

January 2012 –

Story of the Month

How War Ended

(American Arctic – Inuit)

Five hundred years before the first outsiders came to Alaska, they lived a powerful Yip'ik warrior named Apanugpak. He was famous for his skill with harpoon, bow and arrow. It was a time of great madness and terror among the Yup'ik. Warring groups attacked each other without end. People could not even make fires for fear of being attacked. Everyone was hungry, cold and afraid. One night, after many nights of fighting, Apanugpak had a vision. He saw whole villages going up in black smoke and lakes of blood. He saw ghosts of the slain warriors and villagers rising up to avenge the dead by killing those still living. He told his people that they

should give up fighting and use their weapons for hunting instead. When he put down his weapons, all the others followed. Instead of killing each other, the people found new and different ways to deal with conflict. They did battle through contests using song, music, and cleverness. In this way, peace prevailed.