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The passageway to the past

Papaseno, Papaseto, In the Faichuuk (Nomwisofo) region of Chuuk lagoon, stood the island of Udot home to the 'orongaw'. It was the land of the best tricksters in all of Micronesia, best in both black and white magic, but since the black magic was starting to overpower throughout the years. The people of Udot were slowly turning away from the providings spirits of both land and sea and started seeking the hands of the wicked spirits. The power of evil was slowly overtaking the land. The good spirits who have always watched over the people of Udot were getting worried now that the wickedness bestowed upon the people was slowly turning into an everyday practice. Nimwoii, was the strongest among all spirits, she was the protector of the land and sea, not even the amount of power she withheld could change the people's devious acts. Nimwoii was once a normal girl who roamed Udot, men fell head over knees for Nimwoii since she was the prettiest girl in all of Udot. A lot of men tried to grab her attention, but she only had eyes for the boy who was an outcast in Udot, Soumwar, who will soon be the greatest chief of Udot. Her beauty and kind heart even attracted the gods, that they gifted her with the ability to communicate with nature. In Nimwoii's living years, she protected Udot, she cared for the animals, the people, and the plants that gave us life. Yet, even a good person can be the most hated person. Nimwoii's looks, personality, and power attracted many men and even gods, but it also stirred up jealousy amongst the women. At this time Nimwoii's popularity had gone from Udot and spread to the other islands of Chuuk, making her very well known. Years passed and

Nimwoii and Soumwar finally got married while Nimwoii was carrying a baby in her belly. Their wedding was the biggest event in all of Chuuk. They were bombarded with gifts from many people from all over Chuuk, and they were even gifted by the gods. During the feast of the newlyweds, a mysterious woman dressed with a torn grass skirt, hair so messy it covered her face as if she was electrocuted, and she was covered with dirt and scars. She entered the ‘uut’ where the feast was held, and went before the Newly weds and wished to celebrate their accomplishment with one last gift. Nimwoii and Soumwar happily agreed, and gave her the chance to proceed. The mysterious lady started humming and all of a sudden the skies turned gray and the sky rumbled with lightning, a big storm was stirring up. The lady chanted, “Ka asonga ei, ka asonga ei, ese ponueta ai koot ren tongomangomw ngeni ei, ka suseni ei and ka eningeringeri, epwe maa nomw ena, epwe maa nomw ena .”(You make me angry, my plans can’t go through because you don’t love me, you left me and now I’m mad, your child will die, die.) The woman chanted these words several more, and the weather got even stronger- and then it stopped. The woman slowly looked up to Nimwoii, as she revealed her face Nimwoii screamed, “It’s you!” It was ‘Fourup’, the evil spirit who ruled the dark places-the underworld, she put a curse on Nimwoii due to pure jealousy. Fourup had a final laugh, “kopwe ne maa”(you’re going to die), and she disappeared in thin air. After that incident, the crowd went wild, everyone was panicking and hurrying back to their islands after that scary encounter. Nimwoii and Soumwar, helped their guests leave, they helped their families tidy up the place and rested in the chief's house for protection. The next day the married couple journeyed up to the highest mountain in Udot, Witonap. They were going to meet the good spirit ‘Ias’, Ias was the goddess of the mountains and he also had the ability to cure sickness, curses, spells, etc. After the long journey to reach the mountain peak, the couple finally made it. ‘Ias’ however, heard their footsteps

walking up the mountain, so he was already at the mountain's peak ready to greet the married couple. “What a delight to see you Nimwoii and Soumwar, congratulations on tying the knot, but what are you guys doing on the mountains when you guys should be spending your honeymoon?” Ias asked. Nimwoii and Soumwar explained everything that happened during their wedding feast and how Fourup walked in unnoticed therefore giving her the opportunity to cast a spell on Nimwoii. “Mighty Ias, can you please help us break this deadly curse”, Nimwoii pleaded. Unfortunately, Ias could only make a slight change in the curse letting the child live but the mother to die, this was even worse. But Nimwoii wanted her baby to breathe the air of life and live amongst the beautiful flowers that Udot had to offer. They agreed with the change in the curse, sad that their love won’t last long but happy their baby will live. “Weuneeeee!” Nimwoii screamed, eventually screaming turned into the cries of a baby. Nimwoii died on that day but the baby lived. Although Nimwoii died she turned into a god, protecting the land and sea, and her precious baby.

Into the woods, beyond the tall trees, past the muddy pathways, and heading straight to the village of Sapitiw in Udot was the most beautiful girl named, Niejipwang. She inhabited an area with flowing waterways, a variety of resources, and a tranquil setting that is separate from all the other villages. Niejipwang was the baby that Nimwoii bore, and the daughter of the greatest chief, ‘Soumwar’. Niejipwang was the most beautiful girl in all of Udot but also the laziest and most ignorant girl in all of Udot. Niejipwang was spoiled by the riches of her father and the access and resources provided by her spirit mother, Nimwoii. Niejipwang was a very rude and disrespectful girl, when her father asked her to sweep the house she’ll start a fire to cook a meal, when her father asked her to cook food she’ll clean the house instead. Niejipwang was very disobedient towards her father; she’d do the opposite thing and she would rather go out

to the beach and play 'pinik' (shells used as if they're dolls) on the sand, than be helpful around the house. Her spirit mother would get very disappointed in her but she had no way with communicating with her, so she'll either control the sea currents or weather to make Niejipwang leave the beach and head home. During this time the Black magic became more known and the knowledge of white magic was starting to fade away, giving way for evil to overcome good. At this moment every practice or ritual that the people of Udot practiced consisted of black magic. Niejipwang had no knowledge of both white and black magic, nor did she know how to do any chores around the house. Despite being un-useful around the house, Niejipwang was the prettiest girl in all of Udot, she had more knowledge of the ocean than of the things on land. One day when all the good spirits had left for the mortlock islands for a gathering among the gods, her dad was away for a meeting on the neighboring islands. Niejipwang felt the urge to travel to Unupii (The sandy beach)- known as the best swimming spot on Udot. Niejipwang prepared her canoe and sailed towards Unupii, excited to swim down in the clear and refreshing waters. Once she reached Unupii, she immediately jumped into the water without showing respect to the land first by putting sand on her face. All the good gods weren't here to look over Niejipwang, so this gave the evil spirits a better opportunity to play around with Niejipwang. Once Niejipwang finished swimming, she went back to shore to snack on the piece of breadfruit and coconut she packed for the journey. As she was getting ready to leave the beach, the waves started to get rough, the sky turned dark, and it started to rain heavily. Niejipwang found this as an opportunity to spend more time on the beach since there was no way to get to her village but by boat. Morning turned into night, the weather wasn't getting any better and Niejipwang was starting to get scared. She walked towards the twin caves which was located on the far side of unupii, because it was a much safer and warm place to spend the night since the weather wasn't going to

get any better. While Niejipwang was walking towards the twin caves she heard someone singing, “Oh mwa en io ke fichi mokureii oh, Oh mwa en io ke fichi mokureii oh, mi sou foss'’ . The mysterious lady continued chanting. Despite the fact that Niejipwang was an ignorant person, yet at this very moment her curiosity grew. She walked toward the mysterious sound and when she got closer she saw a lady crying in the cave. Niejipwang felt the need to comfort the sobbing lady, so she got closer to the woman, “Fefin néé, are you okay?” The mysterious lady didn’t answer nor showed her face to Niejipwang, but continued on with her song, “Oh mwa en io ke fichi mokureii oh, Oh mwa en io ke fichi mokureii oh, mi sou foss'’ . Niejipwang was a lazy girl but was also a very impatient person, so she reached for the ladies shoulder to face her towards her and when she did. The woman looked up to Niejipwang, revealing her face. From that moment Niejipwang realized it was ‘Fourup’ . “Mwa met, I waited a long time to be close to you to finally have the chance to kill you, after all, you were saved by your mother”, said Fourup. Niejipwang screamed and yelled for help. Her father always told her to avoid going to Unupii at night, and also warned Niejipwang of the evil spirits that endangered the livelihoods of the people of Udot. At this very moment, Niejipwang reflected on her attitude towards her father and disobeying him when told not to do something, she cried loudly. Niejipwang cried in the cave locked up in a wooden cage that Fourup prepared for her. while Fourup was preparing the fire to cook Niejipwang on so she could eat her, they felt a sudden movement in the earth. Footsteps started approaching that shocked the earth, and once it got closer there was a figure of a woman, it was Nimwoii. “Fourup nee, Fourup, pwata ka tongeni angei nei omw kopwe ochei, nikiti.” With Nimwoii being the strongest spirit among good and bad with one hit across Fourups face, she went flying out to the ocean. Nimwoii got Niejipwang out of the cage, gave her a hug and told her never to disobey orders or else she’ll end up in this type of situation again. Nimwoii

hugged Niejipwang and they had a moment of mother and daughter hug that they've never had before. Nimwoii brought Niejipwang home safely, she kissed her goodbye, gave her a little lecture, and promised Niejipwang she'll protect her at all cost. Niejipwang headed towards her house crying tears of joy, as she entered the house her father who was worried sick about her whereabouts ran towards her and hugged her with relief. Niejipwang apologized to her father, and the following days Niejipwang started growing out of the name she was given, she became more respectful, obedient, and kind just like the actions of her mother. Fourups died in the ocean after being attacked by Nimwoii, and land grew on her creating the island what we call today, Eot island. Niejipwang became the role model to many Udot people to be careful and always listen to your parents when they say that it's wrong. Niejipwang gives us a lesson to follow what our hearts desire but also consider your actions if it's right or wrong. Always obey your mom and dad.

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Facebook.

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