

Giving Back To Earth

In the Yupik culture, hunters don't just go out and catch the animals, rather the animals allow themselves to be caught by the hunters. They sacrifice themselves to give nourishment. For this sacrifice, the Yupik people would give a piece of the animal back to the earth to show respect and give thanks. Giving a piece of the animal back to the earth also insured that there would be more animals in the future and that the hunter will have success during his next hunting trip. If the hunter did not give a piece of the animal back to the earth after a successful hunt, no animals would ever offer themselves to him, and he and his family would starve.

Giving back to the Earth has always been the tradition of the Yupik people for thousands of years. They believe the earth provides them with everything needed to survive and for this it needed to be given thanks and treated with respect.

