

Vanaw

When Vanaw began to get populated, now then their location was this Vu-uk, they called it Vu-uk, which was a bit flat but they would do swidden farming around it. Now later, people became more numerous and the others kept moving their swidden farms upwards up to the top of, they went up to Jajal-oman, at the top of Vu-uk. Again, when the people in Jajal-oman became numerous, they went farming at the upper area where a pristine lake was. And that particular lake was where a white eel was. And it was shimmering while it moved about in the lake when the people would go there to look down at it. And it is said that when they threw filth into the lake, there would be one who would fall ill, or the people would get sick. That was why it was always clean and they did not allow it to be polluted. For when they threw rubbish into the lake, the people would get sick. Upon inspecting it when they got sick, they would find rubbish thrown into it. That was why they were very strict, or they were strict with the rules they made for if they found out that someone made the lake dirty, they penalized [him] with one animal.

And from then on, they watched over [it] to ensure that there was no rubbish [in the lake.] But there was one day, there reportedly came an epidemic in Vyanaw in which the people got sick. And there were even others who died. And they had no recourse but to consider that eel in the lake. For it was a white eel, it was like an extraordinary eel. For could there be a white eel? But that was where they saw a white eel.

And because the people came to an agreement, “Let us just open the [the lake] so that the eel will go,” they said for the lake was deep but they scoured it for it was what the people agreed upon: “All of us then will go scouring [the lake].”

“And let us pray to *Kavunyan* so that we will not get sick when we go scouring, for we people have been getting sick and the cause is that white eel in the lake,” they said. And they opened that lake. And after they had opened it, the water flowed out [and] along with it the eel. And whenever there were people from other places who would go to Vyanaw, when they chanted, they would keep saying, “In the Vyanaw lake,” they would say, referring to the lake in Vyanaw for they had already populated the top which is named Vyanaw today at the area above the lake. For the name Vyanaw came from the word *vyananaw* – *vyanna-aw* for some, *vyananaw* for others, depending on people’s pronunciation. And that was where the

name Vyanaw came from [which was] the lake in Vyanaw, [because of which] when there were occasions, those visitors who went there would chant, “You brothers/sisters of the Vyanaw lake,” they said. When they said *nanaw Vyanaw*, they would know it was people from Vyanaw, which, from here in Pattikyan through the Saltan river, that was what they said was the language people from Vyanaw spoke and others went to the Jay-as area. There were those who went to Malibkung, went to Vyangilu, went to Jagyuman, until Bukluk, Sallapajan and central Bolinoy. That was where the other people from Vyanaw had gone to, and that was where they got the name Vyanaw.

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