

## **Mavikal**

There was one day, when no foreigner had yet entered here in Banaw, there were people who lived in Mavikal. Those people who lived there, they actually came from Vu-uk, adjacent to, er, below Pantikyan, where a lake was from which the iVyanaw people got its [their] name. And because of hunting or fishing, they kept moving up. Now then, they found a somewhat better place where they could live which had a flat area that was what they called Mavikal. And the people there, they were happy because they could hunt. When they caught deer or wild pig, all the families were supplied. And when they went fishing also, when they would catch plenty, they would all the same distribute to all their villagemates, for that was what the people of old did [which was to] distribute to everyone if there were resources they would find.

And there was one day, there were those who went to wash pots at the spring. And they would find people dead and they would turn black. And so the people were baffled as to what they died of. For if it were the enemies, there would have been a wound or an indication of being clubbed, for example, but they would just turn black. That was why the people were baffled as to what was the reason that when someone died, he'd turn black right away. They would not even so much utter a cry so those people nearby could know. It went like that frequently, it is said. It was not like every day, but they would often find a dead person at the spring and he would turn black right away.

The... There was one day, when there was an occasion or a wedding which they did there. Now then, many people came together, and they used a vat for that was where they cooked food. After the activities were finished, the next morning, someone got the vat and uh... *intere...*, er, hoisted it up like a hat..., er, he carried it towards the spring, to wash it. When he was on the road, approaching the spring, there was, it is said, a knocking sound, but he did not pay attention to it for he thought it was the fruit of a pine tree (pinecone). As he took another step, there came another knocking sound. The... *i...* when he put down the vat to inspect it, he noticed the *jaliwatok*, a double-headed snake, that went into the hole of the bamboo. And he plugged [the hole]. After he plugged it, he went forth to tell the people.

“That was the one, people who...er, snake that bit people. For the *jaliwatok* was double-headed. And in a twitching manner was the way it flew, er, the way it moved, not

crawling,” he said, and that was what they called *jaliwatok* because it would be flicked this way and that, and the people went to get firewood for all the people, er, dried wood, and they torched the bamboo [grove]. For back then, the habitation of the people, they fenced it with bamboo. And it only had one entrance. Of course, the bamboos would have holes for they made them into fences.

And from that time on, gone were the mysterious deaths of the people. But in the olden times, they had this belief that there could be another [calamity] for they said, there was a bad *ani*... [*anito*]... spirit which had been giving that which would kill people. And they did not expect that the *jaliwatok* was the only one that lived there. And so they always had... but they still had the fear. And those people in Mavikal, they left for Jogjogway. Then went to Jogjogway which was above Talalang at the edge of the creek Jogjogway. Others went to Longwa-an also. Now that was where those who went far away came from. The others went upstream for they still had the belief that it was still there. For they suspected that the bad spirit was punishing them or there was a bad spirit which was the one sending *jaliwatok* that killed people. And because they had discovered that, that was where they discovered the people, er, or that mysterious way by which the people died for they were not even sick, they just found them at the spring turning black, no longer breathing.

And that was the story of the *jalitawok* in Mavikal. Now that particular Mavikal, it is at the other side [of the river] at the mouth [of the river in] Kinablilan. And there are no more people there now for they fled from it. For they had the belief that it was a curse to live in Mavikal for that was where people died. That is the story at Mavikal where they discovered the *jaliwatok* snake which was the one that bit people. But they had killed it for they burned the bamboo where it lived.

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