

## The Frog

A story of those which we heard from our parents who also heard it from their parents, and narrated it to us and bequeathed by the descendants of [our] ancestors and this is the story we heard, which is what we also recount.

One day, there was a big frog who came from the forest, who went to ask for a place to give birth. Reaching the village, it came upon the place, the first house, of a certain man who was poor like us.

And it said, “*Kak, kak...* Where can I give birth *kak*?” said the frog.

“*Iy*, what are we going to do about that? Where does this one want to give birth?”

“Give [it] the basin to give birth in,” they said.

“*Kak, kak...* I don’t like that basin. The children will be washed away *kak*,” said the frog.

“Where does this want to give birth then?”

“Give [it] the sieve basket,” they said.

“*Kak, kak...* I don’t like that sieve basket, the child would be shaken *kak*,” she said.

“What does it want? Where do you want to give birth then?” they said.

“*Kak, kak...* get [me] that bowl, for that is where I will give birth *kak*,” said the frog.

Then they got the bowl which is antique porcelains, or porcelain, and they placed it on the floor.

The frog, it is said, jumped and, “*Kak!*” the frog said. Out came its child and it is said that it was a baby and the frog leaped away towards the river. And the baby kept crying.

As for the man, he felt sorry for the baby. “*Ay*, it’s taking the frog too long to return. This baby is miserable. He will be hoarse from crying,” he said.

Because the man felt pity, he took a blanket and carried the baby on his back and walked to the river. And when he got to the river, at the bank of the river, he looked around as he cradled [the baby]. “Where did the frog go? This baby is truly piteous and keeps on crying,” he said.

Later on, there was a beautiful woman that he saw approaching. “*Iy*, who could that woman be? *Eh*, it’s really embarrassing for me to be carrying a baby,” so said the man. But the man was brave and got near [her]. And he said: “Havn’t you seen the frog?” said the man.

“Why? Why do you ask about the frog?” said the woma.

“It’s about this baby. After the frog gave birth and delivered [its baby] on the bowl it jumped away and went here in the river,” he said.

“Why do you look for the frog? Give me the baby so I can breastfeed him,” she said. And she took the baby, and breastfed him.

Because it was very hot, the man took pity on the baby. “Let’s go to the village. Let’s go to the house for the baby is pitiful,” he said.

And so they went up to the house. They went to his small house, for he was poor like we are indeed.

So there, it turned out that he married the woman for they lived together indeed. So it seemed incredible for all the things they did turned out well. All their labors were good, it is said. When they farmed, the plants were perfect. All the *gabi*, yams, and sweet potatoes they planted were productive and yielded plenty. When they went planting, their plants were great, and the people were amazed.

“How could that be, his plants are exceptionally better, even though the rest of us plant also but the way they plant is still better,” so said the people.

So it was. Because the couple were industrious and kept on diligently working, their produce got more plentiful. Then later on, the people came to look up, er, the people looked up to them, borrowing rice from them, borrowing food from them for it seemed like they had an overflowing food supply. When they cooked rice, even if the pot was small, they still shared it with the people for it never ran out. And that became the reason their lives turned out well. They became one of the richest in that community. for everything that they did. They paid the people rice when they tilled wide rice paddies, farmland, and they had plentiful harvests. So they became one of the richest in that community. As for the man, he was one of those with good speaking ability for the people now deferred to him for they were one of the rich, the wealthy ones there. And it was customary for the people of old, if you were a fine speaker, it should also get better... your household should be reputable, so that the people would believe you.

That is the story of the frog who asked for somewhere to give birth.

Recorded on December 4–5, 2006, in Kalinga, Philippines

Oral account by Barcelon Panabang

Transcription and Translation by Scott M. Saboy & Lawrence A. Reid

Assisted by Warren Panabang

Recorded and supervised by Michiyo Yoneno-Reyes

<http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~yoneno/database.html>