

Snowman Nuoska

AND THE STORY OF
THE TREES



ALEKSI LEHIKONEN AND MÄRÄT HANSKAT

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Snowpeople of the planet Nivalis

Do you see that star,
there on the edge of the Milky
Way? That star is the sun, and
there are many planets orbiting it.

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Once upon a time there
was a planet called Nivalis.





The inhabitants of Nivalis were snowpeople. Here is Nuoska waving his hand. Nuoska's best friend is Hile.



Together with the other young snowpeople, they liked to do all sorts of things, like have snowcake parties...

... or eat ice cream.

After the treats, of course, they brushed their teeth.





Nuoska thought the most fun was the downhill sledging. He was sledging at such a speed that the snow was swirling around him and his stomach was tingling.

One day, he was going too fast and hit a tree. "Ouch, that hurts!" Nuoska cried and held his forehead.

Luckily, the oldest person in the village, Kuura, happened to be nearby and rushed over when he heard Nuoska crying.





"Don't worry," Kuura comforted him and pressed the sore spot with a snowball to prevent a big bump. Soon Nuoska was feeling better.

Still sniffing a little, Nuoska looked at the tree he had hit. "Kuura, couldn't that tree be cut down so I don't bump into it again?" he said, looking questioningly at Kuura.

Kuura was silent for a moment, thinking. "You know, we snowpeople have a very special relationship with trees," he finally said, and continued: "Would you like to hear a story about

the history of Planet Nivalis and the snowpeople?"
"A story, yes, please tell us!" Nuoska and Hile chuckled in unison!



*The origin of life
on a snowy planet*

” *A* long, long time ago, there were no trees on Nivalis, and no other life either,” Kuura began the story. “A thick layer of snow covered the surface of the planet, like a great white blanket. In summer the blanket was pitted with holes, exposing the rocky ground, but in winter

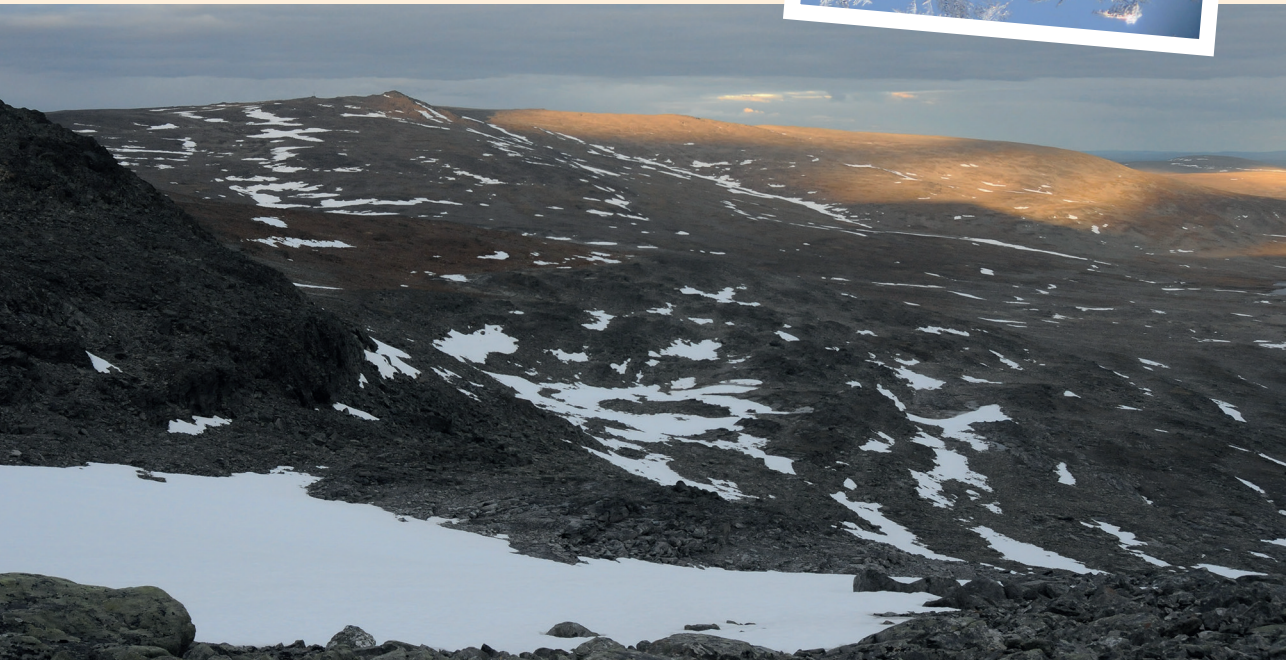
the snow cover was thick and intact.”

“So there were no trees?”

Hile asked in amazement?

“No, there weren’t then,” replied Kuura.

The planet was completely silent and lifeless. This silence lasted for a long time – hundreds of millions of years. One day, tiny living creatures appeared among the ice crystals.



“Is it worth it for the tiny little creatures to hang around all alone?” Kuura asked.

“No! There is power in cooperation,” Hile knew.

“That’s right!” confirmed Kuura.

And so these little creatures eventually worked so closely together that they merged. The first living creatures were plants with the ability to absorb the sun’s energy.

“Oh, they were like little solar panels?” “Yes! They used sunlight, water that melted from the snow from time to time and gases from the atmosphere to live and grow,” said Kuura.

Eventually, the plants grew larger and larger, and the first trees developed. The trees became forests. The forests became denser and the trunks of the trees thickened as more and more carbon was stored in the trees.





Animals appeared on the planet

The first animals to evolve on the planet were herbivores. Snowhens and snowcocks ate tree needles and frost bees fed on the nectar and pollen of flowering plants.

“Snowcocks have a stern look on their faces. Are they angry?” Hile asked cautiously.

“Snowcocks are very territorial. They settle territory boundaries with stern staring contests,” Kuura explained.





How do snowpeople cope with the warm summer?

Snowman Nuoska and the story of trees is a fairy tale about the world and history of snowpeople, but also about the other life on the planet Nivalis.

Snowpeople have a lot of different ideas in their big rounded heads, and they do all sorts of things.

But why do snowpeople have a special relationship with trees?

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