

# philippine studies

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## **Local Myths and Legends: Outline of Philippine Mythology**

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as about Spain—the real Spain of the lower classes: uneducated, unchurched, unprincipled, misguided, yet not divorced from basic humanity.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

## LOCAL MYTHS AND LEGENDS

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPINE MYTHOLOGY. By F. Landa Jocano. Manila: Centro Escolar University Research and Development Center, 1969. xii, 161 pp.

Dr. Jocano here presents a lively collection of Philippine myths and legends that “may serve as an introduction for laymen to this highly interesting phase of our people’s culture” (Foreword, p. viii).

After the author’s instructive Introduction (1-7) there follow seven chapters that treat respectively of the coming of the gods, the world’s creation, the peopling of the earth, the great flood, wanderings of the divinities, native heroes, and legends of places, plants, and animals. In each chapter is found a selection of myths or legends that the author has himself recorded or, as he says, “borrowed and stolen” (vi) from the writing of others (of the 17 or so authors mentioned in the footnotes as sources, eight are Americans, five are Filipinos, three are Spaniards, and one (Povedano 1578) is almost certainly spurious (see W. H. Scott, *Prehispanic source materials for the study of Philippine history* [Manila: UST Press, 1968], 125-28, 136).

Dr. Jocano tells a good story. The book is to be read and enjoyed. Let the scholar who comes to it put aside notions of comparative analysis — details such as the exact provenience of the materials and the dates they were recorded are not given, nor is there an index. Rather, let the scholar savor this sampler and he may be moved to join the ranks of Francisco Demetrio, S.J., Juan Francisco, E. Arsenio Manuel, and others, Jocano included, who are working toward that encyclopedic work on Philippine mythology so desired by Benito Legarda, Jr., who contributed the book’s Foreword.

The director, officers, and members of the CEU Research Center are to be congratulated for this, their first publication. By their part in it they have made a contribution to our understanding of Philippine life.

FRANK LYNCH