

# IMIRQUTAILAKULUK

## NANUAALULLU

uuma titirartangit ajiingualiurlunigillu

*Leah Naug*



E100  
 .F6  
 I44  
 c.1

*Handwritten scribbles and signatures at the bottom right of the page.*

ukua uqalimaakkat amisururtitaujut  
Welfare Division-miukkunnit  
Tiianiikkunnimiungujunittauq (Inulirijikkumiungujunittauq)  
taakkua angajurqaammaringatta ajurnarunniirtillunigit  
uuma Honourable Walter Dinsdale, P.C., M.P.,  
Ottawa-mi, Canada-mi.

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under the authority of  
The Honourable Walter Dinsdale, P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources  
Ottawa, Canada.

1962

nalunarunniirtittijjutit kisumik uqarsimmangaata

ukua uqalimaakkat:

ukua tavva uqalimaagait titirarsimajut titirausirtaasaatitut. taanna titirausiliangulaurtuq inunnut Canada-miittulimaanut titirausirijaujunnartitaulluni. kisianili aarqissurtaulaurluni taima sulit inuit ilinniartitaujariaqarmata qanuq aturunnarmangaat qaujititaunasuarlutik. qaujititaujunnanngimmata taimannatuinnaq kisiani qaujititaugajarmata titirarsimajuqaulirpat unurtunik taanna titirausirtaasaq aturlugu. titirausirtaasaatitut titirarsimajuqauliraluartillugu ukua tavva uqalimaagait isumassarsiurutaummarillutik qaujimaajattinnili titirartaujariurtut titirausirtaasaatut imanna atiqartut Imirqutailakuluk Nanuaalullu.

taakkuninga titirartuq atiqartuq Leah Illauq Mittimatalimmiutaviniq 23-nik arraaguqartuq maanna Tianiikkunni (Inulirijikkunni) pinasualirtuq Ottawa-mi. taakkua Leah Illaup titirattiartaalungit isumainnarminik ammalu taakkua aggainnarminut ajjinngualiangit, asinginnittauq unikkaarsimajunik titirarsimammijuq ukua sulit uqalimaagaliangulaunngitillugit titirartavininginnik ammalu uqalimaagaliangulaarmijut qangatuinnaq. ammaluunniit inuittauq asingit tavvanittauq pinasuartut unikkaarsimajunillu titirarsimajuqaulirmijut ajjigiinngittunik uqausiqarsimajunik ammalu uqalimaaganngurtitaulaarmijut.

inunnik taakkuninga uqalimaartuvinirnik titiraqujigaluartugut taakkua ajjipalunginnik ammalu unikkaarsimajunik unikkaartuanilluunniit inuusirminnilluunniit unikkaarlutik qanuiqattarnivirminnik. titirarussi taakkua titirausirtaasaatut titirarunnangittut titirausituqarmittitut titirarunnartut nassiutilugillu Ottawa-mut uvattinnut ammalu titirausirtaasaatut aarqikkajartavut.

## AVANT-PROPOS

Le conte qui constitue le présent numéro, est écrit en caractères romains dont on veut vulgariser l'emploi dans l'écriture de la langue esquimaude parlée au Canada. Cependant, une fois en possession d'un tel outil, reste la tâche de le rendre accessible à la population esquimaude elle-même. Bien entendu, la chose ne saurait se faire en l'absence d'une certaine littérature qui s'exprime au moyen de la nouvelle méthode. Même s'il existe déjà un certain nombre de pièces écrites en caractères romains, le conte intitulé La petite hirondelle de mer et le gros ours blanc est, à notre connaissance, la première pièce littéraire de création esquimaude à paraître en caractères romains.

L'auteur de ce conte charmant est Mlle Leah Illauq, jeune esquimaude de 23 ans qui est à l'heure actuelle au service du ministère du Nord canadien et des Ressources nationales, à Ottawa. Mlle Illauq a non seulement fait preuve de grand talent en créant ce conte de toute pièce, mais aussi en l'illustrant elle-même de dessins très vivants. Avant même que le présent conte aille sous presse, elle avait déjà écrit d'autres histoires qui seront publiées en temps utile. D'ailleurs, quelques autres Esquimaux du même bureau ont aussi rédigé divers écrits qui paraîtront en temps voulu. Il faut espérer que le conte de Mlle Illauq inspirera plusieurs de ses lecteurs d'ajouter à cette jeune littérature esquimaude publiée en caractères romains. Ceux qui ne possèdent pas encore la nouvelle méthode d'écriture, peuvent pour le moment rédiger en syllabique leurs apports à la nouvelle littérature et les adresser à Ottawa où on les transcrira en caractères romains.

Les lignes qui précèdent sont une version française de l'avant-propos qui paraît en esquimau au tout début.

## INTRODUCTION

The following story is written in the new Roman orthography which was devised to serve as a standard system of writing the Eskimo language spoken in Canada. However, once in possession of such a tool kit, there remains the task of making it available to the Eskimo people themselves. Of course, this cannot be done without first having a certain body of literature expressed in the new system of writing. Though a certain amount of material written in the new orthography already exists, the following tale entitled "The Little Arctic Tern and the Big Polar Bear" is, to our knowledge, the first piece of creative literature to appear in the standard Roman orthography.

The author of this delightful animal story is Miss Leah Illauq, a 23-year old Eskimo girl presently employed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in Ottawa. Miss Illauq has not only revealed considerable talent in the writing of this imaginative tale but also in the vivid illustrations done by her own hand. She had already written other stories even before this one went to press and they will be published in due course. As a matter of fact, a few other Eskimos on the same staff have also produced miscellaneous material that will be published in time. It is hoped that many Eskimos who will be reading Miss Illauq's story will be inspired to add to this nascent Eskimo literature in the standard orthography. Those who do not know the new system of writing can, for the time being, write their contribution to the new literature in syllabics and send it to Ottawa for trans\_literation in the new standard Roman orthography.

The above is the English version of the Eskimo introduction appearing on the previous page.

imirqutailakuluk



nanuaakullu



uuma titirartangit ajjinnuaq iirlunigillu:

Seah Blaug



nanuq upirngaakkut niqissarsiurtuq ungasittuaalumuarluni suli  
nanisilaurani. nunakkut pisukkami taqajuaaluugami urquullunilu  
silattiavaalummat nunamut nurqarluni taqairsirluni. tavvali  
taqairami pisunnialirluni namut aiviginiartaminut isumalirluni  
silattiavaalummat ungasittumut takussauttiarluni nunattiavaaluul-  
lunilu namutuinnaq aivikkuminarluni akuniaaluk qinirluni namunngar-  
niarmangaarminik takulluni qakurtakulummik aputiqanngimmat  
takussauttiarluni upasilluniuk uumajuq qaujigamiuk tirlialirluniuk.  
asuiilaak qanittukuluulirluni nanuaaluk pittiarasulluni kaattuaa-  
luugami takujani nirijumalluniuk tikikkaluarmagu taanna sunauvva  
imirqutailakuluk. tinginngittiarluni nanuaaluup nirijumalirluniuk.  
kappiasuttuujaanngittiarluniluunniit irqummarluni tikimmagu nanuup.

apirilluni nanuaaluk suvit silattiavaaluutillugu sinituinnartutit.  
imirqutailakuluguuq kiulluni nanuaalummut mannimmiguuq ivavuuq.  
timmianguqatiminugguuq ivaviuvattumuarasulluni tikinnaniuguuq suli  
inutuulluni irninnirami qimagianga nalligigamiuk tamaungainnaq  
inutuulluni tavva tamaaniippuq. nanuq uqarilluni summat timmiangul-  
lusi mannisinnik akunit qimassisimajunnangilasi imirqutailakulu-  
guuq uqarluni ilaak mannittinnik nalligusukkatta assuaaluk  
inuuqullugit.







Inuit namutuinnaalak aullagattarmata manniissurjutik niqissaminik  
 upirngaanngullirsaangat manniipput pijsuqumngillugit iwaufainagattartu-  
 gut tukirsaaligullugit upattaumnginittinni nirjutillu manniissuqat-  
 tartutik. tavaligunq nanuasaunp nalligillirjunuk imirqutalalakuk  
 inutuummattang immitut tamasani sunaganngittumi aullarumarani.  
 imirqutalalakuk apirillunittang nanuasaunmut tagairisriarturniarama  
 mannikka tsuasaalugingillugit patrilakkinai. utirsaalinarpunga  
 niqissarsisjartirma. nanuruq uqarluni uqumattuuasalungama iwaun-  
 namngitakka.

qaallarniarakkit pairijunnartaraluakka. iliragijaugama kinatuinna-  
limaamut irsinartunut uumajunut inunnulluunniit. imirqutailakuluk  
uqakkannirluni tingijunnarama qilamikuluk ungasittumut aullarunna-  
rama nani nattirtaqarmangat niqissarnik qinirniarpunga nanisiguma  
utiruma uqautiniarpagit upanniaravigit. tamarmiguuq quviasulirlutik  
ikajurtigiiliramik. asuiilaak **imirqutailakuluk** aullarmat nanuaaluup  
mannikuluk atausikuluummat nalligilirluniuk timmiat manniqasuungum-  
mata tamarmik atausiunngittumik imirqutailakuluk atausirmik manniqar-  
mat nanuaaluk isumalirluni mirquqarama **takijunik** uqumaittuaaluugaluar-  
lunga qaajjaanngitara mirqunnik nirummaakkutiqarluni ivalirnirluniuk.  
unnulluniguuq suli imirqutailakuluk tikilaunngitillugu sunauvva  
mannini puiguramiuk timmianut ilagijautuinnalirnirami quviasuttuaa-  
luulirami mannini allaat puigurtanga inutuujunniirami. tarqiruuq  
nungulluni suli utilaurtinnagu.





tavvaliguuq inunnit uumajursiurtunit takujauulluni nanuq taimannattaug  
upattaulluni silattiavaaluutillugu tirliartaulluni upattaugaluarami  
aulajjanngittiarluni irqummarluni. inunnugguuq kamagijaulirluni  
irsinarsaanngimmalluunniit apirijauulluni suvit. ivavunga. inuuguuq  
irniriik illartuaaluulirlutik. nanuq ivajuq nanuaaluguuq qialirluni  
mannikulunnik nalligusulluni.

qialirmagguuq irniriik illarunniirlutik kappiasuliramik qimassituin-  
narlutik. uqarunnartumik ivajunnartumillunniit mannimik qiasuu-  
millunniit nanurumangillutik taimaittumik takulaursimanginnamik  
inuusiluttaaminni angunasuartimmariaaluugaluarlutik. ungammugguuq  
saallutik irniriik taakkuak aullarialirtillugik. qamutiik irquanni  
nattirtaqarmat usijangannik nanuaaluup kiilluniuk amulluniuk niqigi-  
lirluniuk taakkuaguq inuuk qaujinngittuk kappiasuluarnikumik nattiq  
amujaugaluarmat. inunnugguuq kamagijaulaursimajunniirluni kappiasu-  
liramik. takkuak inulimaanut uqarmatik. tarqiiguuq marruk naallutik  
suli manniup anaananga tikilaurtinnagu. asuiilaak timmiat aullarvis-  
sanga tikilluni sulit nanuaaluk ivatillugu tukiraluarmangaallunniit  
mannik qaujimanngilluni manniqalaursimanginnami.



ukiuluttaaᑕ naallugu ivainnarluni aputiliaaluulirtillugu upirngaan-  
ngurtillugu ivainnarluni. kaattummariaaluulirami saluttuaaluulirami  
niqissamik qinirumalluni piiriarluni qaarpalittijumik tusarluni.



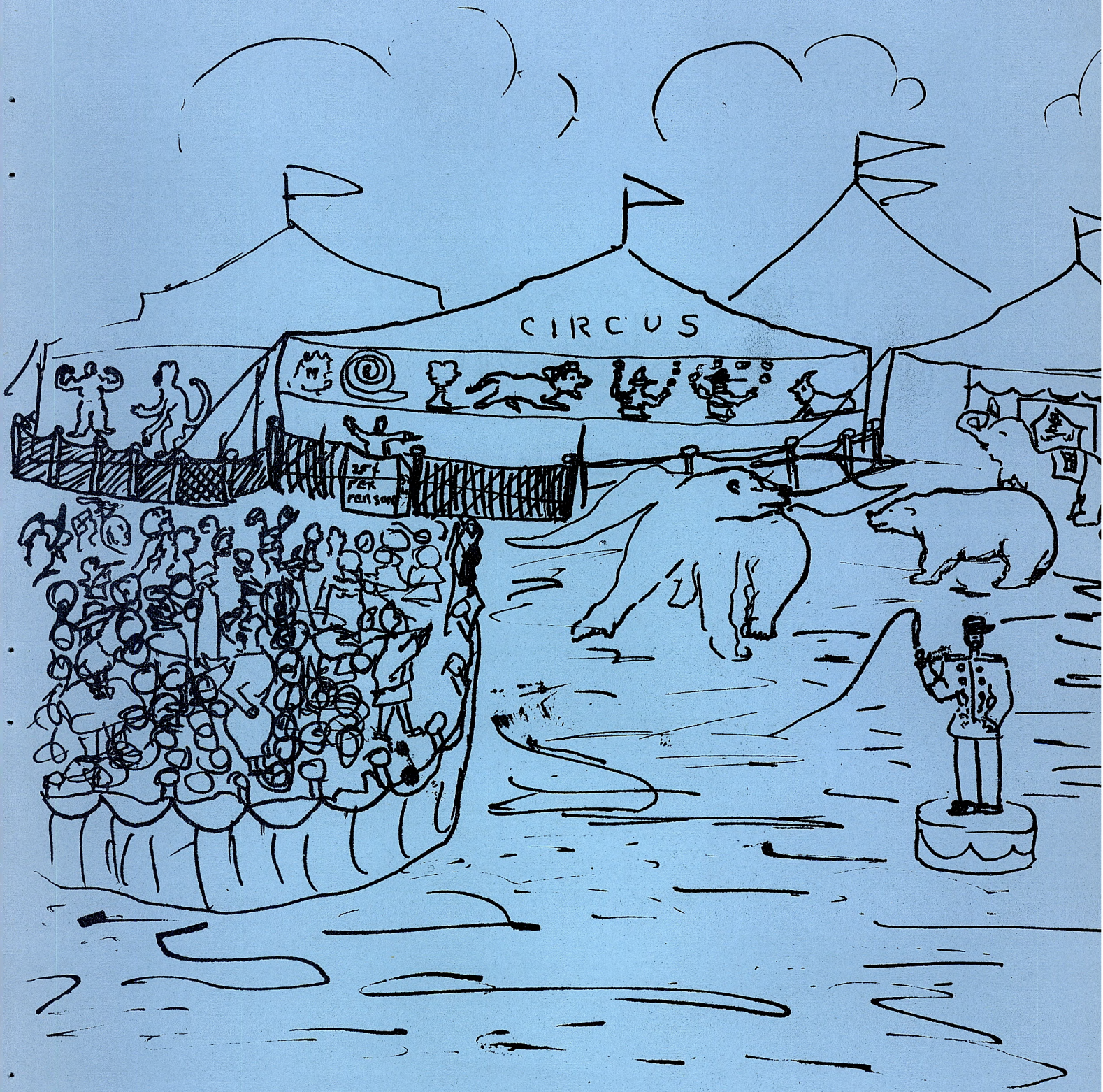
taanna sunauvva mannikuluk qaartuq aittaarusuttuaaluulirluni  
nanuaaluup suragasugilluniuk. anaananga suli tikilaurtinnagu  
angilaurami qimajjaannginnirarluniuk utilaurqaartinnagu. tavva  
takugiaramiuk timmiakuluk sarqilluni niaquinnanga nanurtut nia-  
qulik manniviniup qaapaanga piijasilluniuk isaruqarluni timinga  
niaquaalu nanuulluni. upinnarani nanuaaluup ukiuluttaa aujalut-  
taa upirngaangurtillugu ivannirmagu nanururtuq. quviasuttumma-  
riaaluulirluni nanuaaluk qiturngaqannginnami qiturngaqalirluni  
sivullirpaamik isaruqaraluarluni ilaalli qanuiginngilluniuk  
nalligituinnarluniuk niqissarsiurumalirlutik. manniviniukuluk  
tingijunnarluni nanuullunilu nanurtitut kisiani iliranangillutik.  
anaanangalu timmialimaattianik nalligusulluni qiturngaqarami timmiap  
mannivininganik nanururtukulummik. kisiani nanurnillu timmianillu  
kappiagijauqattarluni pinnguaqatiqarunnarani anaaminik kisiani  
piqatiqattarluni. niqissarsiuliraangami tingisimavalluni  
nattirnik niqiqarpallutik timmianik tuquttilaursimangillutik  
kappiagijauullutik kisiani tuquttiqattanngikkaluartillugik nanurmik  
isaruqartuqalaursimangimmat piqannirtuaaluugaluarlutik. tavvali  
manniviniup anaanatuqangata aullarvissanga ukiivigiqattartaminut  
naammassimmat. taanna timmiarлакuluk aullaqataujumalluni nanuaaluk  
aullarumangilluni inuit nunanganni inuusilimaamini nunaqarami.  
taanna qiturngakulua timmianut ilagijaujussaugaluarnirami aullaqa-  
taujumalluni anaanatuqarmi nunagiqattartanganut ukiunngurtillugu.  
nanuaaluk quviasunngittummariaaluulirluni nalligigamiuk qiturnga-  
rillattaarasugilluniuk. taanna qiturnganga timmiangujuruinnar-  
luni imminik isaruqarami. takujunnaranilu tarrartuutiqannginnamik  
takulaursimanginnami nanurlaummangaarminik qaujimanngilluni.  
tavvali innaaluulirami anaanani nanuaaluk nassarunnarnirarluniuk  
ikimatillugu

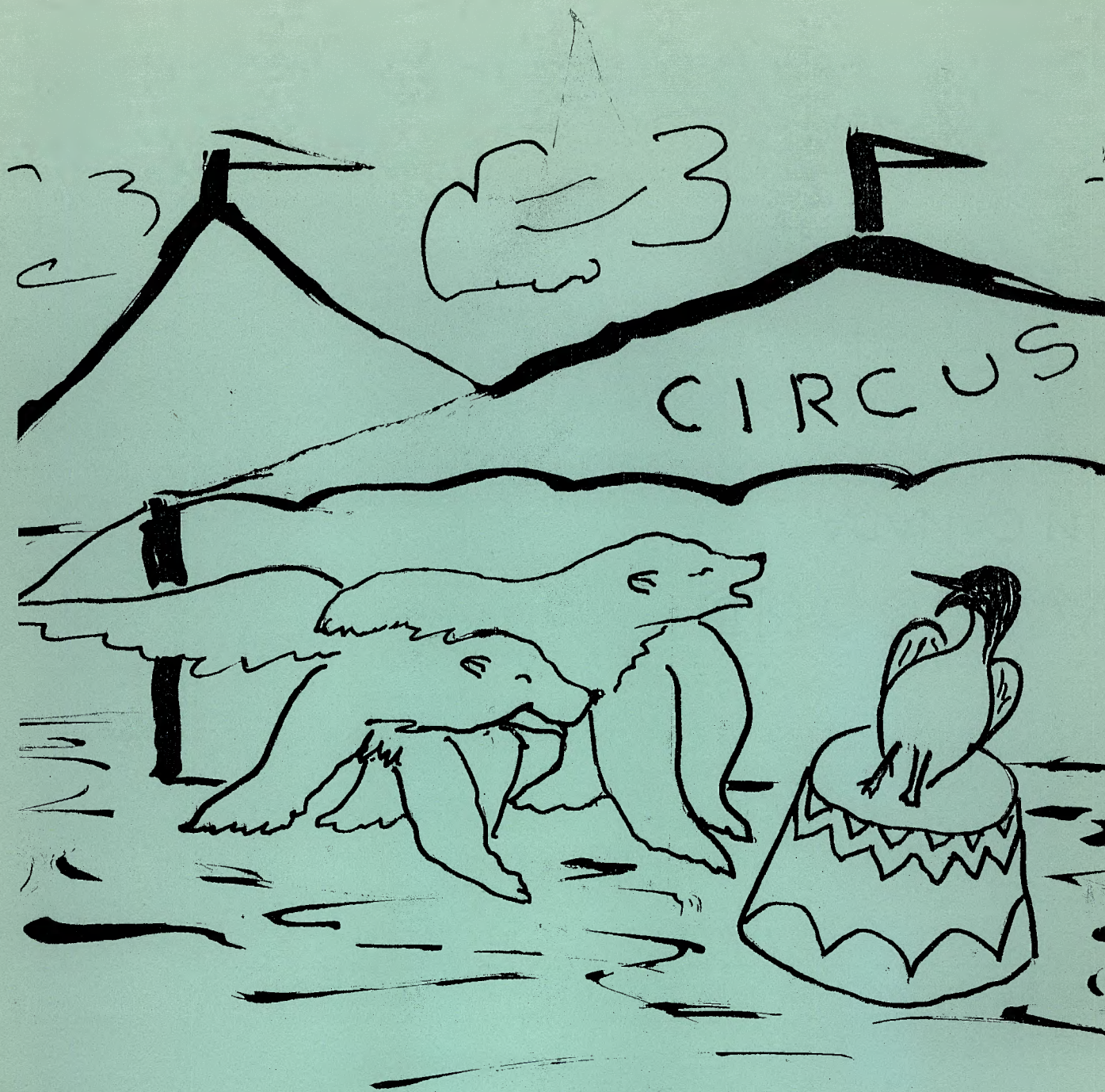
isaruqarami ungasittuaalummut aijunnarami. ukiassaangurtillugu  
ukiunnguluaraalunngitillugu aullarumalluni. asuillaak nanuaaluk  
ilaulirluni qimattajumanginnami suli surusikuluttitut isumagi-  
gamiuk angijuaaluuliraluartillugu.



qallunaat nunangannut tikillutik amisuaalummeta inuit qallunaat  
timmiattu namungariassaq nalulirlutik inuillu nunangannut nauk-  
kuurlutik utiriassaq nalulirlutik qallunaat nunangatta Canada-up  
ungataani. anaananga mannivunikuluup ukiiviqarluni ungasittum-  
mariaalummi. tavvali qallunaanut takujauullutik inuit nanungik  
qallunaat nunanganiittuk uainnaarusulirlutik qiturnganga isaru-  
qarmat. circus-muartaullutik (nirjutinut takujaujarturvimmut)  
takujauqattarniarmatik qallunaanut. nanuaaluk quviasugunniirluni  
tamakkuningalu sunatuinnarnik takulaursimannginnamik amisuaalunnik  
inuusilimaamini. taanna qiturngakulua quviasuttummariaaluulluni  
pinnguaqatiqaqattarnialirami. tavvali nunanut nanituinnaartunut  
aiqatauqattarlutik qallunaanut. ukiungulirtillugu imirqutailaku-  
luup ukiivigivattanganut tikillutik taanna mannivunikuluk qauji-  
manngilluni imirqutailakuluup nunagijariassanganik tavvunngalaursi-  
mannginnami qaujimanngikkilluni nanuaaluk timmiat ukiivigivattanga-  
nuulaursimannginnami. taanna imirqutailakuluk sinivvissamik  
qinirasulluni circus-nik takugami upallunigit. taanna nanuaaluk  
ilisarilluniuk qiturngalijartuq isaruqartumik imirqutailakuluttitut  
irqailluni manningani pairilaurtuq mamiattuaaluuliraluarluni  
imirqutailakuluk. silainnami mannivunikuluni nanuuliraluartillugu  
isaruqarmat pijumalirluniuk qujalillunilu nanuaaluup kamagittiarmagu  
tavvali uqartummariaaluulirlutik nanuaaluup piqujunniirluniuk  
assuaaluk nalligiliramiuk. taannalu mannivunikuluk qaujimanngilluni-  
uk anaanallarini imirqutailakuluummangaat ilisarinngilluniuk tavvali  
anaanagaluani.







taakkuak asianut nunaup aullariaqarmatik aullarvissanga naammas-  
simmat qallunaanut tigujaullutik illussanganuartauullutik. taanna  
imirqutailakuluk pijaunngilluni. aullarlutik quviasuttummariaa-  
luulirlutik taimanngalimaaq kamagijautialirlutik inngiqattalirlu-  
tillu.

circus

&# qannikkannilangajuq sulisuli  
qannikkannilangajuq sulisuli  
qanurli qaujimavita qannikkannilangajuq  
ilaak sivurngani qanniujainnaqattarmat.



Kaima  
isulippu

Two English translations of Miss Illauq's Eskimo story entitled Imirqutailakuluk Namuaalullu, "The Little Arctic Tern and the Big Polar Bear" are being offered here, one by Mrs. Minnie Moore, a young Eskimo woman, and the other by Mr. E. A. Spalding, a white man who learned the Eskimo language during his many years among the Eskimo people.

The differences in the two versions are minor. Both are presented here together for purposes of contrast. Only the major errors of English were corrected in Mrs. Moore's translation. An attempt was made to keep modifications of her particular English interpretation to a minimum.

## THE LITTLE ARCTIC TERN AND THE BIG POLAR BEAR

Written by Leah Illauq  
Translated by A.E. Spalding

A polar bear was hunting for food in the spring and had gone a very long way without finding any. Walking along, she got tired and hot as it was really fine weather, so she stopped for a rest. After her rest, she was starting off again and still wondering where to go. The weather was clear and the land all about was so inviting that she still wandered a long time trying to find her way.

She finally saw something white and because there was no snow she went up closer. When she saw that it was an animal of some sort she began to creep up on it. She was really close to it now and so she became careful as she was hungry and she wanted to eat it. When she reached it at last she discovered it was a little Arctic tern.

The tern didn't try to fly and didn't even seem to be afraid, even though she woke up when the polar bear reached her. And the bear asked her: "Why are you just sleeping when the weather is so nice?" And she answered her that she was sitting on her egg. She had been trying to go to her neighbours at the old nesting grounds but she had her egg all alone before she got there, and as she loved it she didn't want to leave it and just stayed there.

The bear then asked her: "Why is it you birds can't leave your eggs for so long?". And the tern answered: "Well, we love our eggs because we want them to hatch. The Eskimos are always travelling all over the place hunting eggs for food when spring comes, and we sit on our eggs all the time so they won't get taken and so that they'll hatch quickly before anyone comes because the animals also hunt for eggs".

So the big bear, seeing she was all alone like herself in a place where there was nothing and unable to get away, took pity on the little tern. So the little tern said to the big bear: "I want to go and take a rest so would you please take the worry off my mind and look after my egg for I'll come back as soon as I've found some food". Then the big bear answered the little tern: "How can I sit on your egg? I'm much too heavy. I could look after it but I'm likely to go and break it. Everybody, all the wild animals and even men are afraid of me".

So the little tern replied: "Oh never mind! I can fly and so I can go a long way in a short time. I'll go and look for a place where there's seals and when I find them I'll come back and tell you so you can go after them". They jumped for joy because they were going to help each other.

So the little tern left and the big bear felt her heart jump when she saw the little egg all alone because birds generally have more than one. She was wondering about the little egg and said: "I have long hair and I'm very heavy so I won't break it because I'll use my hair to cushion it". And that's the way she looked after it.

When night came, the little tern still hadn't come back because apparently she'd forgotten about her egg having met up with some other birds and in her happiness to be with other birds she forgot all about it. She didn't even come back by the end of the month.

So the bear was seen by some Eskimo hunters and approached by them as the weather was very good. They crept up on her but when she woke up she didn't move at all. She surprised the Eskimos because she wasn't even wild. When they asked her what she was doing she replied that she was hatching an egg, and that made the Eskimo father and son laugh very much. But the bear just cried because she loved her egg.

When the bear began to cry, the father and son stopped laughing because they were afraid and just ran away from her. They had never seen a bear that could cry before, nor one that could talk or hatch eggs, and, although they were real hunters, they didn't want to kill a bear like that. They turned away then to leave.

They were carrying a seal on the back of their sled and the bear kept biting and pulling at it gradually eating it. The two Eskimo men didn't even notice that the seal was being pulled because they were so afraid. They told the other Eskimos that they didn't bother with it anymore because they were so afraid.

Two months passed and still the mother of the egg didn't return. Finally it was time for the birds to fly south again and the bear still nursed the egg not knowing whether it had hatched or not because she had never had an egg before.

The whole winter passed with snow all over the ground and still she nursed the egg. Then the spring. She was getting terribly hungry and very thin and she wanted to search for some food. When she was about to get up she heard the sound of a cracking shell.

The shell had broken but the bear was feeling sorry because she thought she had broken it. The mother had not returned but the bear had given her word not to leave the egg before she did.

What she saw when she looked was a little bird breaking out of the shell with the head of a bear. It had wings but the head of a bear. No wonder! The big bear had been nursing it all winter and all summer and it had become a bear. She was very happy because she had no children and now she had her first one. She didn't mind it even though it had wings, but just loved it. They then wanted to go hunting for food. The newly-hatched could fly and was a bear and there was no shame or embarrassment between it and its mother. She loved all the birds because she had a child that came from an egg that had turned into a bear. The only thing was that both the birds and the bears were afraid of it and so it had no one to play with, only its mother.

Whenever he went hunting, he would fly there and so they generally had seals for food. He had never killed birds before but even though he hadn't, the birds were still afraid of him because there had never been a bear with wings before. They were friendly though.

But now it came around to the time when the little tern, the mother of the bear-bird, had to fly south to her wintering place. The bear-bird wanted to fly south with them but the big polar bear didn't want to because he had lived all his life in the land of the Eskimos. It seems that the bear-bird should really go along with the other birds because he wanted to go with his bird-mother to where she generally lived during the winter.

The polar bear was very unhappy because she loved him and thought he was her very own child. But the bear-bird thought himself only a bird because he had wings. He had never seen himself either because he didn't have a mirror so he didn't realize he was a bear. So as he was big now he said he could carry his mother, the big polar bear, with him on his back for a long distance. He wanted to leave in the fall or at least before winter had really set in. So the big polar bear went along because she didn't want to be left behind. She still thought about him as though he was just a little child even though he was now full grown.

When they got down to the white man's land, there were so many white people and birds that they weren't sure which way they were going, which was the way back to the Eskimo country, or which the way to the land beyond Canada for the little tern's wintering place was very far away.

The white men were surprised to see polar bears from the Eskimo country in their land and especially the polar bear with wings. They were taken to the circus so they could be seen by the white men. The big polar bear was no longer happy because of this and because he was seeing so many things he had never seen before in his life. But the bear-bird was very happy because he was going to have so many playmates.

So they went from place to place in the white man's country. When winter came, they reached the little tern's wintering place. The little bear-bird didn't know the little tern's land because he'd never gone down there before and neither did the big bear know because he had also never come to the birds' wintering place before.

The little tern was hunting for a place to sleep when she saw the circus and went up to it. She then recognized the big polar bear who had a child with wings like a little tern. Then she remembered the egg she had looked after and she became very annoyed with herself. Because she was thoughtless, she wanted the bear-bird even though it was a bear, and she was happy that the big polar bear had looked after it so well. They then talked together about it and the big polar bear asked her to give up the bear-bird because she loved it so. The little bear-bird didn't know his real mother or that she was a tern and so he didn't recognize her.

When it was time for the big polar bear and her child to go to another place, they were taken by some white men and put in their place in the circus but the little tern was left alone. They were very happy to leave and ever since then they have been well looked after and they sing all the time.

Little Song

It's going to snow again, again, again,  
It's going to snow again, again, again,  
How do we know it's going to snow again?  
Well because it always did nothing but snow before.

THE END

NOTE: The above translation was made by a white man who has spent many years working among the Canadian Eskimos.



## THE LITTLE ARCTIC TERN AND THE BIG POLAR BEAR

Written by Leah Illauq

Translated by Mrs. Minnie Moore (nee Audla)

It was during spring time when a big polar bear was looking for food. She had been walking for long ways and yet had not found anything. As she was walking on land she felt very tired and warm. It was very fine day, she decided to rest on the ground. When she felt rested, she started to walk again and wondering where to go. She could see miles away and it was very nice land, the kind of land anybody would want to go to. She had been walking for long time and still did not know where to go. Then, she saw something white. She knew it was not snow as there was none. She knew it was some kind of animal and decided to go to it very silently. The big polar bear was now very careful as she was very hungry, she could only think of eating it, but as she got near she realized it was a "little Arctic tern". Why? - she does not fly away and did not even look afraid even though she was so wide awake. The big polar bear wanted so much to eat her.

The big polar bear finally asked: "Why, on such a nice day are you just sleeping?".

The tern answered, "I am nesting my egg. I was with my bird mates when we were going where we usually lay eggs. I didn't get there in time and so I had my egg alone and didn't want to leave as I love it and that's how I happen to be alone here".

The bear asked, "Why are you animals that can fly never leave your eggs alone?".

The tern replied, "Because we dearly love what is alive in our eggs. Also because people go all over the place looking for eggs to eat, we nest our eggs every spring but we don't want them to be taken away. We want them to hatch quickly and because animals also look for eggs".

The polar bear felt very sorry for the tern who was alone like her and where there was nothing and could not even go anywhere.

The tern asked the bear, "Would you mind my egg while I go rest without worry? I will be right back as soon as I find food".

The bear told the tern, "I cannot nest as I am too heavy and I am afraid to break it but I can mind it for everybody is afraid of me, all animals are, even people".

The tern said, "My ability of flying won't take me long to go far in short time. I'll look for seals for us to eat. When I find any I will come back and tell you where and you can go and get them".

They both were very happy over their being able to help each other and so when the little tern had gone the big polar bear felt very sorry for the one little helpless egg. It is well known other birds have usually more than one egg, but the little tern has only one.

The big bear thought to herself, "I have long fur. Even though I am heavy I won't break the egg if I just use my fur to nest it and it will be just as warm".

Night had come and the little tern had not arrived. She had forgotten her egg, all this time she had been with her bird mates and was feeling very happy not being alone and made her forget about her egg. A month had passed and she had not returned.

And then the bear was seen by hunters. They had come to him very silently as it was very nice day. She too did not move even though she was so wide awake.

The hunters were bothering her but as she didn't even scare them they asked her, "What are you doing?".

"I am nesting".

The hunter and his son started to laugh, "The bear is nesting".

And the bear began to cry because she was sorry for the egg. Well! when the bear began to cry the man and his son stopped laughing and left as they were too astounded. They are good hunters but all their lives they never saw a bear who can talk, nest an egg, and even cry; they didn't want her. The hunter and his son turned homewards and started off. On the rear of the sled a seal was tied to it, the bear bit it and managed to pull it off and ate it. The hunters didn't even notice -- they were still so astonished. They told all the other Eskimos about the bear and they didn't have anything more to do with her.

Two months past and the egg's mother had not returned. And so the time had come for the birds to go and the bear was still nesting and she didn't even know when it was going to hatch as she never had an egg before. She nested it all winter and following spring. She was very hungry and looked very thin. She decided to go look for seal and as she started to get up she heard something crack! Of course it was the egg who was hatching. At the same time it was yawning. The big bear only thought it broke, its mother had not arrived and she had said that she never left her eggs alone. The bear was staring at the bird. When it appeared she was expecting to see a full bird but it had a bear's head and it was shaking off the broken shells and it had wings and body like bear. It was no wonder, the bear nested all year round. The bear felt very happy as she never had children, and this was her first one. It has wings but that did not shame her, she just felt like loving it. And then they planned to look for food.

What was an egg before was able to fly and also look like a bear, but he was not mean. The big bear, who was his mother now, now loved all birds because her child was a bird, but looked like a bear. Only bears and birds felt strange to him. And they didn't want to play with him, so his mother and him were always together.

Whenever he hunted for food he would fly. They ate seals and did not kill birds, but even though he did not kill birds they were afraid of him as there was no such a thing as a bear with wings, yet they wanted to be friendly.

It was time again for his former mother to go away for the winter. The pathetic bird wanted to go too but the big bear did not want to. She has lived all her life in Eskimo land. Her child had some idea he too belonged among the birds and wanted to go where they go for winter. The big bear felt very unhappy. She loved him so much, like he was her own. And her child only thought he was just a bird as he had wings. He cannot see himself because they had no mirror. He does not even know he's partly bear.

He was now very big, he told the big bear he could carry her. He has wings and he can go very far. He wanted to leave before winter came. And so the big bear went because she did not want to be left behind and because she still felt he was a child even though he has grown.

They arrived to white man's land. They were so many people and they didn't know where the birds go, and even would lose their way if they go back to Eskimo land. They were on white man's land away beyond Canada. His former mother had such long way to go for winters.

And then they were seen by white people. People were amazed to see Eskimo bear in white man's land and were so fascinated with the one with wings. They were put in circus so white people can see them. The big bear was so confused, she had never seen so many things and never seen so many people in all her life. Her child felt very happy as he will have playmates. And so they travelled from one place to another.

It was during winter when they arrived where the little mother tern usually went. The former egg did not know his little mother tern's land. He had never been there, and the big bear did not know either. It was just then the little mother tern was looking for place to sleep. He noticed a circus and went to it. The tern recognized the big bear on account of her child who had wings like her. She remembered the bear was to mind her egg. She was so sorry! Her former egg was actually a little bit a bear. She wanted him back very bad because he had wings and yet she was happy because the big bear minded it very well. But they had big argument. The big bear did not

want to let him go. She loved him so much now. And what was an egg before, did not know if the little tern was his mother or not, he didn't even know her, and so his real mother went away.

And now, time to go again to another place, in white man's land. They were both taken and put in their house. But the little mother tern was not taken. They were travelling again and both were very happy. They were both well taken care of and both were singing away:

"Again, again, it's going to snow,  
Again, again, it's going to snow,  
How do we know it's going to snow?  
Because it always snowed before."

THE END

NOTE: Only the major errors of English were corrected in the above translation by an Eskimo woman. An attempt was made to avoid modifying the translator's particular view of this story to a minimum.

