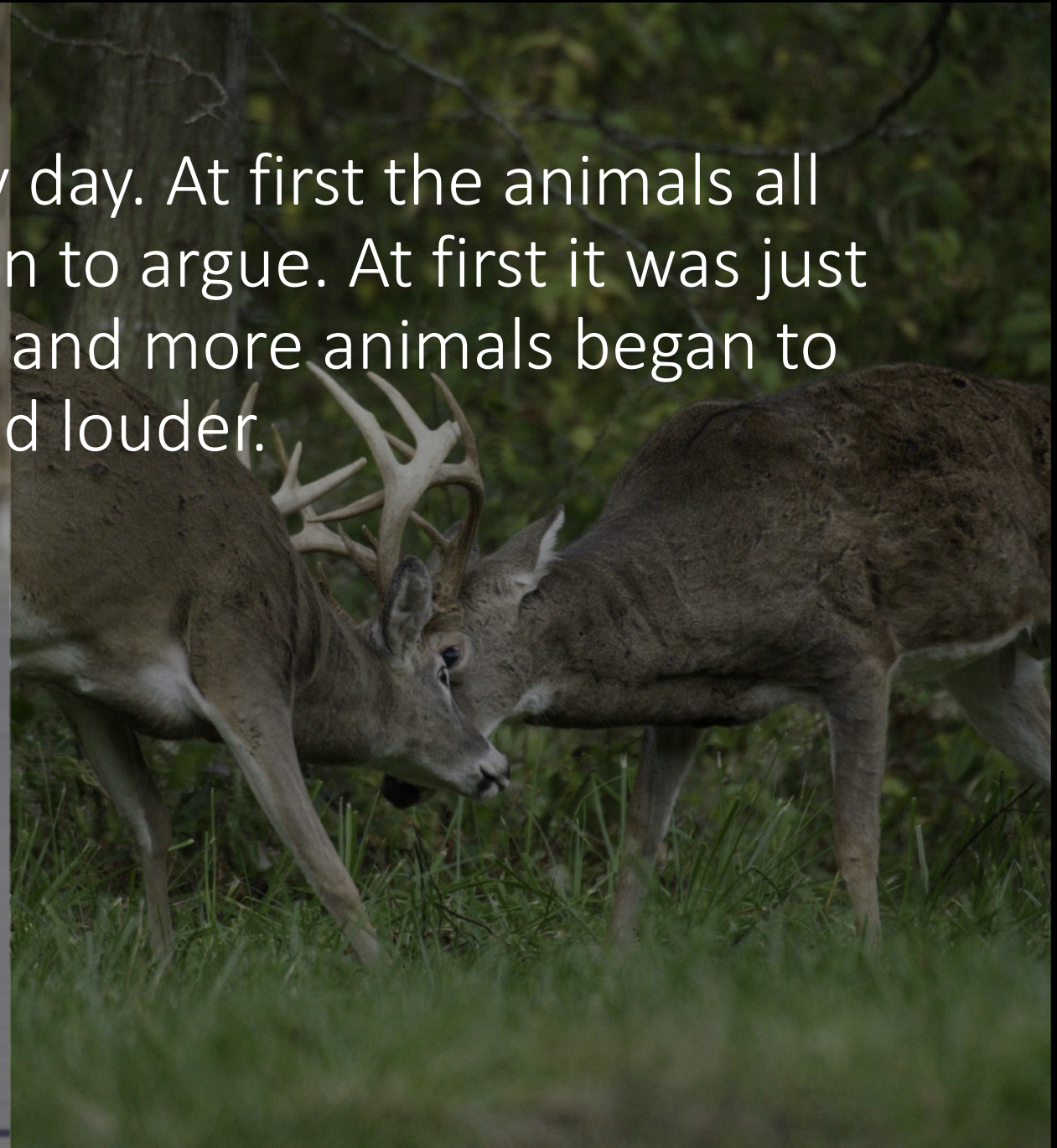
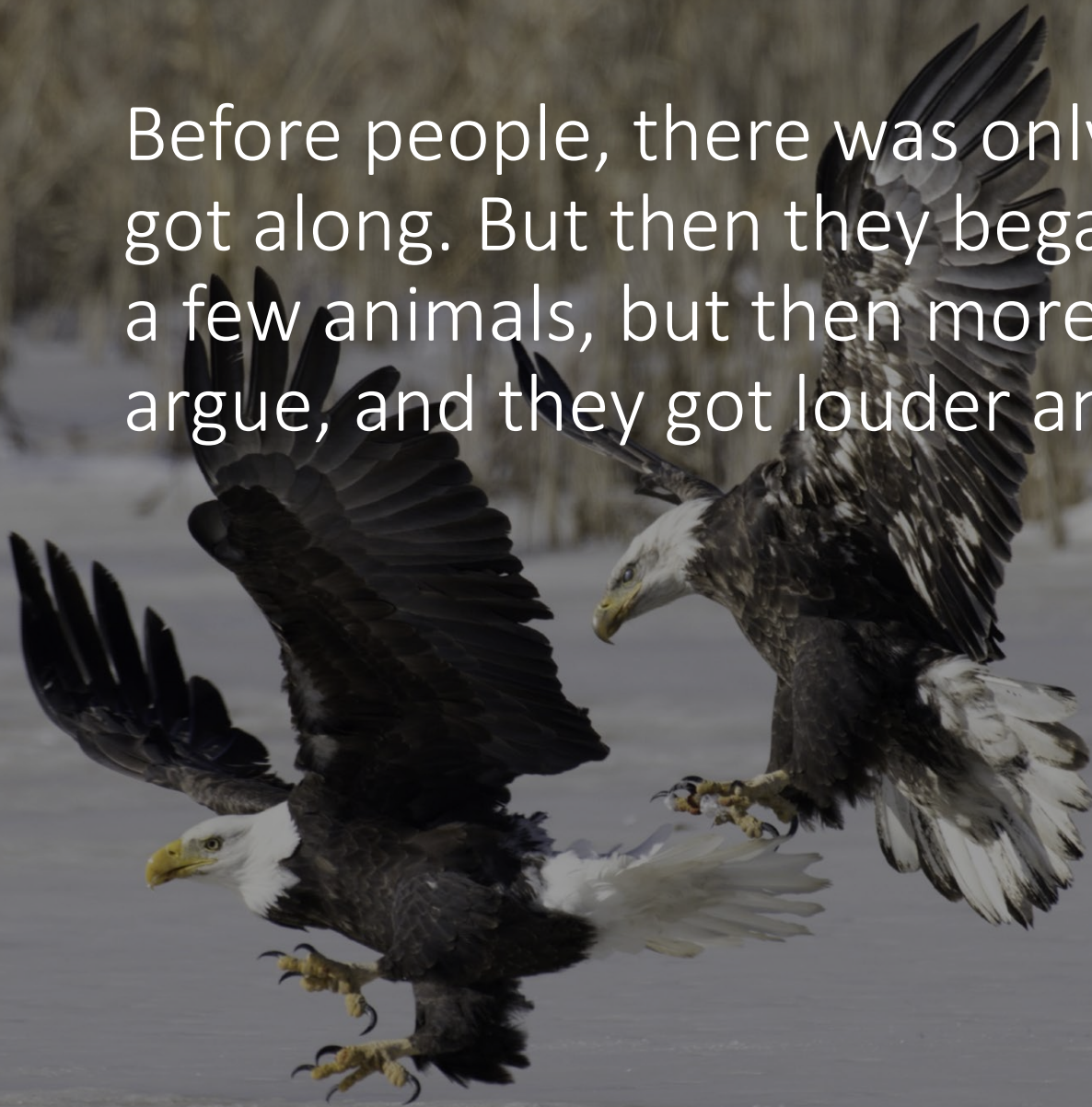


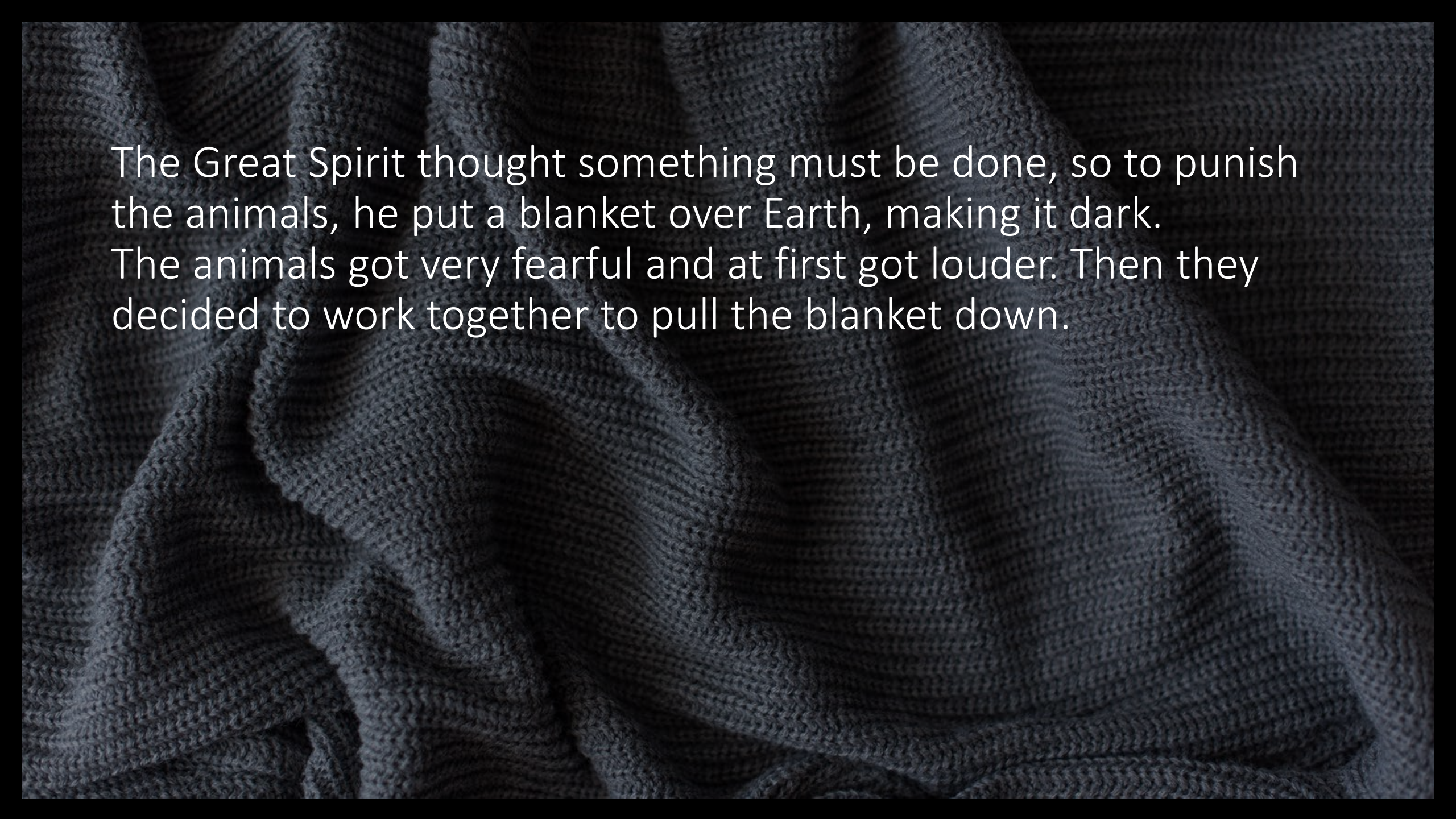


How the Night Came to Be

A Native American legend from the Chumash tribal group

Before people, there was only day. At first the animals all got along. But then they began to argue. At first it was just a few animals, but then more and more animals began to argue, and they got louder and louder.





The Great Spirit thought something must be done, so to punish the animals, he put a blanket over Earth, making it dark. The animals got very fearful and at first got louder. Then they decided to work together to pull the blanket down.

Black Bear, who had a majestic long nose said, I am the strongest, I will reach up and pull the blanket down. She took a running start, leaped into the air with her claws outstretched. Black Bear just reached the blanket, and her claws scratched the blanket leaving a streak across the sky. She fell on her nose. Today, you will still see that black bears have a squished face.



Turkey Vulture, a beautiful bird covered with black feathers said, I am the strongest flier, I can fly the highest, I will go. **Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!** Vulture used his strong wings to fly high, high into the sky. He reached the blanket and “pop!”, his head poked through. The only thing the animals could see was Turkey Vultures black body. He was so close to the sun, it was so hot, vulture immediately pulled his head back, leaving a big hole of light through the blanket. When he returned, all the animals were surprised; the beautiful black feathers on his head were burned and gone. Since then, Turkey Vulture has a red, bald, and wrinkled head from when the sun burned off his feathers.



Hummingbird said, I know I'm not the strongest or mightiest and I may not be able to tear down the blanket, but I have an idea. And she flew to the blanket and "pip!", her beak made a hole. Pip, pip, pip, she created more and more holes. The animals stopped arguing and looked at the pictures she was creating as she made holes of light in the blanket. At first the animals were silent; when they did start to talk, they did so with smiles and kindness.



The Great Spirit heard the quiet and saw that the animals were now using kind words and showed respect to each other. But to ensure this continued, the Spirit decided that to encourage them to get along, he would give them a reminder by placing the blanket back over the Earth, about every 12 hours, then removing the blanket for another 12 hours. Still to this day we have half the day of light and half the night of darkness.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



When we look up at the night sky, we can see where the bear scratched the sky, we call this the Milky Way. We can also see where vulture poked his head through the blanket. **We call this what?**



The moon. And all the other holes hummingbird made, **what do we call these?**



Stars. And so, it still is today.