

MYTHS AND RITUALS AMONG THE BABAYLAN OF TUBUNGAN, ILOILO

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an exploratory study on myths, an important genre in folk literature, and thier relation to *binabaylan* in Tubungan, Iloilo. Specifically it aims to identify and discuss myths found in the locale; to describe specific agricultural rituals, beliefs, and practices; to analyze the relationship between agricultural myths and rituals; and lastly, to describe and analyze the function(s) of rituals and myths in the context of *binabaylan* in Tubungan.

The study discusses six myths namely: Apik and Manampunay, Pinihakang Daraga, the *Datu* and the *Panaet*, the seven *Bacam* jars and the *Panaitan*, the origin of rice, corn and beans and the origin of rice varieties. These myths are then analyzed to reveal their importance in the *binabaylan* symbolism and ideology.

The study also discusses seven agricultural rituals namely: *paminhi*, *patubong*, *panaet*, *panudlak*, *tuos*, *tagurabong*, and *panguyang*. Each ritual is discussed including their accompanying *hurobaton* (ritual-chant), taboos observed and food being offered.

After examining the relationship between the agricultural rituals and the myths, the paper concludes that not all myths have corresponding rituals. Certain rituals have retained their mythic explanation, some have not. Myths and rituals reveal an orientation about the world and of reality. Through the recitation of myths in rituals, people learn not only to adjust themselves within the society to which they are born, but also to match their personal pains and conflicts to those of the heroes narrated in these stories. In these ways, they gain guidance and, eventually, wisdom.