

LEGENDS OF ALASKA

## DEATH OF TULIK

## Soon ash began to darken the sky and earthquakes shook the ground—

As illustrated in song and story, the Native peoples of Alaska have always respected the mighty forces buried deep within the earth. One of these is the legend of the battling volcanoes.

The storytellers say that two great volcanoes once fell into an argument. Mt. Tulik bragged of his strength and power, while Mt. Makushin muttered in anger at such boasting.

At first they were content to taunt each other with plumes of steam, but soon ash began to darken the sky and earthquakes shook the ground. Finally both unleashed the full force of their energies in open war. They hurled molten rock and burning ash at one another, Lava crept hissing over the land, and the people fled their homes in terror.

At last both mountains, tiring of the battle, launched their final fiery volleys, bringing their war to a savage end.

Today, the storytellers say, boastful Tulik is dead. But Makushin still smokes from time to time, to remind mankind of the eternal power of the earth and the respect it demands.

