

How the Masaji-it Tribe Got Its Name

This is the story of how the Masaji-it tribe got its name.

In the olden times, because the iVyanaw were terrified by the various diseases that struck them and most especially when the giant eel was still alive, they fled everywhere. Some went to the Jay-as territory.

Now a couple named Masajut and Mag-it went to the Jay-as area. Masajut was a very hardworking man, and also a warrior. His wife Mag-it was the head of the women, leading them every time an occasion was held. For instance, during a peace pact celebration, she was responsible for the food preparations and all the confectionaries of the gathering. Masajut was the leader of the men because he was an eloquent speaker and a man of integrity. That is why they were well-liked by their community.

Masajut had plenty of tilled land because they had gone to a place where land was wide. They took the opportunity to till the land because they were industrious. When they worked the land in groups, even the women participated because they could use baskets for digging and wood for shoveling. Mag-it would initially lead the group of women. In those days, they engaged in cooperative work with members leading in turns. When each one had her turn, they began the cycle anew. And so it was with the men. When problems arose, they brought these to Masajut and Mag-it. They carefully resolved every problem. Those who did wrong were penalized. They did not have favorites for they treated everyone equally.

As time passed, the number of their descendants grew. Then Masajut and Mag-it died. And so it was that the tribe was named “Masaji-it” in memory of Masajut and Mag-it.

And they had other relatives like Ammut. This Ammut went to Manavu and became the father of the iAmmutan.

So that was how the Masaji-it tribe was formed. So as not to forget Masajut and Mag-it, they got the tribe of Masadut [Masaji-it], so that repeating, in memory of Masadut and Mag-it. That is the story of how they formed the tribe of Masaji-it.

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