

Qallqaayaq Nerellria

The Magpie that Ate a Seal and a Sea Lion

A *qallqaayaq*—magpie was walking on the beach looking for food, just singing:

Uk'um, uk'um piciquaanga, piuqainarciqaanga qaqem, qaqem.

(The one that's approaching me is going to do something to me, it is going to just keep doing that to me, chomp, chomp.)

The *qallqaayaq* was having trouble finding food, eating any little thing it could find. It slowly continued on, still singing.

Uk'um, uk'um piciquaanga, piuqainarciqaanga qaqem, qaqem.

And then all of a sudden, the *qallqaayaq* saw a sea lion! He gasped, and he sang his song once more and decided he was going to eat the sea lion. After he got to the sea lion—chomp, chomp—he looked, and there was nothing left! The *qallqaayaq* had eaten the entire sea lion! He continued on his way and singing:

Uk'um, uk'um piciquaanga, piuqainarciqaanga qaqem, qaqem.

He continued walking far. Then he stumbled upon a seal! "Oh boy!" Chomp, chomp. He ate the whole seal! *Ayaa*, it was too much for him. After he ate the seal, he began slowly walking up to a lake, still singing. He wanted water. He was walking all across the land, here and there, this way and that. He sure was full. The lake finally came into view. When he got to the lake, he started drinking and drinking. He looked, and he drank the entire lake dry! Man, that *qallqaayaq*!

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

Draw the story.

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