

Story 16: The Divine Palette



Story shared by: *Luzy*

Representing: *Philippines*

The Story:

Long, long time ago, there was only one being on earth, and his name was Bathala, the father god. Bathala lived alone, and from his great loneliness, he decided to create humans to keep him company.

He took some soil from the earth and carefully molded it into the shapes of a man and a woman. He placed them in the fire to bake, but while they were cooking, he became distracted. By the time he remembered, the figures had burned. Quickly, he pulled them out, but they were already blackened. And so, the first black people came to be.

Not satisfied, Bathala decided to try again. This time, he molded another man and woman from the soil. Afraid of burning them like before, he pulled them from the fire too quickly. They were still raw and pale. Thus, the first white people were created.

Bathala learned from these attempts and decided to give it one last try. He molded yet another man and woman with great care. This time, he was cautious and watched over them closely, making sure not to leave them in the fire too long or take them out too early. When the time was just right, he removed them, and they came out a perfect brown color—not too black, not too white. This color was called kayumanggi.

This beautiful brown shade became the color of the people of the Philippines, known as kayumanggi. It was said to be the perfect balance.



Story Moral: *The moral of the story is about embracing and loving one's unique identity and natural beauty. It teaches us that all skin tones have their own value and significance, and that we should take pride in who we are, rather than trying to change ourselves to fit certain ideals.*