



· K Ä K - W Ä N E ·



This evil creature lurks on the shores of the Bering Strait, where ice accumulates and drifts to the sea. The kăk-whăn'-û-ghăt kǐg-û-lu'-nĭk is actually a killer whale, which in its eagerness to kill and eat human beings can come to the surface and enter the continent in the form of a wolf. The name kăk-whăn'-û-ghăt kǐg-û-lu'-nĭk applies precisely to its wolfish form.

Strong as a whale and violent as a wolf, this creature will not hesitate to kill all the humans it encounters.

The Yupik represent it generally in half transformation, with a whale on one end and a wolf on the other. Similar creatures have also been seen with other species, for example beluga whales that become caribou.



Kăk-whăn is a **YUPIK** creature

Current population: 35.569



The Yupik are an indigenous people related to the Inuit, who inhabit the areas around the Bering Strait, both on the American side (Alaska) and on the Asian side (Eastern Siberia). Its origin goes back to about 10,000 years ago, when there was a land bridge between the two continents, which crossed, coming from Siberia, to America, which was already populated by the Amerindians.

Expert fishermen, the Yupik board kayaks, were able to capture all kinds of fish and marine mammals, including whales. They also hunted on land, and collected wild plants. His way of life was nomadic, following the animals in their annual migrations. They also practiced trade with other native peoples.

The Yupik lived in communal houses. The men, in a large underground communal house, the qasgiq, and the women in several houses, individual or shared, called ena, where the children also lived. Between the men's house and the women's house there were sometimes tunnels.

Without hierarchical organization, the Yupik attributed only certain social leadership to the hunter who was at his best in form. The Yupik believe that the world is inhabited by spirits and governed by transcendent rules. These rules, called Yuuyaraq, detail how to behave with animals, with the earth and with spirits, to be at peace with them and not be punished. They understand that all creatures are sensitive and understand the Yupik language, so they must be treated with respect. The shamans served as a link with the spiritual world.

The Yupik have lived relatively isolated until the eighteenth century. Russia began a conquest of America that lasted from 1732 to 1867, for which it crossed the Bering Strait and took possession of the Alaskan coast. Thousands of Yupik were killed in that conquest. However, the lack of interest in the interior of these frozen lands allowed the Yupik culture to survive during most of the 19th century.

In 1867, the USA bought all of Alaska from Russia and became the administrator of the Yupik territory. Although it prohibited the teaching

of the native language, the certain thing is that USA disengaged itself from Alaska until great petroleum reserves were found. In 1971 the indigenous protests forced the government to return communal lands, so today the Yupik or other indigenous peoples receive much of the benefits generated by the extraction of oil (as well as the ecological catastrophes that this activity produces). The Yupik language is still commonly spoken, and although the majority of the population has regular jobs and lives in modern housing, they still maintain their ancestral customs and culture.

