

I also thank the interest of the UN Rapporteur on the original practice of religion in Greenland.

Understanding the original Greenlandic religion requires a lot of study. But fortunately there are many descriptions and studies of the original culture, language, religion etc. And there are the many different descriptions and studies that one must put together piece by piece to gain insight into a fairly overall picture.

At the University of Copenhagen, there was a special department where all Inuit studies are gathered. Originally it was called the Department of Eskimology (including Arctic Library) where all research on the Inuit people is gathered. Now it is called regional and cross-cultural studies. Part of that research is now also run via the University of Greenland - Ilisimatusarfik in Nuuk. There are also other institutes in Copenhagen where you can supplement your knowledge of Inuit culture and language.

As I understand the original Greenlandic religion, there was no humanism in the practice of this. Revenge killings were common among families - it created fear in both parties. To protect oneself from the helping spirits of one's enemies, one must obtain one's own helping spirits. It was especially the shamans who did it. Shamans and witches can also steal other people's souls and thus drive them insane and die. Anyone can create a "tupilak" which is a tool to kill other people. Tupilak is a creature that is collected from different bones and skins of animals. You make it alive by letting it suck its genitals. Both women and men can make a Tupilak - the essence of revenge. Tupilak can commit both on land and at sea. Once Tupilak is made alive with magic songs and masturbation, it is ordered to kill Tupilak the owner's enemy. But if the enemy has stronger magical abilities and the attempted murder fails, then Tupilak returns to his owner and eats him.

Illness emerges as the vengeance of the spirits that someone has not complied with the taboo and the rules of living. The shaman can try to help the sick. If this fails, no one else can help the sick person - not even give him or her food or drink. This so as not to violate taboo rules and make the spirits angry.

The husband is right about his wife's body and life. And he may have more wives. When the husband gets tired of his wife sexually, he can throw her out of his house. But before he throws her out, he takes off all her clothes. This is to avoid her making a Tupilak against him using the skins the man has captured. In a cold winter night, it must not be fun to be thrown out, without clothes, and the next settlement is several kilometers away. There are up to 500 taboos and rules of living, especially women must follow if spirits and souls are not to become angry and take revenge.

But the understanding of the pre-Christian faith also encompasses the cycle of the universe. That life renews itself all the time, just as the world and the universe revolve around itself. It starts in a mother's womb where the fetus is born. Darkness in Inuit religion is that the world enters its mother's womb, and is born again on December 21, when the two star "aassuutit" appears in the sky.

Much parts of the old religion has today been thrown overboard by Greenlanders - especially the evil and negative parts. In the old faith in revitalized form, a modern humanistic view of man has also been introduced - influenced by the Christian faith. Modern human rights have - whether you like it or not - the Christian humanist approach. These rights, also rights of indigenous peoples around the world - are accepted and recognized by many countries. I mean that Greenland via the ICC, Inuit Circumpolar Council, has been the banner bearer for

indigenous peoples' rights, during the process in the UN. Among other things. therefore, the shortest day of the year - 21 December is made a kind of holiday for Greenlanders, just as 21 June - the longest day of the year - is Greenland's national day. And from the morning of December 24th, we celebrate the Christian Christmas and New Year, until 3 Holy Kings Day on January 5th. (Funny story is that the Danish authorities wanted to abolish the celebration of the three holy kings in 1964. This created a great revolt among Greenland's youth elite, who at that time went to high school and seminary in Nuuk. They marched in a large demonstration in the city with signs such as: "we do not want communism - we want to preserve our Christian faith and customs"! (but it was probably more the prospect that the day would become a normal working day / school day and not a day off, the young people were angry about that time. It ended up that the day remained a ½ public holiday / day off).

However.....

So regardless of whether one officially denies it on the part of the Greenlandic authorities or on the part of the Greenlandic National Church, it is my opinion that we in Greenland live in the world of the best parallel belief - between the Christian and the original faith. I think that, We do not cultivate the original belief that Christians do for their God - but the remnants of the original religion live in the best of times among us.

My Facebook update 21. December 2021: Congratulations on the winter solstice day - Aassuutisiorfik - solstice - the shortest day of the year

"As I understand it, the meaning of the original Greenlandic "aassuutisiorfik" ("ullukinnersiorneq" - winter solstice - is that man celebrates, that everything has an end and dies, but from darkness and death arises a new life - that everything has a renewal. of "ullukinneq", is thus the celebration of life and world renewal. the world was born again that night. That's why it should be celebrated - every human being should wear new and beautiful clothes, and the days were celebrated with giving party gifts, good food, drum dancing, singing and joy, not least sexual games in the dark. holy, and no one had to go hunting or working that day, otherwise you did not come home. In a way, it was also to say thank you for the old and welcome to the new. Everything has an end, but at the same time has a new beginning. it is a life cycle where the old ends and the new e has its beginning".

As mentioned earlier, there are many descriptions of the original belief in the literature. But if you prefer a quick overview, you should study Birgitte Sonne. She is probably the person who knows the most about the original religion in Greenland

Best regards Juaaka Lyberth July 17, 2022.

Worldviews of the Greenlnaders .

- An Inuit Arctic Perspective, by Birgitte Sonne. (2018)

Ninety years ago, Knud Rasmussen's popular account of his scientific expeditions through Greenland and North America introduced readers to the culture and history of arctic Natives. In the intervening century, a robust field of ethnographic research has grown around the Inuit and Yupiit

of North America--but, until now, English-language readers have had little access to the broad corpus of work on Greenlandic natives.

Worldviews of the Greenlanders draws upon extensive Danish and Greenlandic research on Inuit arctic peoples--as well as Birgitte Sonne's own decades of scholarship and fieldwork--to present in rich detail the key symbols and traditional beliefs of Greenlandic Natives, as well as the changes brought about by contact with colonial traders and Christian missionaries. It includes critical updates to our knowledge of the Greenlanders' pre-colonial world and their ideas on space, time, and other worldly beings. This expansive work will be a touchstone of Arctic Native studies for academics who wish to expand their knowledge past the boundaries of North America.