

Jaliwatok

The story about Jaliwatok of Vyalla-iyaw. In the beginning of time, there was a man named Vyanganan of Vyalla-iyaw, at the intersection of Juljulaw and Vyangilu. And they had a daughter. When Vyanganan was tempering iron, the girl went to play in the yard. And the girl, Vyanganan understood, needed a playmate. But Vyanganan said, “In time, you will find a friend, when you grow up, when you can get married,” said Vyanganan. When the girl grew up, there was one night a man, it is said, came. And that particular man, Vyanganan [and his wife] would not notice when [that] man arrived, even their villagemates would not notice him. For maybe he had an extraordinary... uh... possession, for the people could not speak, and the dogs could not bark also. So, he maybe he had special powers, or he had a talisman. So then, the man would arrive frequently but the... the woman who was Vyanganan’s daughter, she was the only one who knew. And in the morning, the woman would sleep soundly not notice when Jaliwatok left. But he would arrive regularly, this Jaliwatok, that particular man. And suddenly, the woman felt that she was pregnant. The woman said, “Please show yourself for you see I am now pregnant,” said the woman.

“Wait a while, I shall soon show myself,” said that man.

Now, because the woman’s thoughts were stirred, “I will get a very long string which I will tie around his body when he sleeps,” she said.

So then, one night, true enough, the man came. And the woman tied the string around the body of the man she was sleeping with, which the man was unaware of because he was asleep.

In the morning, the woman woke up, and the man he slept with was gone. And she followed him. When she reached the upper stream, she did not find anything. She went back and went to the area above the spring. When she ascended, she found the end of the string. And, “Oh, this is where he went,” she said. The woman followed it and came upon a huge tree with its branches spread out. And it climbed, er, the what’s-it of the string went upwards. And the woman painstakingly climbed up the tree which had plenty of branches. When she got to where the branches spread out, there was a big, coiled snake. And the woman screamed.

“So you are the bad spirit that ruined me!” she said. And the woman went away.

From then on, the man no longer came. And later on, the woman gave birth. It was a boy. And the people, her father, because her child was a boy, they named him after Jaliwatok.

And when Jaliwatok grew up, he went wandering around. He often went to Vyatayan for he had taken a liking to a girl in Vyatayan. This Vyatayan is at the upper stream in Talipan, which is still part of the Vyanaw area. And Jaliwatok often went there. He would start off from Vyalla-iyaw at dawn, and get down to Vyatawan in no time for he had an extraordinary strength. Then one day, for it was the time of headhunting, the enemies attacked Vyatayan. And they killed his future parents-in-law and they also killed his wife, er, the one he was about to marry. And they took her head, their heads. And they brought these with them.

And the people then [said], “Let us prepare a packed meal and tie it to the shrubs where he passes by so he will be informed of this. Even if we don’t say [anything about it], Jaliwatok will know,” they said.

True enough, in the morning the shrubs went cracking, for the twigs he stepped on were dry. And as the surroundings became brighter, when they went to see the packed meal, it was gone. And, “This is definitely Jaliwatok. He had set out,” they said.

Jaliwatok followed the path taken by the enemies who started from Vyatayan up to Jungajung and upwards to Langijon, near Malibcong, and turned towards Liwang, and ascended Palali, and got down, descended to the Malanas area. He followed, er, they followed the Majagom creek and got to the slope of Lavu at the very long ascent. Jaliwatok kept on following it for he was following the men’s tracks.

And when it was almost night, he came down to the Jagyuman area. When he was in, what’s-it, Piko, the headhunting celebration was being held. But Jaliwatok wore a blanket as a cloak to hide the head-ax he had with him. And Jaliwatok went to sit and said, “Bring that sugarcane wine here and I will pass it around,” said Jaliwatok. And they brought the sugarcane wine to Jaliwatok. And Jaliwatok went on praying over it so that the people who

drank it would easily get drunk. And so all the people danced the *tajok*. And those who were dancing went around the head of his girlfriend and the heads of his future in-laws, for they placed these in the middle of the assembly. They set these on a mortar and circled around it. Later on, Manika_lang was designated to dance – he was the leader of those who went headhunting. And Manika_lang got the dance cloth and he danced vigorously while feigning to hack the heads which they set in the middle of the crowd.

Jaliwatok swang into action and hacked Manika_lang and snatched the heads of his in-laws and that of his girlfriend and ran off with these. The people, the enemies, tried to chase him but were unable to do so because all of them were drunk. So then, they could not catch Jaliwatok, for they did not know which way he took, for he had superpowers. He went up Lavu just the same.

And when he was at the ascent of Lavu, he rested and there fell a fruit of the grass which, what's-it, stuck into the head he was holding, [one] named Valyutuk and there was a one named Valyutuk at the slope of Lavu. He walked on and turned towards the way going back to Majagom and turned to Liwang. He descended and turned to Jungaung [and] came back to Vyatayan again.

Arriving at Vyatayan, he carefully washed that one, wound, persons' wounds, and reconnected their heads. And he applied oil on them, then covered them with the choicest blanket. And they kept on, what's-it, for a lot of people had gathered, butchering [animals]. They [stayed] there overnight and that particular night, he kept on praying over the heads, the heads and bodies [of those] who were covered with the choicest blanket. And when dawn was nearing, he again went to pray over them. And as the sun, what's-it, the sun rose, "Go uncover those who are covered," he said.

When they uncovered [them], his girlfriend got up and his parents-in-law also got up. And the people were amazed. And they went on with the merriment for they, they rejoiced for those whom the enemies killed returned to life for... the... Jaliwatok kept on praying over [them]. For Jaliwatok had special powers for he may have been the child of an enchanted being or a shapeshifter, for it would turn into a snake during the day, that man [also] becomes a man. And when they had a child, it was the man named Jaliwatok. That is the story of Jaliwatok of Vyalla-iyaw.

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