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HUM324 – Polar Imagination

10 / 11 / 21

Final Paper Topic Proposal – Revised Again

(Sorry this is brief, I really didn't have much time to work on it this week.)

Area of research: The perception of death and mortality by the Inuit people, especially by the elders.

What it means to prepare for death (if applicable) and why.

Materials to be researched:

- Kpomassie: This was the inspiration for this topic, already a lot of material to study in more detail from this book. The other works from this class less so. We also get some notion of death of explorers in Beattie's work, although all of it is via secondhand speculation and investigation.
- There are quite a few articles that pop up when Googling some combination of the keywords "inuit," "death," "arctic," and "stories." The last keyword is not the most related, but it may give some insights, as stories/legends/rituals probably have many mentions of death.

Sample sources (and probably many more, need to sort out good sources):

<https://lithub.com/death-and-dying-in-the-canadian-arctic/>

<https://dartcenter.org/resources/death-arctic-community-grieves-father-fights-change>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2d0e3bb60cd24e40bc798d92dc0910bb>

http://www.inuitcontact.ca/artifacts/pdf/Inuit_legend.pdf

- Resources related to the death of other cultures (e.g., that Japanese death), and death of other animals (which bore semblance to the imagery of "preparing for death" mentioned in Kpomassie's narrative).

Question(s): What are the Inuit people's views on death (including life after death)? When is one ready to die (if at all)? How have these views been shaped by the Arctic environment and wildlife?