

**Yes or No      angiq-/naqsik-**

**ii/aakka**

Inuit are often misunderstood when they are replying to a question. One might ask a question and think that she /he is being ignored or not answered at all, when in fact they were replied to. Inuit frequently answer silently with certain gestures. You normally have to look at whom you are talking to in order to have effective communication. Isn't that what we all want, the full attention of our audience? If you are not looking at whom you are talking to, you may not correctly "see" or "pick up" the reply given. Eye contact is extremely important in the Inuit world.

The raising of the eyebrows indicates "Yes" ( **\*angiq-** ) and it is expressed as it is displayed. A slight raising of the eyebrows means slightly yes where as a large movement may mean definitely yes. A continuous rising of the eyebrows indicates a strong positive reply. A slight rising of the eyebrows, may, also indicate that there is a little hesitation to the question whether it be from embarrassment, misunderstanding or part disagreement.

The motion for "no" is expressed with frowning or "scrunching" of the nose ( **\*naqsik-** ); a frown of disapproval. Again, it is expressed as it is displayed. Slight movement of the nose means slightly no. A large movement means definitely no. The continuation of a frowning nose indicates a very strong no. A slight frown may indicate that there is hesitation, embarrassment, misunderstanding or part disagreement.

Silent communication is a great tool when you are talking to your spouse when children are listening. There are some things children are not ready for. A quick reply will be given so children do not get involved with adult matters. Scenario... A father asks his wife if she has purchased a birthday present for their oldest son while a younger one is listening. She may reply quickly answering her husband silently so the listening child will not get involved, hear or pass on information prematurely. Silent communication is also great when someone is sleeping and you don't want to wake them up.

Children/adults often answer silently when they are super shy as well. Even a simple word like "yes" or "no" may be too much for an extremely shy child to say. A nod, frown, or rising of the eyebrows is so much easier! Children also answer silently when they have been disciplined and feel guilty; a sign of being scared or from fright. Other people around the world act the same way but may not use the gestures. Children from the south tend to nod or shake their head sometimes to indicate yes or no when they are feeling guilty. I suppose everyone uses silent gestures, but, they are utilized differently.

**Elijah Tigullaraq**

**QSO**

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\*Incomplete. **Angiq**-motion for yes, **Naqsik**-motion for no. Words can not stand by themselves. They need supporting chunks to complete the word. i.e. angiq**tuq**