

The Bravery of Gunu

This is the story about the bravery of Gunu.

Gunu was one of the brave women in Vanaw. One day, Gunu was pressing sugarcanes. After extracting the juice, she began cooking it to make molasses. At that time, the men were away, with some of them working on the swiddens and the others on a head-taking raid.

Then came men from another tribe who were planning to attack Vanaw. It was raining. When they arrived at where Gunu was milling canes, Gunu asked them, “Where are you going?”

“We’re going to attack Vanaw,” they said, unaware that they were already on Vanaw soil.

“Wait a while, Vanaw is still far off. Stay here and wait for the sugarcane juice to be cooked so you can eat and have strength on the way,” said Gunu.

Then Gunu brought out sugarcane wine. She had plenty of it because they had so much sugarcanes. The enemies drank eagerly as they were cold from the rains. Then the men got so drunk that they fell asleep. By that time, the sugarcane juice being cooked by Gunu was ready.

Gunu took a rag blanket made from tree bark, soaked it in the boiling molasses, and ran it over the eyes of the sleeping enemies. There were ten of them. Then they began screaming as they groped for their weapons. As they could barely see, they wildly swung their blades and struck down even their own comrades. Gunu then finished them off, knocking them down, and cutting off their heads.

So this place called “Lappak” is where Gunu had cut down those enemies and was so named because of what Gunu did. That is the Lappak located in Pantikian. Now the place where they dumped the bodies of the enemies Gunu killed is at A-angngutan. They named it

so because the stench coming off from the corpses was unbearable. They all rotted that is why they named that creek A-angngutan.

So that is how Gunu saved the village of Vanaw. Instead of waiting for the Vanaw men, she decided to find a way to kill the enemy. She blinded them with hot molasses. Gunu is remembered for saving Vanaw by slaying the marauding enemies.

That is the end of the story about the bravery of Gunu.

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