

Lakinta

The story about Lakinta who was a beautiful woman that her family would not neglect, and their village mates liked.

One day, where there was no civilization yet here in the Philippines, there was one famous beautiful lady whose name was Lakinta. Now Lakinta was liked by her siblings and her parents and their village mates because she was beautiful.

And they would not neglect her. Were it possible, they would not allow her to be exposed to the sun. But she would miss going for a walk but would have a guard or companion. For they did not allow her to go outside alone. And there were many men who courted Lakinta. Many wanted to marry Lakinta but her family demanded too much dowry or gifts for marriage for they would ask for 20 carabaos, antique jars, with antique beads and antique plates. And so none among them were able for they scarcely had heirlooms in the olden times.

And so it was that they would not neglect her, guarding her for she was beautiful. And there was a man who was named Kabvilan. “Let me try visiting her at night,” he said.

But Kabvilan was a good flute player and the way he played the flute was that it spoke. And sure enough, one full moon, Kabvilan went. He went to the yard in the middle of the night.

When he played his flute, his flute spoke saying, “Lakinta, Lakinta, open [the door] for me. I have dirt all over me,” he reportedly said.

When he played the flute the second time, Lakinta was awakened and stirred. *Iy*, what is that lovely tune?” she reportedly said. (Now, an *ulivyaw* is a mouth flute. And that was what they used to serenade someone – that was like a serenade already).

He played his flute again, saying, ““Lakinta, Lakinta, open [the door] for me. I have dirt all over me,” he reportedly said.

“Hy, what is your name?” so said Lakinta.

“Lakinta, Lakinta, have you not heard of Kabvilan the Striker who, when it is day time, would go hacking [to death]?” he reportedly said.

Now in the olden times, what women liked were warriors who had killed many for that was their what’s-it before, for it was warriors whom women liked.

And later on again, “How is it, how is that, what could your name be?” she said for Kabvilan had been singing.

And Kabvilan played his flute again, saying: “Lakinta, Lakinta, haven’t you heard of Kabvilan the Striker, who, when it is day time, would go hacking [to death]?” he reportedly said.

So there, she let Kabvilan in and they talked.

“Let me blow the fire so it lights,” so said Lakinta.

“Don’t blow on it for I am dazzled when there’s fire,” he reportedly said.

So, they went on conversing. And Kabvilan told Lakinta of his love. And because she was enthralled at the voice of Kabvilan (but Kabvilan used a flute for the way he played his flute was that it spoke), and so, they agreed to get married.

And Lakinta, uhm, gave him her skirt. “Take my skirt and put it over your shoulders so that I could recognize you when, uhm, after three days there’s going to be a celebration,” she reportedly said.

So there, Kabvilan left, it is said. When he was at the yard, he again played his flute and Kabvilan reportedly said, “I have slept with the untouched woman,” he reportedly said, and went away.

So there, when it was time for the celebration for three days had passed already, *ay*, after three days the celebrations [would occur]. Lakinta prepared early. She carefully dressed up, and, she carefully put on her beads. For in the olden times, there were no lipsticks or powders – only the clothes, her beads, and she had a golden ring. Those were what she wore for they had agreed to meet on the day, the time for the celebration.

Hali, Lakinta went to sit. When someone arrived, she paid attention to whether they wore her skirt on their shoulders. There was none, it is said. The people gathered until nightfall, but there was none. *Hali*, the next morning, she again went to, uhm, observe.

Now then, because... “Why, where did this Kabvilan go?” she reportedly said.

On the third day when it was almost evening, Lakinta went around for she was looking for Kabvilan, she sought out who had put on her skirt for that was Lakinta’s sign that... of the man with whom she had conversed with that night, middle of the night.

And she walked among the crowd, but still there was none. She edged her way through the crowd, proceeded to the hearth where they were cooking the meat, here was Kabvilan, it is said, humming over the food, for it was he who cooked viand and rice.

Lakinta yanked him up repeatedly, saying, “So it was you who ruined me!” she reportedly said.

Now, because it was like that, Lakinta sued [him] before the elders. “It is up to you now. Old man Kabvilan deceived me!” she reportedly said.

So there, the people had a meeting and penalized Kabvilan for he had lied, he did not tell the truth that he was not... Now Kabvilan was just a cook... he went... and he was the one they would always send on an errand. But he was good at playing the flute.

And the decision of the people [was that] they penalized Kabvilan heavily for he had deceived Lakinta who was one of those among her family whom the people liked. And it was given to the elders to decide whether they would kill him or not. But at that time, whenever

they had problems, whatever the elders decided on as a punishment, the guilty person agreed to it.

That is the end of the story about Lakinta.

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