

# Amfusnun

derived from the narrative of Arfonso Nacleo, as passed on to him by Churay

Long, long ago, there lived a handsome bachelor named Amfusnun. One day, Amfusnun and his companions decided to set out for Fianawor to go head-hunting. On their way to Fianawor, they came upon the sight of a woman fetching water in the distance. Amfusnun was told by his companions to bring back the female's head. Amfusnun agreed.

Approaching the woman, however, Amfusnun found himself mesmerized by her beauty. So instead of beheading her, he decided to strike up a conversation with the fair maiden. Inwayas was her name. In conversing with him, Inwayas was also captivated by him, for Amfusnun was a famed youth, known for his good looks and valor in combat, greatly admired by many a young woman.

So entranced was Amfusnun that he asked Inwayas to be his wife. And in her growing admiration for the charming youth, the maiden accepted. Thus, they set a day upon which they were to meet again at the very spot. Lest he keep his companions waiting much longer, Amfusnun bade the lady farewell.

Returning to his companions, Amfusnun saw that they were somewhat bewildered. "You were talking with her, and face to face besides. Why, then, did you not kill her?" they asked.

"But I found no one there," he replied.

The excuse irked Amfusnun's companions. "Oh, very well then, let's just head home," they said. And so, they returned to Fiallig.

Finally, the day of their tryst came, and Amfusnun headed for the rendezvous without a word to any of his companions. Inwayas, on the other hand, was restless the entire time. She had been to and from the spring all afternoon, anxious for his arrival. When Amfusnun came, Inwayas invited him to Fianawor to obtain her parents' consent.

Inwayas introduced Amfusnun to her parents. "Where is he from?" Chinnan, her father, was quick to inquire.

"He is Ifiallig," replied Inwayas.

"Where did you meet?" Chinnan asked Amfusnun. Amfusnun then relayed the events from the excursion into Fianawor with his companions and the subsequent encounter with Inwayas.

"If you are truly in love with each other, then I have no objections. When is the *chuyas* (wedding feast)? Here in Fianawor, custom dictates that you, as the man, should provide for the *chuyas*," said Chinnan.

"If that is the case, then I must go home and send for my companions," replied Amfusnun.

Amfusnun returned later that day accompanied by his companions, who had brought with them three hefty swine, two black and one white. The pigs had walked the trail with them and were secured with ropes upon their arrival at Fianawor.

At daybreak, only the two black hogs remained. The white one was gone. They followed the trail left by its hooves and realized that it was headed back for Fiallig. Nevertheless, it was decided the ceremony should not be delayed by searching for the pig, and that the *chuyas* would carry on as planned, with only two swine to be slaughtered. After the

ceremony, Amfusnun's companions returned to Fiallig and were surprised to find the white pig there. "Might this be a bad omen?" they wondered.

Amfusnun decided to dwell in Fianawor. One day, Amfusnun inquired of his stepfather, "Do you not have any land on which traps could be set?"

"We do, over at Munporyas," was Chinnan's response.

"If you don't mind, would you accompany me there tomorrow that I may set traps?" Amfusnun requested.

Early the next morning, they set out for Munporyas that Chinnan may show Amfusnun the place. The land was in good condition, flat and with a stream flowing right through it, an ideal place for setting traps. Installing his contraptions, Amfusnun discovered that the land was rich and would provide a good yield. Amfusnun occasioned to plant sweet potatoes that he may have something to eat on nights spent in Munporyas without provisions. Several years passed. The sweet potatoes grew to be abundant and the game was plentiful.

One day, Amfusnun was called on by his brother-in-law. "Come, and let us check on your traps," his brother-in-law said.

"Let us go tomorrow then, if you wish," Amfusnun replied.

Unknown to Amfusnun, his brother-in-law harbored a deep resentment toward him. He planned on killing Amfusnun. The following day, he headed out earlier than Amfusnun so he could set up an ambush. He lay in wait for Amfusnun at a steep incline on the mountain trail.

Amfusnun reached the upward path and began his ascent, when from out of nowhere his brother-in-law yelled, "Now you die!" and hurled a spear toward Amfusnun. But

Amfusnun was a finely-honed warrior. Reacting purely on reflex, he was able to get out of the way quickly and instinctively threw his own spear at the unseen foe. Amfusnun's aim was true and his spear skewered his brother-in-law right through the stomach.

Amfusnun could hardly believe his eyes when he saw that it was his brother-in-law who perpetrated the attack. "You said that we would only check on the traps. Why would you wish my demise?" Amfusnun asked. His brother-in-law could utter no response.

Amfusnun's brother-in-law was badly hurt, but in weak gasps he was able to say, "Please, carry me home. Let me explain to the village that this was all my doing. Hurry while I still draw breath."

So Amfusnun carried his brother-in-law back to their village. Struggling for every breath, he was able to communicate to his people, "Punish Amfusnun not, for this whole incident is my fault. I plotted on killing him and he had no choice but to defend himself. Please forgive me."

With his brother-in-law's dying words Amfusnun was spared any blame.

Although he was not to blame, Amfusnun's conscience was unrelenting. He could not bear to live in Fianawor, among the people he had so bereaved.

"I am ashamed of what has transpired between your brother and me. And though it pains me so, I'm afraid I must leave here," were Amfusnun's parting words to Inwayas. "I will stay at Munporyas. When our children are older, please take them to visit me, and I shall send you off with the day's catch and the sweet potatoes I grow, that you may not go hungry."

Inwayas grieved deeply, shedding many a tear, but she knew that she would not be able to dissuade Amfusnun from his decision.

Thus, Amfusnun came to stay at Munporyas. His harvest continued to be bountiful. Several of the Imunporyas saw the many large sweet potatoes that he grew. So, they also planted their own near his. A few years later, Amfusnun met a female Imunporyas and they were wed. Soon after, many more people came to settle at Munporyas, and they are the forebears of present-day Imunporyas.