TILL ALL ARE ONE: SILAP INUA AND MODERN REPRESENTATION IN INUIT GRAPHIC NOVELS

The Inuit notion of Silap Inua (or Sila) has shaped their worldview for countless generations. In his explorations of the polar north during the 1920s, an Inuit shaman named Najagneq, told Knud Rasmussen that, “Sila is a strong spirit, the upholder of the universe, of the weather, in fact, all forms of life on Earth.” By analyzing two of Marvel Comics Inuit characters, Snowbird and Snowguard, one can see the importance that culture, heritage and tradition played in their creations, and the differences in being created some forty years apart. Furthermore, by understanding newer, modern graphic narratives, it is easy to tell that the past teachings of shaman are still very much alive. That said, although it might not be directly stated or shown, Sila’s presence is very much felt within the modern day medium of the Inuit graphic novel.