

A Journey to the Mother of the Sea

A Greenlandic legend retold by Mâliâraq Vebæk • Illustrated by Aka Høegh



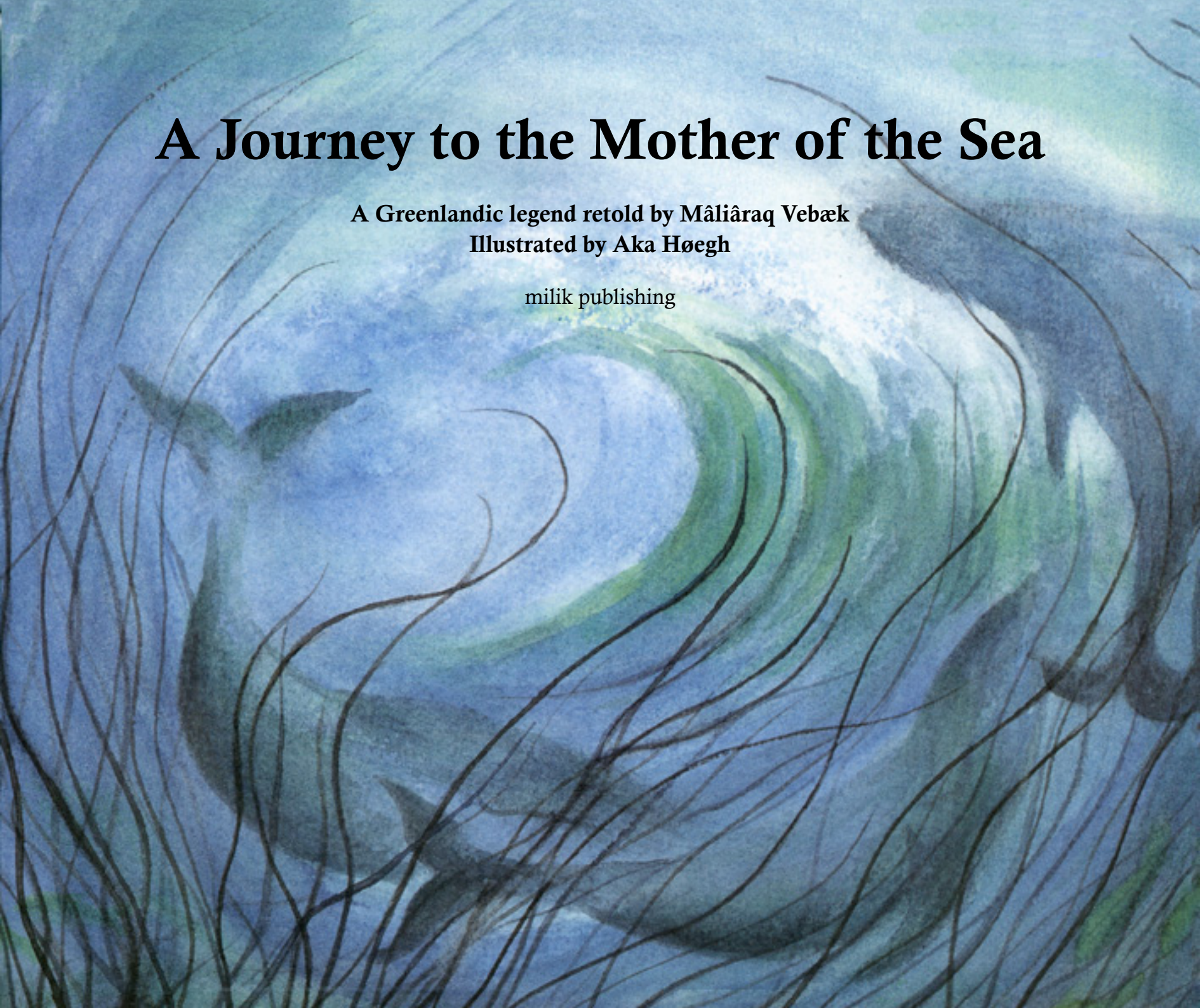
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A long time ago, the people of Greenland believed in the Mother of the Sea. She lived at the bottom of the ocean, where she ruled over all the creatures of the sea. She was all-knowing and very powerful.

From her dwelling on the ocean floor, she would send seals, whales, fish, and seabirds up to the surface for hunters to catch. That is why people called her the Mother of the Sea.

However, if people began behaving badly, she would become angry and withhold the animals. Then a shaman would have to be sent down to clean and comb her hair, which would become tangled and dirty as a result of people's misdeeds. She was so powerful that only the mightiest of shamans could visit her at the bottom of the ocean.

A shaman was a wise person who had supernatural powers and was both feared and revered. Shamans could cure the sick and predict the future. Only a few women became shamans, but those who did were more powerful than their male counterparts.

