

Of the Inupiaq and spaceship and aliens...

By ROBERT MULLUK, JR.

Northwest Alaska was quiet and all the Inupiaq hunted, fished and did their daily work without interference. But one day this huge spaceship landed at Kikkitagruk which we now call Kotzebue. As I looked at these strange looking aliens one walked up to me and shook my hand. He had no color to his skin. His hands were very cold and I thought his hand-shake was supposed to make me disappear, but after his hand-shake I figured I had some power in me.

Since the first day these aliens landed in our country everything has changed considerably. The aliens showed us how to talk their way. They even showed us how to act like aliens (excuse us when we combined both). We were taught how to do everything over.

As more and more people decided to learn the alien ways we lost most of our culture, heritage and pride. Because once we gave up our ways we went to a crib that was stationed at this Cruise ship that orbits around the Northwestern part of Alaska.

This crib I mentioned is a cop-out place where most of us Inupiaq are now. This crib is where we are fed by the aliens. Then we are taken up to orbit and forget that we are from Northwest Alaska. It's a nice place to be, but it's like a jail. We are helpless and we must get fed when we speak up for our rights. When the aliens are in the bad mood we get less to eat. Once in a great while the aliens would land and give us opportunity to hunt for our own food. For the people that hunted for our traditional food this kept us from starving. It also helped to remind us of our great race and how we struggle for survival.

As I watched this crib it became a comfortable place for most people. But I saw many people escape from this crib. I rarely see people escape but a few do it when we land for fuel or hunting time. The ones that escape go to other countries and study everything even beyond the aliens teachings in the crib. But I pity those people. They are bombarded with criticism by their own people. To feel insecure among your own people because they do not want to get out of this crib is ridiculous. We have stayed in this crib for approximately sixty years and we are getting fat and lazy. We are

relying too much on the aliens. When they make mistakes they only reply to us, "Well, do it yourself if you don't like it."

As I see our people get more and more dependent these aliens I wish I could help them, but how could I, as one person, help. If the people don't listen to you how can you communicate. To be less dependent on these aliens we first must educate our people to take over the jobs. Then we can rule and control our own destiny.

An example; I see a small child that was born. He was fed by his Mom until he began to explore. His parents didn't stop him from exploring. A couple of years passed and he began to walk. He learned how to stand. Then the parents came to the rescue. They pushed him to learn how to walk as fast as possible. But a child has his own pace. The child must learn to walk by himself. He falls down and cries but you as a parent should not pick him up and say "Oh! poor baby", but he must pick himself up and try again till he learns how to walk. We must learn how to walk as Inupiaq people too. Our own Native leaders must be our legs. We should follow and support them. Otherwise they won't be strong enough to endure the alien world. But when they fall as a small baby does, we must help them pick themselves up and continue. Until we have enough educated Inupiaq we must do this. Hopefully, we soon will have enough Inupiaq to lead us to our destiny at our own pace.

As we journeyed around Northwest Alaska a strong wind pushed us off course. We see these people who look very similar to us. They almost spoke the same language. But these people were more aggressive toward the aliens and few of them stayed in the crib. They helped each other out when one is being picked on by an alien. These people stuck together to confront the aliens, and most of the time were successful in their demands.

"We have been in this crib too long!" spoke out D-Two, but most people just continued their own business. He screamed out "Why don't you people

open your eyes and minds. Can't you see what's being done to our people. Our children cannot hunt because they don't know how to; they can't speak their own language. Let's get together and destroy this crib even if we make a crash landing." But no luck most of the people wouldn't commit themselves.

Because this would cause conflict between them and their alien friends. So D-Two got some people together to revolt. After 15 years D-Two finally got enough people to help. So they confronted the aliens and they were shocked and wouldn't accept any of their actions. They began to call them radicals, trouble-makers. That town was automatically labeled the most dangerous town in Northwest Alaska. But D-Two continued his speeches and got other cribs in Alaska to help him fight for their rights. After many years the president of the aliens finally signed the treaty.

The Inupiaq made a crash landing without the aliens help, but most of the people survived the crash. Our leaders got together to make a business out of the money the aliens gave us. We also staked out our land. But the dirty aliens staked out their land just outside of our land and we can't breathe and live comfortably. The aliens made the rules and regulations so complicated

that most people can't understand what is said.

D-Two helped us out and he is speaking up again. "Fellow Inupiaq be careful I have read and seen how our brother down in the lower forty-eight got ripped off by the aliens. What you got from the aliens is similar to what the Indians got down in the states but you are only talking about more land and more money. Be careful of the step you take because the aliens do not give anything for free. You have to think twenty years ahead of the aliens especially the ones from the stove pipe hat house.

It's been nine years since we made the crash landing but many of our people got so used to the crib methodology, that it continues today. I think we Inupiaq are not the only ones affected by this methodology. Wherever you go in Alaska you see it in every Native community. But it's not too late to totally destroy the crib. If we can unite as one united Tribe our dreams of controlling our land, destiny, and out people could become a reality. But first we as Inupiaq must want this. If we are to fight the alien single-handed every time we will not be successful. History has shown us how we as Natives must fight to survive. Not physically but mentally as well. We as Native

people must start to think of our future. We must plan ahead so our children and their children will also have the same opportunity we had as Inupiaqs. We must teach them to be Inupiaq. If we don't the aliens surely won't. If we do not educate our younger generation who is going to keep the show going. Our leaders now are overworked. Someone must take their place sooner or later. Because they will not be here ten, twenty, fifty years from now. If they are replaced with someone not educated enough he will lose all the hard work our Native leaders put into the arena. You as individuals must think of this because it's your corporation, your land, or it might even cost you your own belongings.

Our ancestors gave us a name to be proud of INUPIAQ. In simple language it means "Real People." We as Inupiaq must never to forget this.

Our ancestors have survived for thousands of years; so we must continue to be real people for centuries to come. This ship flies over every native community and affects them the same way it done to us. For us to get control of this cruise ship we must get our own navigators and pilots. Then we can go places, do as we please. Then we can concentrate our energy to better our self and our people. Happy Landings!