

# Maanam-am

derived from the narrative of  
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The village of Maanam-am can be found on the mountain atop Tico. Long, long ago, the men of Maanam-am were vigorous hunters who kept the skulls of the wild boar they killed as trophies.

One day, a mischievous youth in the village conjured up a prank and made his dog wear the skull of a slain boar. The dog was a hilarious sight indeed, and all who saw it doubled up laughing. But unknown to the people of Maanam-am, the *bathala* observed their every move.

Not long after, a child took a drink from the pigs' trough and drew the anger of the old people in the village. The child was scolded for his behavior and was told never to drink from there again, "For," they said, "that water is filthy and is fit only for the pigs."

To everyone's amazement, the water spoke, angry and utterly offended, "If I am so filthy, then why do you use me to irrigate your *payyiw*? I am not filthy. I am the reason why your plants grow so you may have a bountiful harvest." The people of Maanam-am fell silent, awestruck.

The *bathala* witnessed this insolence towards nature. So, they laid a curse on the people of Maanam-am. The caves collapsed and the earth tumbled down the mountain in a mighty crash. The people of Maanam-am were completely engulfed by the rushing soil, and few survived the calamity. The survivors of the catastrophe that befell Maanam-am relocated to Tabra and settled there. In time, they were joined there by the people from Masiki.

Most of the earth from Maanam-am was deposited at Tamkang, located at the foot of the mountain. The elders say, Maanam-am's collapse explains the likeness between the earth at Maanam-am on the mountain's peak and the earth at Tamkang by the mountain's foot.