**LEGENDS**

**The Legend of The Mango**

A long time ago in a far away town, a very rich, happy couple resides with their three boys. The sad part was, the wife died too early which left the three boys and their father. The father was so sad and heartbroken when his beautiful wife died. He just can't accept that she was already gone.

The days were consumed with him being drunk, all day long. Alcohol was his companion and the only thing that helps him deal with the bitter situation that the family didn't expect to happen.

His youngest son approached his father one day and told him, "Please stop what you're doing to yourself dad. We are still here, please hold on." But his dad didn't listen to him. He continued what he was doing and he neglected their livelihood.

Not long after that, the family was heavily indebted. And the family lawyers adviced the siblings that the inheritance should be divided to all three of them. The eldest son thought about it and decided they should have the shares of the properties before all was gone.

And because he was the eldest, he got all the land, and the second son got the big house for himself and all the properties in it.

The youngest son? Oh, he had decided to take care of their father on a small nipa hut on the farthest part of the land that his older brother had given him.

At last their father came to his senses! But it was already too late. He got sick and his body slowed down.

Then the day came that the father was already on the brink of death. He called his youngest son who's taking care of him and he asked for forgiveness.

"I'm so sorry my youngest son. I would be gone and I have nothing left for you other than the heart of your mom and me."

What the father was referring to? It was a fortunate seed that his father and mother had been keeping, shaped like a heart. The very ill father had instructed his youngest son to take care of the seed just like the way he loved and cared for his negligent father.

When the father passed away, the youngest son planted the heart-shaped seed and took care of it when the seedling emerged. He watered it everyday and pulled weeds around the sprout. Soon, the sprout grew to be a strong, big tree with feather-like leaves.

The day came that the tree bore clusters of green fruits in the shape of a heart. And when the fruits ripened, they turned out to be yellow. And they're sweet!

The youngest son was so lucky. He sold the ripe fruits and the wholesalers paid him a lot of money. He decided to plant again the seeds of the remaining ripe fruits so the trees will multiply. And so the next year, he got a land of his own where he planted a lot more mango trees.

In case you are wondering about his two older brothers, well, they both had consumed all their shares as years passed while their youngest brother's effort had all paid off in all that he did.

**The Legend of Banana**

In a small peaceful kingdom down south, a beautiful princess lives. Near the kingdom’s castle is a small forest with beautiful flowers. The princess spends her time there picking the most exquisite and rare that she can find. Although she has her own piece of garden near the palace, the princess prefer visiting the strange forest during siesta time to take a peaceful stroll and enjoy the nature.

One day, she met a handsome man garbed in princely clothes. Although a stranger, the beautiful princess fell in love at first sight at the handsome gentleman. The stranger asked her name and introduced himself afterwards. He said, “I am Prince Aging, and I live in a nearby kingdom, Your Majesty. If it is not too much to ask, I would like to know thy name?”

The princess gave her hand for the prince to plant a kiss and gave her sweetest smile and replied, “I am Mariang Maganda, a princess of this kingdom. Where is this kingdom you are talking about, Prince Aging”. The prince replied sadly, “It is deep in the forest where no human can enter.”

A friendship immediately grew. Everyday, the princess would wait for the prince at the forest and they would spend long hours together. One day, the Prince confesses his love for the Princess. The prince holds her hand and said,” Oh, Princess Mariang Maganda, I love you so much”. The princess replied with the same emotion, “I love you too, my prince.” She was about to add that she has been smitten by the prince since the first time they met when the tears on the prince’s eyes dropped. The prince sadly bade her goodbye and started to leave. Confused, the princess asked him, “But why are you so sad, my love?” The prince voiced out a very sad reply, “I have to go now, my love. I have to go home before it’s too late. If I don’t make it to our kingdom, I won’t be able to go home forever.” As he turn his back, the princess shouted after him,” Are you going back to see me? Will I see you tonight? I will wait in my garden for your return, my prince.” The prince gave a nod and left hastily.

The prince came back before midnight. The happiness that the princess felt upon seeing her prince was priceless. They hold each other tightly and look into each others eyes. They talked about many things and told each other about their undying love. Time passed by so swiftly that the prince gave a start when he realized that it is near daybreak.

He hold the princess in his arms and told her that he is about to leave. The princess touches his arms and hold his hands tightly, “Are you coming back?” The prince replied gravely, “I don’t know, my love. But please, always remember that you are the only woman I will ever love.”

The princess tried to stop him from leaving by holding his hand firmly. The prince tried to let go of the hands that is grabbing him tightly when suddenly he was gone! All that was left are the prince’s hands that she was firmly holding. Frightened and shocked, she buried the two hands in her garden and retired for the night full of sorrow. Days passed, the princess waited for her prince charming to return. Then she noticed strange plant on her garden. The plant grew tall and bears fruits as she waited in vain. The fruits, to her surprise were very similar to the hands of the prince. It downed on her that the Prince Aging is not coming back. The fruit was later on called Banana.

**THE LEGEND OF THE FIREFLY**

A long time ago, there was a handsome, well-built young man who is dreaming of marrying the most beautiful maiden he could lay his eyes on. He was boastful and arrogant thou.

He makes the ladies feel sorry for themselves at times being so boastful and arrogant. He would even criticize them up front without considering their feelings hearing what he has about to say.

He met the most beautiful maiden wearing the purest of all colors on his way to the mountain.

He met the most beautiful maiden wearing the purest of all colors on his way to the mountain.

He was on his way going up to the mountain one day to get some rattans when he came across a lovely maiden wearing the whitest dress, as bright as the rays of the sun. For him, she was the most beautiful maiden he had ever seen.

"She's so beautiful," he thought to himself as he continuously approaches her. The maiden suddenly disappeared when he's getting close to her. She just vanished in an instant.

He went and searched the whole forest just to find her but to no avail. He's all out of luck, and he's so tired from all the searching that he did to find the lovely maiden. For all the time he had spent and the hardship he had endured looking for her without succeeding, he got mad and screamed:

" You're not really beautiful! Did you hear me? You have a flat nose, you're a cross-eyed and you have the biggest ears I've ever seen."

He then lied down under the shade of a tall, big tree and had fallen asleep as he was so exhausted. And guess what he saw when he woke up? The most beautiful maiden he spotted earlier who suddenly disappeared. The one he spent time on looking around and can't find. She is just so beautiful, he knew that. And all the bad things he had said when he got mad was all untrue.

The lovely maiden suddenly vanished in an instant as he approaches.

"You just insulted me a while ago. So from now on, you are going to be a bug!" she said.

"For your form to come back, you have to show me a maiden that will surpass my beauty. Leave and find the lady I was talking about so you can get your old form back," the woodland fairy who disguised herself as a maiden instructed him.

"Can you help me find the most beautiful maiden?"

Now being a bug, he fly near and far to find the maiden much prettier than the fairy. Day and night the young man turned into a bug went on search hoping to find a mortal that will surpass the loveliness of the woodland fairy who cursed him to teach him a lesson. On his search, he brought a light with him to help in his search during nighttime.

He became the only bug who has a flickering light, desperately in search of the mortal maiden that will be the key for his human form to come back.

He is still in search until now and the reason why fireflies llights up only at night. In time this lightning bug is what we now know as "alitaptap." The Filipino word for firefly.

**THE LEGEND OF THE COCONUT TREE**

There was once a young man in loved with a beautiful young woman who also lives on the same island where he resides. The two became sweethearts later on. Aside from being blessed with beauty, the young woman is also kind-hearted and that's why he loves her with all his heart. There's one problem though.

The mother doesn't like the young man for her daughter. And the mother thinks, "My daughter is one of the most beautiful in the island and she should find someone better for her." The mother did what she could to break up the two young sweethearts. The problem is that the two cannot be separated no matter how she tries.So she sought help from a sorceress.

Days passed by and the young woman hasn't seen her beloved young man. She waited but he hadn't shown up to visit her. Then a heavy rain came that resulted in a flood. With the flood water, an earthworm appeared swimming towards her. It startled her to see that it seems to know its way.

"Don't be afraid. It is me," said the earthworm. And before she could speak he added, "I was cursed. Your mother sought the help of a sorceress. And the curse had turned me into this." Teary-eyed, the young woman gently picked up the earthworm and set it in her hands and said how sorry she was for what her mother did.

"Hurry and bury me into the soil," the earthworm said to her. "I want to keep watch over you even when I'm gone, and for you to have something to remember me." And so she did buried the earthworm into their yard.

A strange plant sprouted on where she buried her cursed sweetheart.

Weeks passed by and she missed him so much. Then months went by.

One morning to her surprised, she saw a strange plant sprouted exactly on where she buried her cursed sweetheart. In memory of him, she waited and cared for the strange plant.

It took some time but the sprout grew to be a tall tree without any branches. Soon the tree flowered and turned into fruits. When one fall off the tree, she decided to see how the inside of the round fruit looks like. And to her surprised, when husked, the shell seems like a head with two eyes and a mouth!

She then thought of her young lover and maybe its his way of fulfilling his wish. And she remembered when he said, "Hurry and bury me into the soil. I want to keep watch over you even when I'm gone."

**THE LEGEND OF PAPAYA**

There was once a couple and they were always the topic of the gossiping neighbors. They were Bantawan, the husband, and his wife Papay. The couple lives in the mountainous province of Benguet. Harvesting rice was their source of living. Of the two, Papay the wife is hard-working while the husband Bantawan is sluggish. Papay could be seen on the rice field plowing and harvesting rice while Bantawan stays at home.

Their way of living went like this for a good period of time. Then, the day came that Papay gave birth so she has to stop working. The couple ran out of rice and so she asked her husband if he can do the work for the meantime while she stays home with their newborn.

"Bantawan, we're out of rice. So I think you should do the work for the meantime in the field," Papay said to his husband.

But instead, her husband just shrugged his shoulders off and went back to sleep.

Poor Papay, she has no choice but to do the work herself so she got up. She left her little one at home with her lazy husband and went out to the rice field. She worked hard all day.

The neighbors went crazy looking for Papay when she didn't come home that night. The poor baby, they thought, while feeling sorry for the newborn. She keeps on crying for her mother's milk and Papay wasn't home yet. They looked for Papay everywhere, any place she had possibly went that day. They looked for her from the foot to the top of the hill.

It's been getting late and there's one man in the group of the searching neighbors who had fallen asleep from being worn out. And he had a dream. He dreamed of a tree in the middle of the field that had spoken to him.

"I am the missing mother," was the tree's message in his dream. "Give my fruit to my beloved little one that I had left. My baby will live if you let her eat my fruit," added the strange tree.

When he woke up the following day, he went back to the neighbors and told them about his dream. The neighbors didn't waste time, they headed for the site that was on the man's dream. And there, standing in the center of the field is a strange tree with broad leaves bearing heavy in fruits.

They observed the fruits, it was oblong in shape, some are still green but there are few that are already in vibrant yellow. Those yellow ones are already ripe and ready to be eaten.

The people picked the ripe ones. Off they went to the house of the missing Papay and they fed the baby with the fruit. The baby lived! And she continuously relied on the fruit for food.

Since then, the unknown tree in the center of the field flourished and produced more fruits. The people started eating the ripe fruits as well. The fruit is delicious and sweet. No wonder the baby ate it, they thought.

And because of the way the tree spoke to the man in his dream, the neighbors decided to call the strange tree after Papay.

As years went by, the tree named papay became papaya. From this very first papaya tree came more papayas, the fruit we now enjoy with all its health benefits.

**THE LEGEND OF ILANG-ILANG**

A long time ago, the goddesses are in charge of selecting which of the trees are worth their blessing to bear flowers. Some of the lucky trees which they blessed are the calachuchi tree, katuray or the scarlet wisteria. Mango tree got lucky as well along with adelfa tree and many others.

But there's this one tree which hadn't been blessed to bear flowers, the ylang-ylang tree.

This made ylang-ylang so sad as the tree also wants to bear flowers. Ylang-ylang overheard its fellow trees nearby proudly talking about their beautiful flowers to one another. The neighboring trees became boastful as each one believes they are prettier than one another.

"Trees that doesn't flower should be cut down instead. That would be useful on home building or for firewood," ylang-ylang overheard the other trees talking. This made the ylang-ylang tree sorrowful. The poor tree cries at night as no one would be able to hear the sobs, specially the boastful neighboring trees.

It rained so hard one day. It looks as if a storm is on its way. All the flowering trees prepared for the storm they are all expecting to come that day. The trees clang tightly on the ground and their flowers to the trunks so their precious flowers won't get carried away by the strong wind and rain. On the other hand, the ylang-ylang is so unconcerned as it doesn't have any flowers to worry about.

While the rain keep on pouring, there are two woolly worms at the distance looking for a shelter from the furious weather. Both had already asked few of the trees if there's one that will be willing to help them and give them shelter. But all the trees they asked turned them down, specially those with flowers.

"You two would surely eat up our leaves, and not only our leaves, you probably will eat our flowers too," said the flowering trees.

The poor woolly worms left, with the fear that anytime the rising water would surely carry them away.

The ylang-ylang heard the flowering trees drove the two worms away so the flowerless tree called both out loud.

"Hey, why don't you two stay in my trunks? Make yourself comfortable and you're free to eat my leaves for as long as you want," ylang-ylang told the woolly worms. The kind tree thought that the life of the two worms are more important than its leaves and its flowerless trunks.

It took few days before the storm ceased. Every tree was excited and happy when the sun showed up. Ylang-ylang was checking its trunks, looking for its new friends, the woolly worms. But it saddened the tree as the woolly worms wasn't on the trunks anymore, they might got carried away by the wind. Both are nowhere to be found.

But the kind tree saw something else on one of its trunks, something clings on the trunk that looks like flowers. Alas! It was the ylang-ylang's friends. On the middle of the storm, the two woolly worms had transformed to be beautiful butterflies!

The goddesses found out the good deed the ylang-ylang tree had done.

With a good news, they visited ylang-ylang. They are going to give the gracious tree a reward for thinking about helping others first instead of itself.

"Ylang-ylang, from now on you will bear flowers just like the folded wings of the butterflies that you sheltered," said the goddesses.

But not only that, the flowers of the fortunate ylang-ylang tree has a sweet fragrant that can be smelled on the entire woodland.

This made ylang-ylang very happy. From then on, the ylang-ylang is one of those fragrant flowers that is always admired and appreciated because of its sweet scented flowers, earning the ylang-ylang the title 'Flowers of flowers.'

**THE LEGEND OF SWEET POTATO**

It's been hundred years ago since the last severe drought that occurred had caused people to lost their livelihood. During that time, plants withered and animals died after being sick. There wasn't any rain at all and the weather was too hot.

The people has to find another source of food and hunting was the idea to survive.

There was a nearby forest not affected by the drought which is called the forest of Kamu, a magical forest as to what they know. Magical, or mysterious because despite of the drought that they were experiencing, the forest itself seems to be unaffected. The trees and plants in it are lively and abundant in greenery. And there were enough, or more than enough animals for them to hunt. A perfect place indeed for the people to go for hunting.

One morning, two siblings had decided to go on hunting as early as they could so that they could hunt as many animals as they can. But it seems like it wasn't their lucky day as the two hadn't caught anything at all.

On their way back home, the two hungry siblings spotted a bird resting on a tree. Wasting no time, one of the boys shot the bird and they made a bonfire to cook it so the two brothers can have something to eat since they hadn't eaten anything at all for the day.

The food was already cooked and ready when a beautiful young lady showed up.

"I am lost. I don't know which way to go," said the lady to the duo." "And I'm starving. I hadn't eaten anything for days."

The two boys were so hungry, but they feel sorry for the lady, getting lost in the forest all by herself without anything to eat at all is so much for her to endure. So they offered her the food instead, which the later gladly accepted and ate.

After eating, the young, beautiful maiden thanked the two siblings and told them how much she appreciate the kindness of the two. And as a sign of her gratitude, she wanted to give them something in return.

"It is better for you two to head home. But come back tomorrow and I will meet you here again. I want to give you something in return for your kindness," she said.

And so the two left.

The following day, as they had talked, the two went back in the forest, on the same place where they had made a bonfire, where they met the lady that was lost.

But she wasn't there. They cannot find her. They were sure though that they were on the right spot as they can see the remaining pieces of twigs and woods they had used to set the bonfire, but something's strange. There was no ashes left in there. Instead, they found a strange plant growing on the spot; a plant which hadn't been there before. And as they think of it, how could a plant be all grown overnight?

Maybe this plant was from the mysterious, beautiful maiden they met. Maybe this was what she meant when she said she wanted to give them something.

The two were curious, and so they pulled out the plant. And what did they see? The strange plant has edible fruits attached on its roots. Strange.

"How could a plant bear fruits underground?" thought one of the boys as they hadn't seen a plant like this. And so they decided to bring the crops with them and ask people around what it was.

But the people were unable to identify them as the plants was new to them as well.

And since they need a source of food and they had been having no luck on hunting, the people decided to try and cook the root crops.

Being wary, they tried tasting and eating the cooked crop. Not bad at all. In fact it was good! These made them thankful and happy. Now they have something to help them get through until the dry season ended. And so they planted more of the crops, which now is known as sweet potato.

**THE LEGEND OF THE PINEAPPLE**

Once upon a time, there was a woman who lived with her daughter Pina in a tiny hut in the village. They were poor, and the mother worked day and night to make both ends meet. No matter how hard she worked, though, she never got any help from her daughter.

Pina was a lazy, spoiled kid who liked to play in the backyard all day. Whenever her mother asked for help around the house or tried to send her on an errand, she would always find an excuse by saying she can’t find the object that was needed to complete that task. If her mother asked her to sweep the house, for example, she would say she cannot find the broom, even if it was right there in front of her. Needless to say, her mother always ended up doing the work herself.

One day, her mother became very ill. She called out to Pina, who as usual was playing in the backyard.

“Pina! Pina! Come over here, anak. I am very sick. Can you cook some porridge for me please? I am too weak to get up.”

Pina ignored her mother and continued to play.

“Pina, come over here this very instant, or else!” Pina’s mother mustered all her strength just to say this, but it worked. Pina grudgingly stopped playing and went inside the house. She poked her head inside her mother’s room.

“What do you want, Nanay (mother)? You really expect me to cook for you? That’s too hard,” protested Pina, pouting and stomping her feet.

“Pina, it is very simple. Just put some rice in a pot and add water. Once the water boils, let it simmer for awhile. Stir it occasionally with a ladle. Everything you need should be right there in the kitchen.”

Pina reluctantly left and went to the kitchen. Her mother could hear her banging the drawers and cabinets. Then her mother heard her open the back door and sneak out into the backyard. Her mother waited and waited. Finally, she called out to Pina again.

“Pina, did you cook like I told you to?”

“No,” was the defiant response.

“And why not?” was her mom’s exasperated response.

“Because I could not find the ladle,” was her flippant reply.

“Oh, you lazy child! You probably did not even bother to look for it! What am I going to do with you? Here I am, sick, and I cannot even count on you!”

Her mother wept bitterly. In her anger, she shouted, “I wish you would grow a thousand eyes all over your head! Then you can find what you’re looking for. Maybe then you won’t have any more excuses.”

As soon as she said this, there was complete silence. Her mother thought, “She is trying to be quiet so I will forget about asking her again.” She sighed.

She waited a little bit to see if Pina would come back. Realizing the wait was futile, she wearily got up to do the cooking herself. When she looked out into the backyard, Pina was nowhere to be found. She sighed again and said to herself, “That lazy kid probably went to a friend’s house so she did not have to do any more errands for me.”

Exhausted from the exertion, she soon went back to her room for a much-needed rest. Weak as she was, she just tried to do everything by herself, having given up on any help from Pina.

Hours passed by, and then days. Still no sign of her wayward daughter. With a heavy heart, she thought that Pina had ran away for sure.

When she finally recovered from her illness, the first thing she did was look for Pina. No one had seen or heard from her. It was like she disappeared into thin air.

Months passed and still no sign of her. The mother felt bad for her angry outburst, and she feared that she might probably never see her daughter again.

One day, she was sweeping the backyard where Pina used to play. For months now, she had noticed this strange plant growing on the very spot where she last saw Pina. By this time, the leaves of the plant had fully opened. Inside, she saw this strange yellow fruit that resembled a child’s head with a thousand eyes. A thousand eyes…

She suddenly remembered the spiteful words she used that fateful day. With horror, she realized that in the same way her mother’s love had spoiled her daughter, so did her anger unwittingly curse her. Somehow, her daughter had been turned into this plant.

To honor the memory of her beloved daughter, she named the fruit Pina. She took such loving care of it like it was her own daughter. The fruit flourished so well that it bore more and more fruits, and became popular among the village and the entire country. Its name later evolved to pinya, or pineapple in English.

And that’s how the pineapple came to be, according to folklore, named after a spoiled child who was cursed with a thousand eyes…

**THE LEGEND OF THE MAYON VOLCANO**

Long ago in a place called Ibalon, there lived a beautiful maiden. Her name was Daragang Magayon (the lovely one). She was the daughter of Makusog (the strong one), chief of the tribe.

One day, Daragang Magayon strolled near the river. While crossing the river, she stumbled on a rock and fell quickly in the water. She was swiftly swept downstream by the current.

“Help! Help me!” she cried. Fortunately, her cries were heard by Pangaronon (the proud one) and his bodyguard Amihan (the cold one). Pangaronon jumped into the river and saved Daragang Magayon.

“Thank you for risking your life to save me”, she cried. “How can I repay you? My father is the chief of our tribe. Surely, he will reward your heroism whatever it may take.”

Her beauty immediately captivated Pangaronon. He realized that he had finally met the perfect woman for him. At the same time, Daragang Mayon was instantly attracted to him.

Panganoron asked Makusog’s permission to marry Daragang Magayon. But Makusog could not permit them to marry. Tribal law forbade marriage outside of the clan. As tribe leader he had to enforce the law. Yet, as a father, he wanted to make his daughter happy.

Meanwhile, Patuga (the eruptive one) learned about Panganoron’s intention. Patuga was the most ardent suitor of Daragang Magayon. For years, he had been convincing her to marry him, but to no avail.

One night, Patuga and his cohorts kidnapped Makusog. Then, he sent word to Daragang Magayon that her father would die if she did not marry him. Without a choice, she acceded. Only then did Patuga release Makusog. Soon Patuga and Daragang Magayon were wed. But in the midst of the merrymaking, pandemonium broke out when Panganoron and his men arrived. Fighting ensued between teh two tribes. In a few minutes, Panganoron fatally struck Patuga. However, during the skirmish, a poisoned arrow shot from nowhere, fell on Daragang Magayon’s breast.

Panganoron rushed to her aid and as he kneeled over the dying Daragang Magayon, an enemy hacked his head off.

After the battle, Daragang Magayon was buried and her death was mourned all over the land. Where she was put to rest, a mountain mysteriously appeared.

This mountain is now known as Mayon. It is said that even in death and in another form, she is still haunted by the men who loved her. When Mayon is said to erupt, this is Patuga challenging Panganoron. But when Mayon is calm, Panganoron is embracing her. The tears of Panganoron are shed as rain at times in his grief.

Until today, many are still delighted by the love story behind the legend of the Mayon Volcano.

**THE LEGEND OF MT. ARAYAT**

At the foot of Mt. Alindayat in Pampanga, Philippines, a beautiful maiden by the name of Ara Ayat lived. She was an orphan and is only living with her sick grandmother. Around their small nipa hut, various fruit-bearing trees grow. There are also numerous vegetables, rootcrops, and flowering plants. Ara Ayat patiently cares for these plants. She also tills the soil of their nearby farm regularly.

Since their house is far from civilization and Ara doesn’t go to town often because she can’t live her sick grandma, she’s not well-known to the townspeople.

One day, while Ara was gardening, an unknown young gentleman called her attention.

“Good day to you, lady. Can I ask for a favour?” asked the gentleman. “Good day to you to. What can I do for you?” answered Ara Ayat. “Can I ask for a glass of water? I am really thirsty,” said the gentleman. Ara lead him inside the house and gave him the water.

Meanwhile, she heard three knocks from her grandmother’s room. She went inside and was shocked by the paleness of her grandmother. Grandma summoned her to come closer and asked for her hand. Ara was more shocked by the coldness of her grandmother’s hand. Her grandma gave her one final blessing and closed her eyes and died. Ara broke down. She wailed upon the loss of her only relative. This loud cry made the gentleman panic so she knocked on the door and went inside the room. She was stunned by the dead body of the old lady. He pitied Ara and tried to console her. “I am really sorry for your loss, lady. If you will let me, I can help you bury her. I also understand that you are now alone. If you like, I shall marry you tomorrow,” proposed the gentleman.

Ara, having fancied the gentleman, agreed on one condition. That they will stay in that place because she can’t leave the death bed of her parents. The gentleman agreed and they were married the next day. Since then, the gentleman changed the name of Mt. Alindayat to Arayat as a tribute to his wife- Ara Ayat.

**FABLES**

**Why Dogs Wag their Tails**

A rich man in a certain town once owned a dog and a cat, both of which were very useful to him. The dog had served his master for many years and had become so old that he had lost his teeth and was unable to fight anymore, but he was a good guide and companion to the cat who was strong and cunning.

The master had a daughter who was attending school at a convent some distance from home, and very often he sent the dog and the cat with presents to the girl.

One day he called the faithful animals and bade them carry a magic ring to his daughter.

“You are strong and brave,” he said to the cat. “You may carry the ring, but you must be careful not to drop it.”

And to the dog he said, “You must go with the cat to guide her and keep her from harm.”

They promised to do their best, and started out. All went well until they came to a river. As there was neither bridge nor boat, there was no way to cross but to swim.

“Let me take the magic ring,” said the dog as they were about to plunge into the water.

“Oh, no,” replied the cat, “the master gave it to me to carry.”

“But you cannot swim well,” argued the dog. “I am strong and can take good care of it.”

The cat refused to give up the ring until finally the dog threatened to bite her, and then she reluctantly gave it to him.

The river was wide and the water so swift that they grew very tired, and just before they reached the opposite bank the dog dropped the ring. They searched carefully, but could not find it anywhere, and after a while they turned back to tell their master of the sad loss. Just before reaching the house, however, the dog was so overcome with fear that he turned and ran away and never was seen again.

The cat went on alone, and when the master saw her coming he called out to know why she had returned so soon and what had become of her companion. The poor cat was frightened, but as well as she could she explained how the ring had been lost and how the dog had run away.

On hearing her story the master was very angry, and commanded that all his people should search for the dog, and that it should be punished by having its tail cut off.

He also ordered that all the dogs in the world should join in the search, and ever since when one dog meets another he says, “Are you the old dog that lost the magic ring? If so, your tail must be cut off.” Then immediately each shows his teeth and wags his tail to prove that he is not the guilty one.

Since then, too, cats have been afraid of water and will not swim across a river if they can avoid it.

**The Hawk and the Hen**

A hawk flying about in the sky one day decided that he would like to marry a hen whom he often saw on earth. He flew down and searched until he found her, and then asked her to become his wife. She at once agreed as long as he would wait until she could grow wings like his, so that she might also fly high. The hawk agreed to this and flew away, after giving her a ring as an engagement present and telling her to take good care of it.

The hen was very proud of the ring and placed it around her neck. The next day, however, she met the cockerel who looked at her in astonishment and said, “Where did you get that ring? Do you not know that you promised to be my wife? You must not wear the ring of anyone else. Throw it away.”

The hen threw away the beautiful ring.

Not long after this the hawk came down bringing beautiful feathers to dress the hen. When she saw him coming she was frightened and ran to hide behind the door, but the hawk called to her to come and see the beautiful dress he had brought her.

The hen came out, and the hawk at once saw that the ring was gone.

“Where is the ring I gave you?” He asked. “Why do you not wear it?”

The hen was too frightened and ashamed to tell the truth so she answered, “Oh, sir, yesterday when I was walking in the garden, I met a large snake and he frightened me so that I ran as fast as I could to the house. Then I missed the ring and I searched everywhere but could not find it.”

The hawk looked sharply at the hen, and he knew that she was deceiving him.

He said to her, “I did not believe that you could behave so badly. When you have found the ring I will come down again and make you my wife. But as a punishment for breaking your promise, you must always scratch the ground to look for the ring. Every chicken of yours that I find, I shall snatch away.”

Then he flew away, and ever since all the hens throughout the world have been scratching to find the hawk’s ring.

**The Spider and the Fly**

Mr. Spider wanted to marry Miss Fly. Many times he told her of his love and begged her to become his wife, but she always refused, for she did not like him.

One day when she saw Mr. Spider coming again, Miss Fly closed all the doors and windows of her house and made ready a pot of boiling water. She waited, and when Mr. Spider called, begging her to allow him to enter, she answered by throwing boiling water at him. This made Mr. Spider very angry and he cried, “I will never forgive you for this, but I and my descendants will always despise you. We will never give you any peace.”

Mr. Spider kept his word, and even today one can see the hatred of the spider for the fly.

**The Crocodile and the Peahen**

Once there lived a young crocodile on the bank of the Pasig River. He was so fierce and so greedy that no animal dared to approach him. One day while he was resting on a rock, he thought of getting married. He said aloud, I will give all that I have for a wife. As he pronounced these words, a coquettish peahen passed near him. That naughty crocodile expressed his wish again. The coquette listened carefully, and began to examine the crocodile's looks.

She said to herself, I will marry this crocodile. He is very rich. Oh my! If I could only have all those pearls and diamonds, I should be the happiest wife in the world. She then alighted on the rock where the crocodile was, who made his offer again with extreme politeness, as a hypocrite always does. She thought that the big eyes of the crocodile were two beautiful diamonds and that the rough skin was made of pearls, so she accepted the proposal. The crocodile asked the peahen to sit on his mouth, that she might not spoil her beautiful feathers with mud. The foolish bird did as she was told. What do you think happened? He made a good dinner of his new wife.

**THE FROG WHO WISHED TO BE AS BIG AS AN OX**

An ox grazing in the field happened to set foot on a young frog. The frog was crushed to death. His brothers and sisters who were playing nearby ran at once to tell their mother what had happened.

The monster who did it was very big, they said.

The mother who was a vain old thing thought that she could easily make herself as big as the monster.

Was it as big as this? she asked, blowing herself up puffing with all her might.

No mother, they said. The monster is very much bigger.

Again, the vain old frog huffed and puffed to make herself even bigger.

Now, I'm as big as that monster, I'm sure, she said.

No, mother, the little frogs said, Even if you try some more, you will only burst before you become as big.

But the silly old frog, huffing and puffing, tried some more and finally she burst indeed.

Lesson: Do not boast, it can lead you to trouble and humiliation.

**THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE**

One stormy day, a monkey was standing by the shore of a river, wondering how he could get to the other side. He could not get over by himself; for the water was deep, and he did not know how to swim. He looked around for some logs; but all he saw was a large crocodile with its mouth wide open, ready to seize him. He was very much frightened; but he said, Oh, Mr. Crocodile, please do not kill me! Spare my life, and I will lead you to a place where you can get as many monkeys as can feed you all your life.

The crocodile agreed, and the monkey said that the place was on the other side of the river. So the crocodile told him to get on his back, and he would carry him across. Just before they reached the bank, the monkey jumped to land, ran fast as he could, and climbed up a tree where his mate was. The crocodile could not follow, of course; so he returned to the water, saying, Time will come and you shall pay.

Not long afterwards the monkey found the crocodile lying motionless, as if dead, in a place where some Chile pepper bushes loaded with numerous bright-red fruits like ornaments on a Christmas tree. The monkey approached the crocodile, and began playing with its tail; but the crocodile made a sudden spring, and seized the monkey so tightly that he could not escape. Think first, think first! said the monkey. Mark you, Mr. Crocodile! I am now the cook of his Majesty, the king. Those bright-red breads had been entrusted to my care, the monkey pointed to the pepper shrubs. The moment you kill me, the king will arrive with thousands of well-armed troops and punish you.

The crocodile was frightened by what the monkey said. Mr. Monkey, I did not mean to harm you, he said. I will set you free if you will let me eat only as many pieces of the bread as will relieve my hunger.

Eat all you can, responded the monkey kindly. Take as many as you please. They are free to you.

Without another word, the crocodile let the monkey go, and rushed at the heavily-ladden bushes. The monkey slipped away secretly, and climbed up a tree, where he could enjoy the discomfiture of his voracious friend. The crocodile began to cough, sneeze, and scratch his tongue. When he rushed to the river to cool his mouth, the monkey laughed at him.

**THE WILD CAT, THE DEER AND THE BIRD**

here lived in Pesia many years ago a man named Pocoy. One day, Pocoy wandered through the forest. While he was walking, he saw a wild cat. Pocoy followed the cat. This wildcat climbed the tree and the man watched the cat. When the cat reached the top of the tree, it found a nest with some eggs in it.

Bird, do not fly away from your nest, for the deer at the foot of the tree is watching you, said the cat. If you leave your nest, the deer will shake the tree and the eggs will fall down.

Thank you for your warning to me, replied the bird.

Then the cat went down and said to the deer, Deer, do not leave your fawns because if you leave them, the birds will catch your fawns and use them as their food.

Is that true? asked the deer.

Yes, it is true, answered the cat.

As the result of this, the deer and the bird died and were eaten by the wildcat.

Lesson: Hypocrite pretends friendship.

**THE GREEDY CROW**

One day a crow found a piece of meat on the ground. He picked it up and flew to the top of a tree. While sitting there eating his meat, a kasaykasay (a small bird) passed by. She was carrying a dead rat, and was flying very fast. The crow called to her, and said, Kasaykasay, where did you get that dead rat that you have? But the small bird did not answer: she flew on her way. When the crow saw that she paid no attention to him, he was very angry; and called out, kasaykasay, kasaykasay, stop and give me a piece of that rat, or I will follow you and take the wholething for myself! Still the small bird paid no attention to him. At last, full of greed and rage, the crow was determined to have the rat by any means. He left the meat he was eating, and flew after the small creature. Although she was only a little bird, the kasaykasay could fly faster than the crow; so he could not catch her. While the crow was chasing the kasaykasay, a hawk happened to pass by the tree where the crow had left his meat. The hawk saw the meat, and at once seized it in his claws and flew away.

Although the crow pursued the kasaykasay a long time, he could not overtake her, so at last he gave up his attempt, and flew back to the tree where he had left his meat. But when he came to the spot, he found the meat was gone. He was almost ready to die of disappointment and hunger. By and by the hawk which had taken the meat passed by the tree again. He called to the crow, and said to him, Mr. Crow, do you know that I am the one who took your meat? If not I'm telling you now, and I am very sorry for you.

The crow did not answer the hawk, for he was so tired and weak that he could hardly breathe.

**THE CROW AND THE HUNGRY DOG**

A dog was once lost in the forest by hunters. Not being able to find his way back, he wandered through the forest in search of something to eat. After a few days of unprofitable search for food, he became very thin and weak. He had not tasted anything except water, for several days. One day as he was walking listlessly and staggeringly under the trees, he saw by chance a crow that had a piece of meat in her beak. Looking up, the dog sat on its legs, and prayed to the crow to give him a piece of her meat.

The dog said: Hey, good friend, please give me a piece of your victual for I am very very hungry.

The crow, in hearing this remark of the dog, opened her beak and laughed. But when she opened her mouth the piece of meat which she had, fell to the ground. The hungry dog greedily picked it up and he now had the occasion to laugh at the poor crow.

After having feasted on the meat, the dog said: I thought that you were wiser than I at first, but I see now that it is just the reverse. And if you would only come down, I will eat you up also, the dog continued.

Upon hearing this, the crow flew away. She was sorely distressed by the loss of the meat. She would have sacrificed her life for it but seeing that she could not do anything against the dog, she was contented, though sorely, to spend the whole day without eating anything.

**THE APE AND THE FIREFLY**

One evening the firefly was on his way to the house of a friend, and as he passed by the ape’s house, the latter asked him: My, Firefly, why do you carry a light?

The firefly replied: Because I am afraid of the mosquitoes.

Oh, then you are a coward, are you? said the ape.

No, I am not, was the answer.

If you are not afraid, asked the ape, why do you always carry a lantern?

I carry a lantern so that when the mosquitoes come to bite me I can see them and defend myself, replied the firefly.

Then the ape laughed aloud, and on the next day he told all his neighbors that the firefly carried a light at night because he was a coward.

When the firefly heard the ape had said, he went to his house. It was night and the ape was asleep, but the firefly flashed his light onto his face and awakened him. The firefly was very angry and said: Why did you spread the report that I was a coward? If you wish to prove which of us is the braver, I will fight you on the plaza next Sunday evening.

The ape inquired: Have you any companions?

No, replied the firefly, I will come alone.

Then the ape laughed at the idea of such a little creature presuming to fight with him, but the firefly continued: I shall be expecting you on the plaza about six o’clock next Sunday afternoon.

The ape replied: You had better bring someone to help you, as I shall bring my whole company, about a thousand apes, each as big as myself. This he said, thinking to frighten the strange little insect, who seemed to him to be crazy. But the firefly answered: I shall not need any companions, but will come alone. Good-bye.

When the firefly had gone, the ape called together his company, and told them about the proposed fight. He ordered them to get each one a club about three feet long and to be on the plaza at six o’clock the next Sunday evening. His companions were greatly amazed, but as they were used to obeying their captain, they promised to be ready at the appointed time and place.