estamagneq nengllugutkullghi tawani angyaghllugmi kiyaghtelqinaqat taawanginaq kitung alngunak ipapighqellghilkanga qayughllak Yupiget igaqegkameng ungipamsugwilnguut.

One thing I do know for sure though, is that whatever happened from time to time is really interesting and would be the most interesting history in all four corners of the whole world!

**Ataasiinaq whanga liigikegkaqa, saaghaatalleq tazimken ima nuna-
nilghii, nunanilleghpigaayaghqaq atightuqaaluni nani alngunak nunami
whani!**