



# Niiganabiik's World

Flash Fiction Book 1

Mildred R Holmes

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*Chii-Miigwitch*

*Many thanks*

*Family, Friends who have supported my endeavors through the  
years.*

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# Hunger Pains

"I'm hungry!" The warrior slumped against the pillows. He'd expected food since moving to the Herbalist's Ward. "All you bring is soup, thin, nothing to it but water. Can't you bring something with a bit more substance to it? Something with meat, a bit of gravy anyway."

"No, It's too early. You'll just throw it up and you'll still be hungry. Maybe even hungrier. Then you'll only get water. Plain water." The herbalist bent to set the bowl on the low table in front of the warrior, careful to hide her grin.

He bit his lips together, stopping the words he really wanted to say. She patted the cup in her hand. "Drink this when you've finished the broth."

He glared at the offending cup and slid his eyes to the bowl. Should he send the bowl flying? A tapping foot warned him. He glanced up to see her standing with her hands on her hips. He took a deep breath and forced a grin.

"Well, I'd really prefer something that'll stick to my ribs. Like gravy, mashed potatoes...even a small bit of those delicious cakes you make."

"Wheedling isn't going to get me to change my mind. You've been seriously hurt. Since you need reminding, if that arrow landed two fingers lower, you'd be traveling the Paths through the Land of No Return. Now, start on that broth. Much better for the state of your ribs right now."

Another deep breath caused a flare of pain in the ribs under discussion. He tried to hide it with a forced chuckle. Even he heard the wheeze when he relaxed enough to bear the remnants of the pain snaking its way through his chest and belly.

"Tch, tch, tch." She knelt to check his chest bandages. "Least you didn't start bleeding again. Perhaps we can ditch the broth."

He nodded, sending a fresh spasm of pain throughout his body.

He held his breath. She sent her assistant for the healer.

"I do hope you haven't made things worse." She picked up the bowl and cup and moved them to the tray near the door.

"I thought I was better. Isn't hunger supposed to be a sign of healing?" He managed to get those words out despite the pain, enough to cause her to narrow her eyes before she reached for her bag of medicines and paraphernalia for healing.

"Who's been telling you stories? Hunger's not always a good sign."

"She's right. It's not always a good sign." The healer bustled over to his couch. "Let's see what your body is trying to tell us."

The warrior grimaced through a series of pokes, prods, hmm's and finally, "Aha!"

The warrior watched through slitted eyes as the healer and the herbalist bent their heads over her bag of goodies. He strained to hear the whispered debate. "...food..." The assistant was sent out of the room. The warrior tensed, tried to hide the spurt of pain that settled into a...very loud burp.

# Dragon's Visit

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# The River

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