

Unigkuat Igait – Story Pictures

Alutiiq ancestors painted pictures to help record history and tell stories. Together, paintings and stories created a record of the Alutiiq world. Read the stories below and then create a comic strip for each, to tell the story with your own pictures.

Caqiq una patriitami?! – What is in the picture?!

Qalngaall'raaq How Raven Stole the Light



One couple had a *paniyaaq*—daughter who they loved very much. They didn't let her do anything. Her mother was allowed to go out, but they never let their *paniyaaq* do anything because they were worried about her. But every now and then, she went to fetch *taangaaq*—water even though her parents told her not to. "You have a servant to get *taangaaq* for you," they said.

In their little house, where she lived, her servant ran all of the errands. He did every last thing. But one time, when her parents went out, the young woman took her little bucket to get *taangaaq*. Just as she went to fill it, a *qalngaaq*—raven called out from somewhere. The woman cocked her head to look at the *qalngaaq*, who landed right beside her. Then, she went back to filling her little bucket. But she watched the *qalngaaq* fly around. All of a sudden, the *qalngaaq* turned into a little feather. The feather floated down, right into her water. She took a drink, not realizing she had swallowed the feather, and headed home.

Soon the young woman learned she was pregnant, and she had a baby! Oh my, she loved her child. She really loved him. Her child was the *qalngaaq!* "Qalngaangcuk—Little Raven! Oh, my Qalngaangcuk!" And so, her parents became grandparents. Oh, how they loved their grandson. They were so happy with him.

In the *ciqlluaq*—sod house, *Qalngaaq* started to play. He played with toys using his beak, just playing and playing. While he was playing, he saw something in his grandparents' bedroom. He wanted it. *Qalngaaq* started to cry. "What on earth does he want in there?" asked his *emaa*— grandmother.

"He wants those two *ernerutak*—toys that hold the dawn in there," his mother responded. There were three things in his grandparents' bedroom. *Qalngaaq* came from a village far away. The people in this village had never seen the daylight and *Qalngaaq* didn't like the darkness. *Qalngaaq* was searching for the daylight, so he turned into a feather and had the girl drink him so that she would give birth and take care of him. See, *Qalngaaq* who had been looking for daylight was now that child. He began to play with the *ernerutak*. He rolled them around on the floor.

"Hey, don't let them out of the box!" called his mother.

"I won't!" *Qalngaaq* responded.

But he started to let them out when he rolled them around. He carefully opened each box and let them out. When he was done playing, he put them inside again. He put them down. Every day, *Qalngaaq* spent time trying to figure out how they worked. He wanted to put them into the sky.

One day, he decided it was time to let the daylight out. He checked around to make sure no one was around and carefully opened the boxes. He took them in his beak and flew out with them.

"Ayayaa!" his family yelled at him. "Ayayaa, there he goes. He's flying off with the daylight. What will we do?" *Qalngaaq* took them and he disappeared. Then he reached the villages who hadn't seen daylight and he started to hang the *macaaq*—sun and the *iraluq*—moon up in the sky. And he left them there. The villagers had never seen such bright light.

From *Unigkuat—Kodiak Alutiiq Legends*, 2021, Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak.



Draw the story.

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