

Inuit Story: The Crow Who Brought Daylight

Long ago when the earth was first born, the Inuit people from the north lived in darkness. They did not mind because they thought everyone lived in darkness. But one day, an old crow let something slip. He had flown all around the world and had seen daylight many times on his travels. When the Inuit people heard about daylight, they wanted it too.

“Think about all of the things we could do if we had daylight,” the people said. “We could travel far. We would be safer. We could see polar bears coming. We could catch more fish.” The people asked the old crow to fly out and bring them back daylight. He said that he was too old and too tired. But the people continued to beg. Finally Crow agreed.

Crow flew east for a long time. He had nearly given up when he saw a faint flicker of daylight ahead of him. “Ah,” said the tired crow. “There’s the daylight the people want.” As he continued flying, the sky got brighter and brighter. He finally landed in a tree near a river. He needed rest after his long journey.

Crow watched a village girl take water from the river. Hoping to get warm, he turned himself into a speck of dust and floated down onto her warm fur coat. When she returned to her father’s snow home, Crow floated off the girl’s coat and into her young brother’s ear. The boy started to cry.

“What’s wrong?” his father asked.

“Ask for a ball of daylight to play with,” the speck of dust whispered.

The father was glad to give his favorite son a ball of daylight. He wanted him to be happy, and he had plenty of balls of daylight. The boy took the ball of daylight and left his snow home to play outside. That quickly, the speck of dust turned back into Crow again. He grabbed the ball of daylight in his claws and flew quickly up into the bright sky, heading west back to his people.

When he reached the land of the Inuit again, the people were waiting for him. “Quick!” they exclaimed. “Give us daylight!”

“I could only bring one ball back,” Crow said. “There is only enough for half the year.” The people didn’t mind. They were glad for any daylight at all.

Crow dropped the ball to the ground, where it splintered into a thousand pieces of daylight. As the pieces shone upward, the land of the Inuit became bright and beautiful. The people could see for miles and miles. What a beautiful homeland they had!

