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The boy in the moon

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Tshyaa Srii Zhit Dhidii

The Boy In The Moon

Story By

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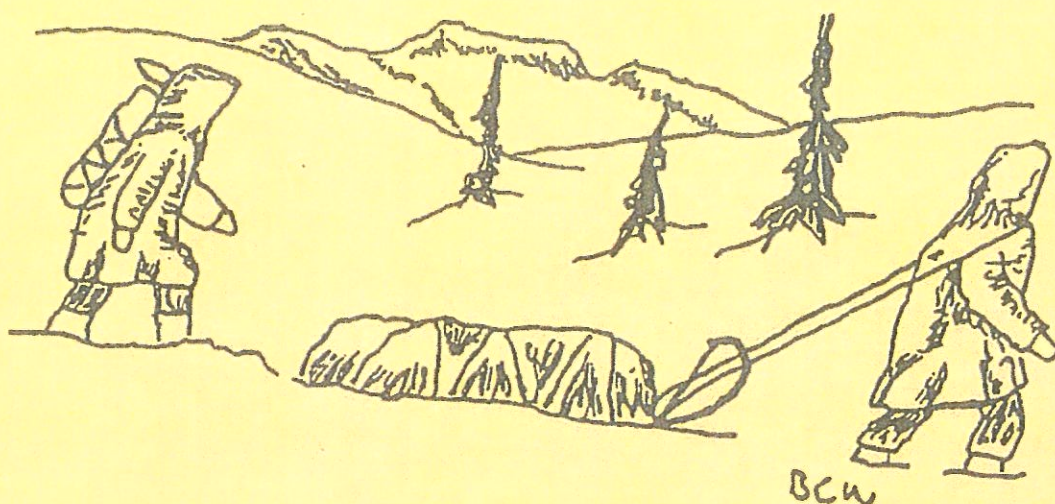
**Effie Blake, Neil Colin, Rosie Firth, Margaret Peterson, Emma Robert,
Ernest Bonnetplume, and Rebecca Francis**

Edited BY

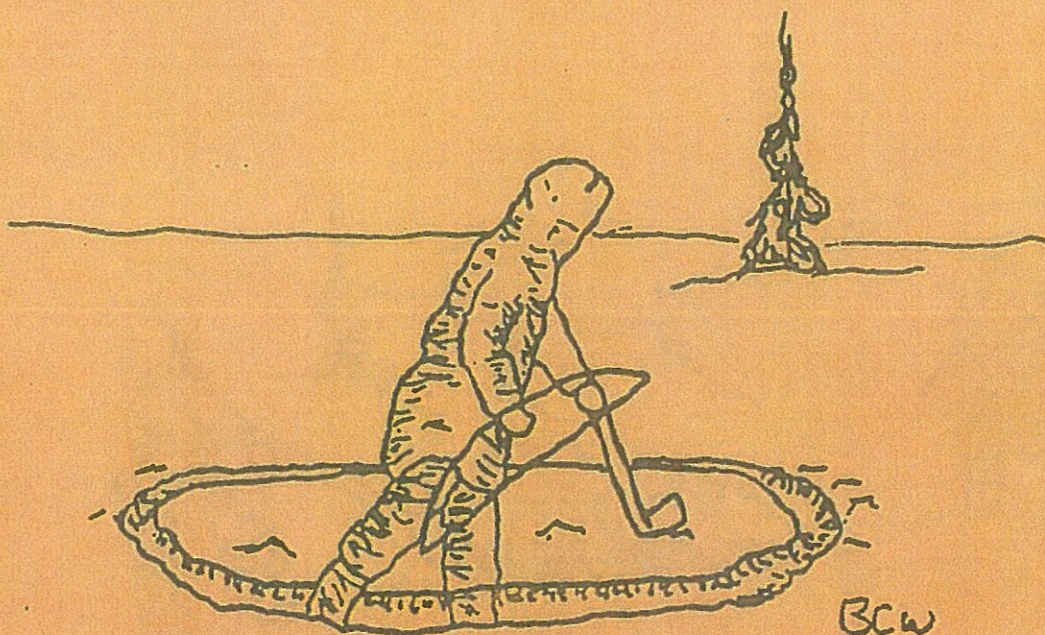
William George Firth & Eleanor Mitchell

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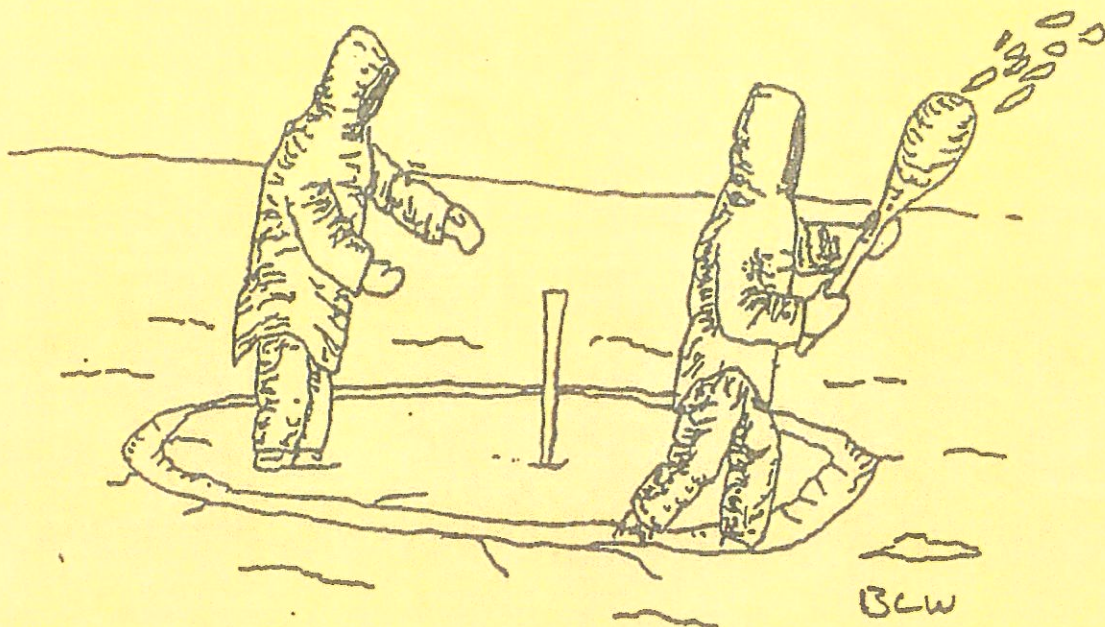
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In the old days, many families traveled together. The dogs they had were only trained for war. The women packed all of their belongings. They pulled the sleds that carried their belongings and packed their babies on their backs when they traveled.



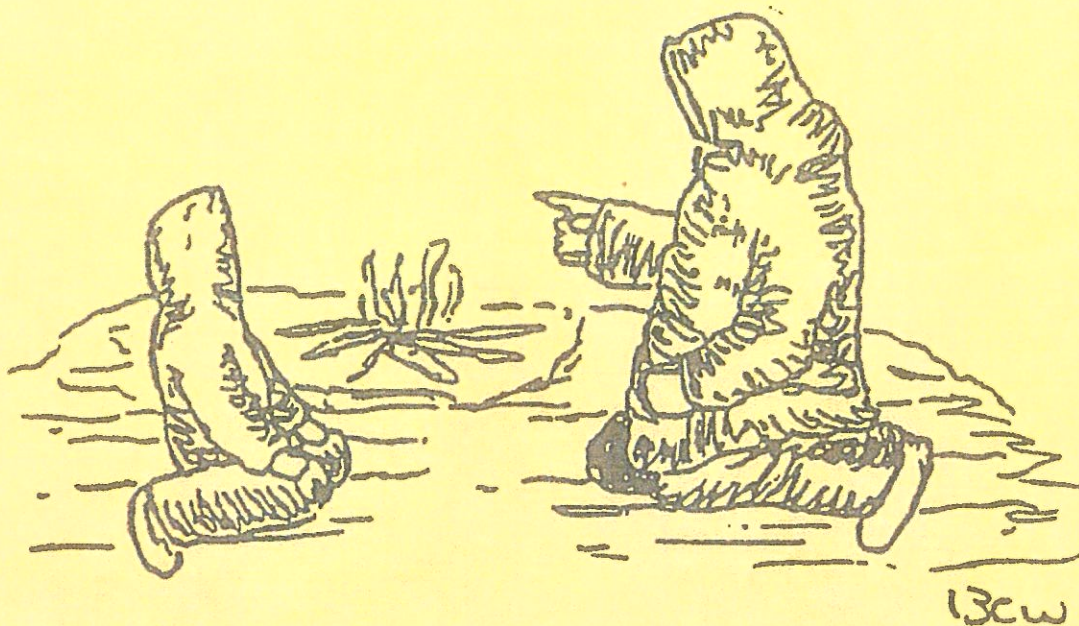
Early in the morning the men would walk ahead of the families with their bows and arrows. The men walked ahead of the families because they didn't want the caribou to be scared off by the sounds of the children and the dogs. The men would mark a good spot to camp by tramping down a circle of snow and he would leave his axe there to mark the spot. This is where the women would set up camp.



The children would run ahead and find the axe, then they would dig the snow right down to the ground and the women would set their tents there. They would then cut brush and put a thick layer of brush around the walls as well as on the floor of the tent. The women would then cut lots of dry wood. It was a lot of hard work, but they enjoyed it.

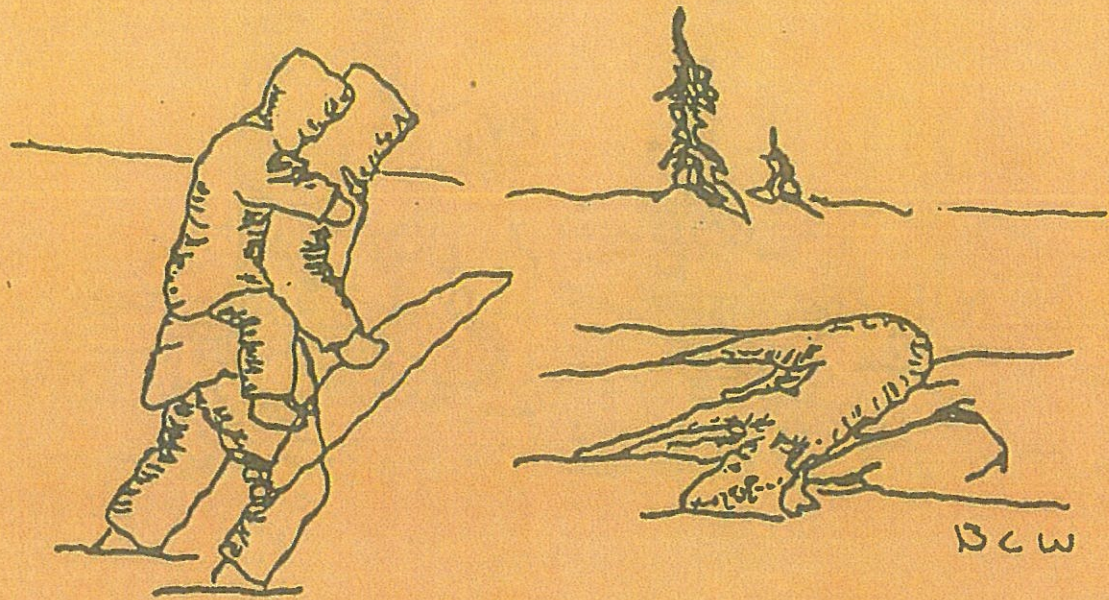


The men traveled on and hunted for a long time, but they didn't see any game what so ever. All the food they had was gone. Some of the people were beginning to starve. There was a married couple who had a little boy, the boy was very small. One morning the boy asked, "mother, is there any food?" She replied, "nothing nothing, go to sleep." The boy went to sleep even though he was still hungry.

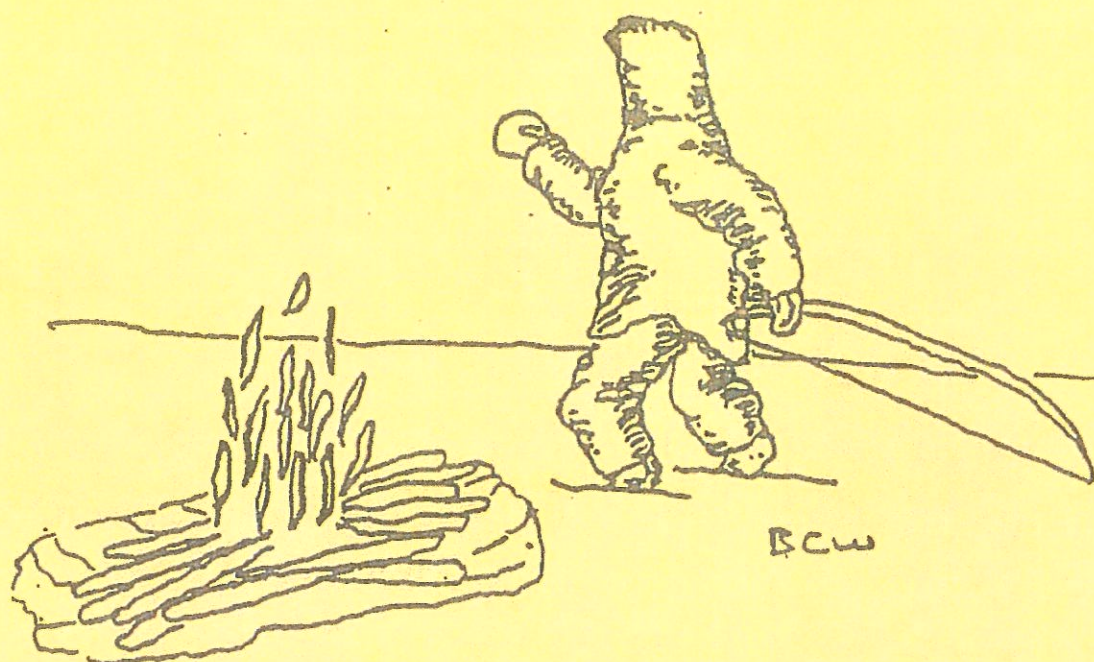


In the morning the little boy's father woke up early and went hunting, but returned with nothing. His son kept him awake all night telling him, "tomorrow you will have a good hunt.

When you kill a caribou, if there is a young male, I would like the marrow from it and a piece of fat from the inside." The boy knew that his father would kill a caribou. The boy's mother said to him, "you're too young to talk that way. Go to sleep."



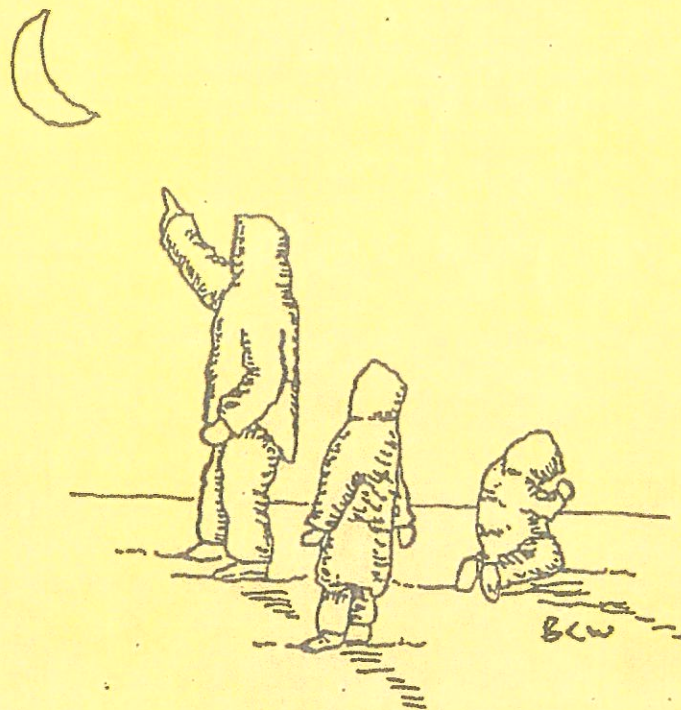
The next morning the men went out hunting. They ran into a heard of caribou and killed them all. The boy was too small to walk to the place where they had killed the caribou, so he asked his father to carry him to there. The boy's father put him on his back and carried him to the place of their hunt. The boy told his father to make a big fire and to gather the hunters.



Meanwhile the boy took his father's bow. The bow was very long and heavy for the small boy. He dragged it around the fire as he sang. Then the boy ran around a caribou and looked at it, then he said, " my father and I will take this caribou. I want the marrow and a piece of fat from it. "



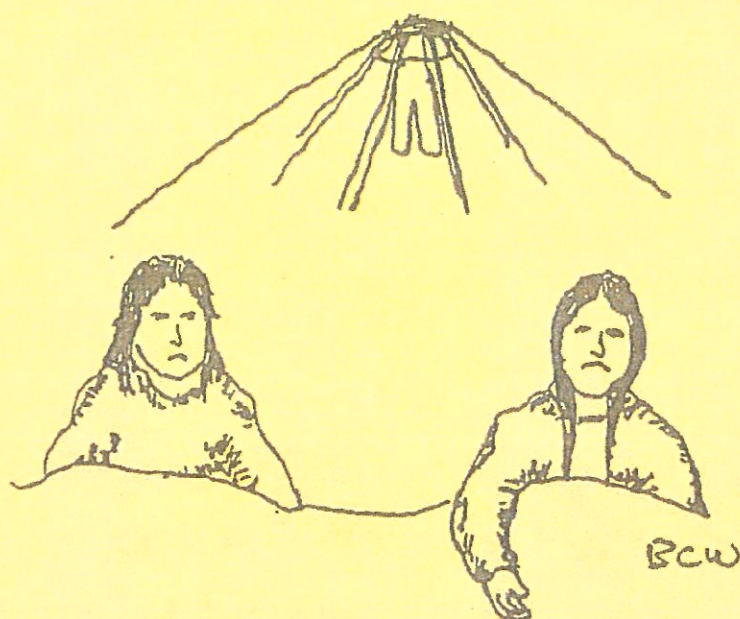
After the men had eaten a little bit of meat, they started walking back home with some of the caribou meat. The little boy's uncle told the boy, "get away from that caribou, that's my caribou." "No!" the boy replied. "It is mine! It was given to me by my father! If you are going to take the caribou, you must give me some marrow and a piece of the inside fat, they belong to me." "Go away, get away!" his uncle shouted. "You're too young to boss me around. Get away! This is my caribou." The little boy cried all the way home. All evening he cried for the marrow and the inside fat.



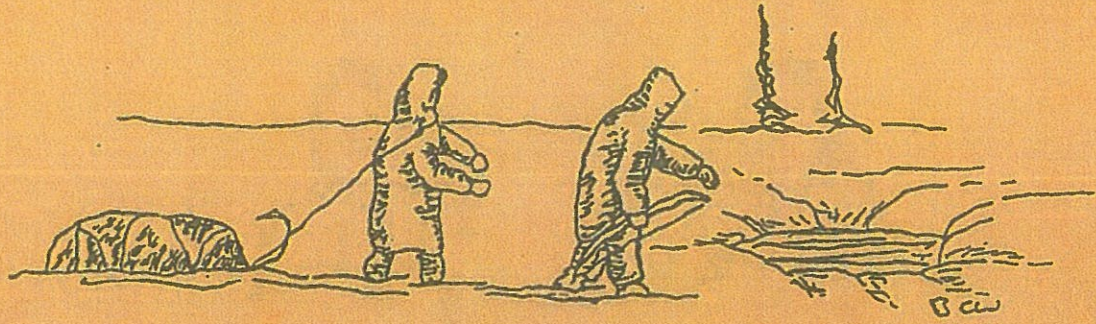
The little boy's uncle came out of his tent and shouted, " I'm tired of listening to him cry! Send him to the moon! " The little boy didn't know what his uncle meant. He asked his father, " father what did uncle mean? " His wise father didn't want to tell him. " Mother, what did uncle mean? " he then asked his mother. His mother didn't want to say anything either, but the boy insisted, so she told him. As soon as she told him he stopped crying.



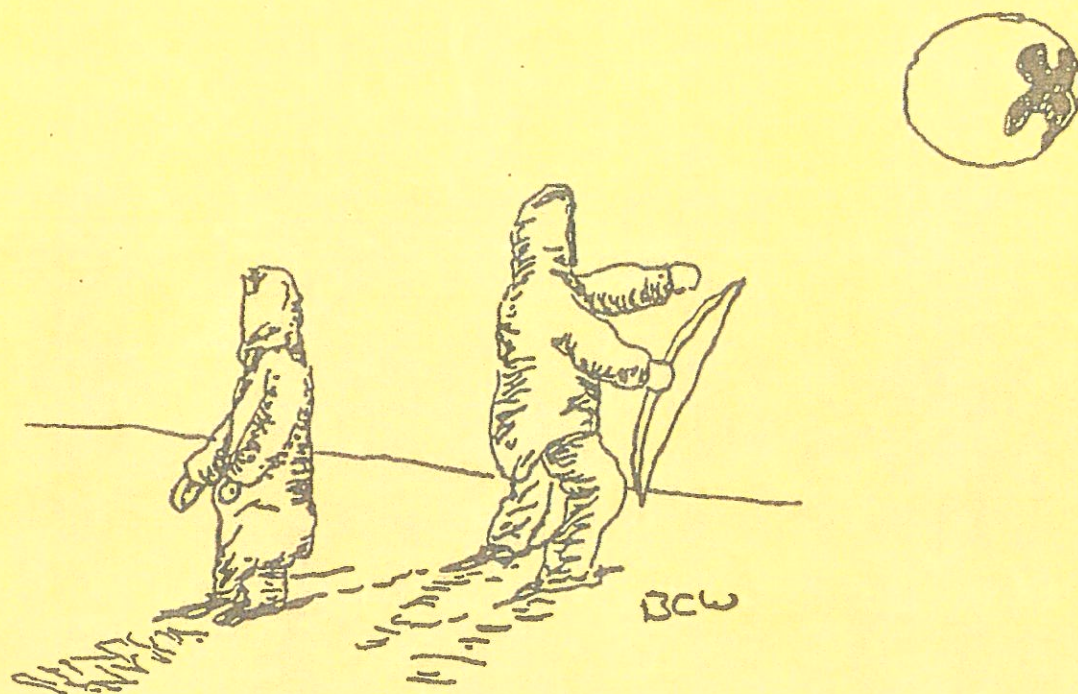
At last his parents had a chance to eat and later fell into a deep sleep. In those days, when children traveled with their families, usually the father's brother would tease the little ones. The little boy's uncle teased the boy because, he wanted to know how he received his magical powers. He didn't think that it was right for such a young boy to act in this manner.



When they awoke, they found that the child was gone. The boy's parents cried. They looked all around the camp, but couldn't find him. The little boy's parents returned to their tent. They looked up toward the smoke hole and saw only one side of the little boy's pants. His mother had made him a pair of pants from one martin skin, that is how small the little boy was. When his parents found the boy's pants, they immediately told the people to continue to look for their son. They didn't want them to know what had happened.



After searching for a long time, everyone prepared to move the camp. They moved to the place where all the caribou had been killed. When they arrived, there was not one caribou left. A few nights before the men had cut up and cached some of the meat for the days following. There was nothing where they had cached the meat. Only snow remained where the meat had been. There was not even animal tracks around the cache area.



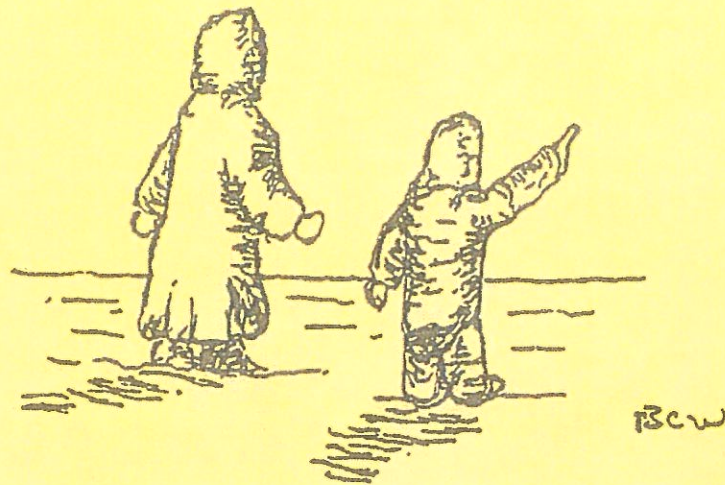
The people continued traveling on. Before this time, the people had never seen anything in the moon. However, this time they saw a shadow in the moon. They didn't know what it was. The people didn't take this sighting of the shadow in the moon very seriously.

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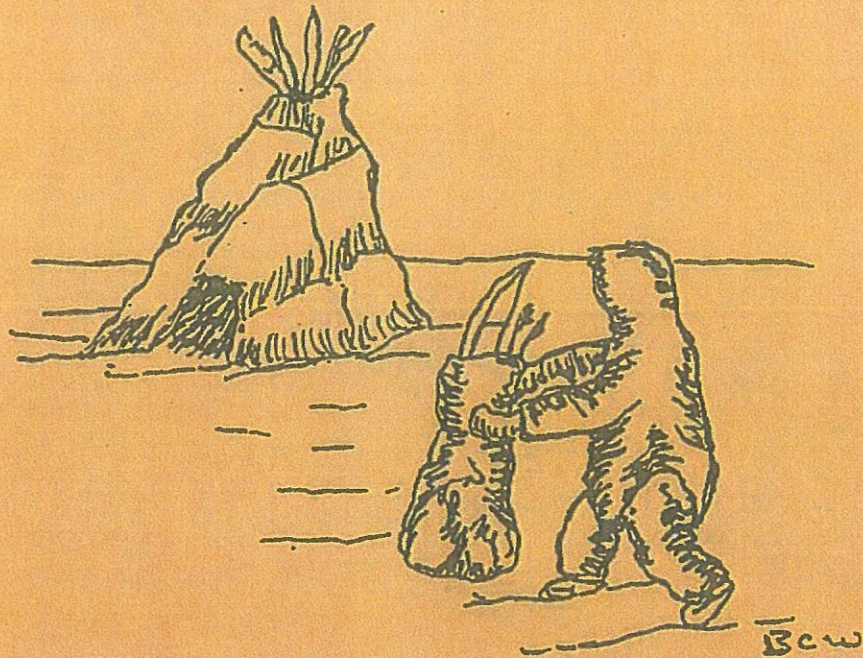


The boy's mother traveled behind all of the other people. She expected her son to return. Suddenly her sled became stuck. She tried to pull it, but it didn't move. She turned around and was startled by a man standing there.

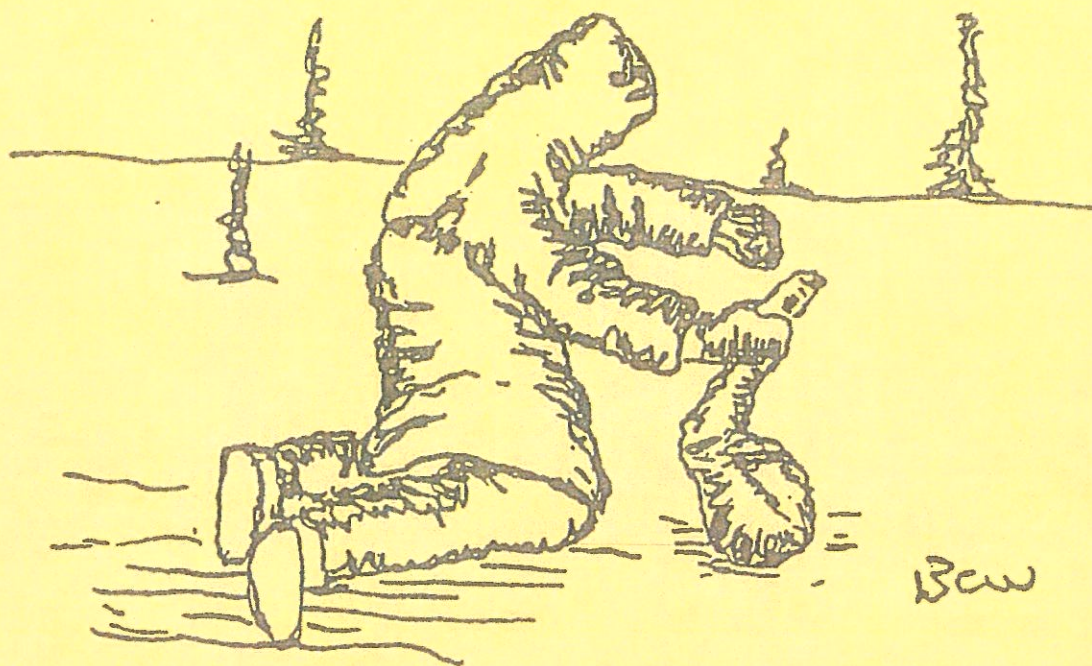
"Mother, ... it is I, your son." She was so happy to see him that she went to hug him, but her son cautioned her. "You must not touch me." Then he asked his mother, "is there any more of the caribou arm that father brought home?" "Yes," his mother replied. "Eat a little bit of it," the boy said. "You and father must keep that for yourselves and a little bit of frozen blood besides."



“Do you see the shadow in the moon? That is me, I will be there forever. Those little dark shadows that you see, are shadows of me holding the frozen blood. Keep the meat for yourselves and always keep it clean. Cut a piece off, wrap it in a clean cloth and keep it in the sled. Don't cry anymore, as long as you live you will see me in the moon. When you look up at the moon, you will see my little dog beside me.” Then he sang a song.



“ When the moon goes dark, that is the time that I have had a bad dream. When the moon goes dark, tell the people to take a piece of meat this big,” (he showed her his fingernail). “ Tell them to put the meat and their bow and arrow in their hunting bag, rattle it and pretend that the meat is heavy. Then go around the camp and sing this song. Then the people will not go hungry. Tell this to the people so they will remember. ”



From that time on neither the boy's mother or father were ever hungry again. When they went to check the caribou arm in the morning, the piece that they had cut from it the night before was back where it had been. They kept the caribou arm hidden. They did not want the people to find out about it.