The Young Man and the Seamstress

By GRACE SLWOOKO Gambell Correspondent

Once upon a time there was a girl who was a shamen. She and her boyfriend were shamens. The girl really didn't want the boy but he wanted to marry her. So in his shamenism the young man who's name was Amamqun got into his mother's hood when she went grain picking to go there. The girl lived at the mountain side, her home was at the villages along the steep side of the mountain. It also is where the green plants grow. We use those plants for food. So everytime his mother went for grains, the young man Amamqun would get into his mother's either hood or her mukluk, but the girl would know he was there. So Amamqun tried ways to come to be with her.

This time he made a fancy board for cutting skins for sewing, of any kind. Like fancy work on mukluk, parkys and other work. The board was neat work that anybody could want. Then Amanqun had a plan, he got his dog team ready. He had a small covered wagon kind of things on his dog sled, to carry a family in, like mother and a child to travel in winter. Then he had a cutting board hang on the rear of the small covered wagon. Then he had his mother travel and pass close by the home of the girl, she was called Yagemraagwaq's daughter.

As soon as the dog team come to her home, the girl noticed it. She was excited about the beautiful piece of work so neatly done, she liked the board. As she was watching, the dog team carrying the family went past their home, she could clearly see the board hanging so neatly, she just couldn't help watching the dog team passing by. She was wishing that they would drop it.

She wanted the board so much that she ran on their trail a while as soon as they were out of sight, hoping to see it dropped and left behind. And what was that? She couldn't believe her eyes, what was that on the snow and on their way. The family was way ahead, far down on the trail the girl ran quickly to see if it really was the sewing board. And she grabbed it. It was the one, she couldn't believe her eyes. She was saying to herself, "They have dropped it and I found it, it is mine."

The girl ran home with it and put it in her room. She loved it so much that her shamenism didn't work, she didn't know Amamqun was in the fancy sewing board. The girl put string at his door knob to secure it good so no one can come in that evening. She put her board in a best place in her room as she was doing some fancy work that evening. Once in awhile she would feel something tickle her foot. The girl would jump up in a jerk, and would say, "The board sure is tickling."

Finally Amamque jumped out one time and told her all about why he did all that. So she became his wife and build a home there.