Water

Image a time with no rivers, no lakes, no oceans, and no tears, to soothe the sorrow of aching cheeks. There was a time with no water except high in a hidden place where Ulitara kept it, a place so high that only eagles shared his secret.

It was at this time that Ulitarra and his people painted themselves with red and white ochre and commenced a journey over the mountains to fight the tribe that lived there. Two young women were following after the men. Ulitarra was angry he caught the two women and sent them home the women were not happy and plotted revenge; they found two erect rods jutting from the ground. They took the rods and in their furry began to beat the earth until the earth cried out with a hollow hum, it began to shake and tremble and the two young women took flight and were suddenly turned to stone. As the earth shook water filled the land and water began to fall down the mountains. Water rushed everywhere without reason or design. Sometime later Ulitarra and his people returned. The tribe came to a halt and looked about them, there was water everywhere and the land they lived in was completely surrounded by water. How would they get back to their families? Ulitarra had an idea he made a strong rope that linked the islands to the headland where they stood. Ulitarra’s wife Gaugan, looked about her and formed the water into ocean’s, lakes, rivers and creeks and all the water took shape and had purpose, the water was good and brought much comfort to the people.

Transcribed by AC MacDougall (Pastor / Linguist) 1932-1938