Ritual Prayer for a New Pond Field

The two orphaned siblings.

Now then, the common source of living of the people of old [was] swidden farming, for that was where they got their harvest for their food. And as the others went to farm, it was the forest which they farmed for it may have been that their harvest was good if [farming was done] in the forest.

But the siblings, when they went to farm, the [area] that was already farmed – the one which the people of old called *gan-gan* – that was what they purposefully cleared. Now then, it was where they also planted.

And when it was planting time, when there fell off pieces of rice from what the people carried, those were what they kept on gathering which they planted in their farm. And every time they went to their farm, they would take with them their rooster when going to the farm. When they set it down on a rock, when the rooster crowed, it would bob its head towards the upper stream area. But they did not [pay attention to it] for they were women and they did know how to interpret [the signs]. But every time they went, when the rooster crowed, it still bobbed its head towards the same direction. And after five days of the rooster doing like that, for they regularly went to the farm. And the pieces of rice that fell from those carried by their companions who went to farm, those were what they collected which they planted, stuck into their farm.

And because the rooster crowed again, bobbing towards the same upper stream direction. And, "Why is it that when the rooster crows it keeps on nodding its head towards the upper stream?" the siblings said, and… *intri*… they had this question about the rooster.

"So let us take a look," they reportedly said. "And let's move that rock." For it was a thin, flat rock. So they moved the rock. And water gushed out. The water flowed plentifully and ran towards their farm. And the small tilled plot where they placed the pieces of rice, where they stuck the rice into, got watered. And what they planted became bigger in a short time for it was being watered.

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So then, during harvest time, when their village mates harvested, they also harvested. And *hali*, they kept on harvesting for it could barely be harvested completely. Their makeshift hut was filled with their harvested rice. They made another hut which they covered with leaves of trees or reeds. And *hali,* they kept on harvesting. It is said that it could not be finished even though the land they tilled and planted with rice was small.

Now then, the people were amazed for while their harvest was over, the harvest of the siblings was not done yet. And there were more than two huts where they put their harvested rice. And then the harvest was over. And the people were amazed, "How could their harvest be this bountiful when what they planted with rice was small?" they said.

Now, they kept on asking… they [the siblings] expanded the land they tilled. Instead of [being] small, they kept on expanding their tilled soil at the flat area. And every harvest, their rice plants were beautiful. So then the other people got envious. "Let us make a waterway so we could also irrigate the flat land below," they said. The people went to make a canal and so it was that every time they finished… when they were interviewing the siblings, which was what they did when there was a newly tilled land.

The story of those siblings is the ritual prayer for a newly made pond field or rice field. That is the reason why every time there is a newly tilled land, [this story] is used by the one making the ritual prayer. And they customarily butcher a chicken or a piglet if that is what they want to butcher. And that is the story they tell when they do a ritual prayer over a new pond field or rice field.