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“Sedna, Inuit Goddess of the Sea”

Throughout the Arctic, the legend of Sedna, the goddess of the sea is told and retold. The story varies from region to region but the overall story is the same.

Sedna was a beautiful young woman and unlike her counterparts, refused to marry just anyone. The Inuit custom was to have the parents hand pick the husband but Sedna didn't want to leave her parents.

One day, a suitor came to ask her parents for their daughter. He promised food to feed her, furs to clothe her, and give her a lovely home. He lived on an island far from her parents and once away from her parents he showed his true self – a Bird man. He was not a good hunter, their home was not lovely and she was forced to eat only fish.

Sedna's father being worried about her decided to visit one day and found Sedna very unhappy. Sedna and her father got into his kayak and headed for home.

Upon the Bird man's return to his home, he found no Sedna and friends told him what happened. He flew out over the sea, finding Sedna and her father in their kayak, caused a real storm and rocked the kayak, tipping it over and her father worried for her safety tried to pull her hands off the edge of the kayak. Sedna would not let go, the Bird man was getting even more vicious so her father chopped her fingers off, one at a time....as her fingers touched the bottom of the sea, they turned into seals, walruses, fish, whales and she became the Goddess of the Sea – half woman, half seal.

When she is happy she allows hunters and fishermen good catches. Animals do not mind giving themselves up to provide food, clothing and shelter to the Inuit.