

Pfatpfaton.

1 This is what happened to the first people here in Henanga.

2 Pfatpfaton was a hunter.

3 One day, he took his packed lunch and his flint, then he put them in his backpack and put it on.

4 He also took his spear and called his dog, then they set off for the forest to go hunting.

5 When they got there, he sent his dog to look for game.

6 As the dog went, he saw a girl who was weaving.

7 When the dog saw her, he kept on barking and barking.

8 Pfatpfaton heard it and he said to himself, <<What can the dog be barking at?>>

9 Pfatpfaton went after it and he saw the dog barking at the girl who was weaving in the cave.

10 Pfatpfaton thought, <<Who can this girl be that my dog keeps barking at, weaving in this cave?>>

11 Pfatpfaton went nearer and said to the girl, <<Why are you weaving in this cave?>>

12 She replied, <<I'm weaving a skirt for myself.>>

13 Then the girl said, <<Why have you come here?>>

14 Pfatpfaton replied, <<I just followed my dog who was barking at you.>>

15 Then the girl said, <<What is your name then?>>

16 <<I am Pfatpfaton.>>

17 And Pfatpfaton said, <<May I also ask your name?>>

18 She replied, <<I am Lingan.>>

19 Pfatpfaton said, <<Would you like to marry me?>>

20 Lingan said, <<Yes, I would. So wait until later when my parents come home so that you can ask their permission.>>

21 Pfatpfaton said, <<Who is your father?>>

22 She replied, <<Cobra.>>

23 And he said, <<Who is your mother?>>

24 She replied, <<Lizard.>>

25 Pfatpfaton said, <<When they come, they might bite me.>>

26 Lingan said, <<No, they won't. Let me cover you with the large vat.>>

27 She covered Pfatpfaton with the vat.

28 Some time later, Cobra threw down a deer.

29 Lizard did the same.

30 In a little while, they arrived.

31 They brought the deer which Lingan took. She was biting pieces off and was chewing them.

32 Pfatpfaton peeped out at her.

33 Then he said to himself, <<Why are they eating the deer raw? Don't they know how to cook?>>

34 Cobra said, <<What is that human smell? Has somebody come here?>>

35 Lingan said, <<A man came earlier saying he wants to marry me.>>

36 Cobra said, <<Well please bring him out then.>>

37 She said, <<He's afraid. He said, <Please tell your parents not to bite me.> >>

38 Cobra said, <<We won't. We won't kill him.>>

39 She lifted up the vat and brought Pfatpfaton out. He said, <<I would like to marry your daughter.>>

40 Cobra and Lizard said, <<Yes, if that's what you want.>>

41 So Pfatpfaton said, <<Then I'll go to get my packed lunch.>>

42 He went to get his rice and flint and rice pot.

43 He put water in the pot, then he cooked the rice until it was ready to eat.

44 Then he said, <<Now let's cook the deer.>>

45 They cooked the deer until it was well done.

46 Then Pfatpfaton and Lingan sat down to eat.

47 And Cobra and Lizard also sat down to eat.

48 All of them were eating.

49 Lizard and Cobra were saying, <<Wow! This certainly is a good way to eat because this deer meat is really tender.>>

50 Lingan said the same.

51 She said, <<This is how to cook. Previously, we were just eating deer meat raw. When it is cooked until it is well done, it becomes soft and good to taste and chew.>>

52 So they continued to eat.

53 After some days, Pfatpfaton said, <<Lingan, let's go to my home so that we can do field work because there is nowhere here to do it. Then we'll have rice to eat with the deer.>>

54 Lingan replied, <<Yes, of course.>>

55 They came to Na-udlaan.

56 They were living there, working and planting swiddens and raising their food.

57 One time, Pfatpfaton said to his wife Lingan, <<We should hold a wedding ceremony.>>

58 Lingan replied, <<Yes, of course.>>

59 Pfatpfaton said, <<We'll plan a wedding ceremony and tell your father Cobra and your mother Lizard to invite their parents and other relatives to come. And we will do the same, inviting our relatives here in the village to come when we celebrate the wedding.>>

60 So they began to strip rice.

61 They called their neighbours and relatives.

62 They were all stripping rice.

63 When they had stripped the grains, they pounded it.

64 When the pounding was finished, they made rice wine.

65 When the rice wine was ready, they pounded more to cook for eating.

66 When they had done everything, they said, <<Cobra and Lizard, go and invite all your relatives so that you can come on the set day for Lingan and Pfatpfaton to hold a wedding ceremony.>>

67 So Cobra said, <<Yes, of course.>>

68 Cobra went to invite his many snake relatives.

69 And Lizard did the same, inviting her many lizard relatives.

70 On the set day, Lingan said, <<Please get the sugar cane press and stick it in the ground, then fix it lengthways so that our snake and lizard in-laws will have something to rest their heads on when they come.>>

71 So they said, <<Yes, certainly.>>

72 They got the sugar cane press and stuck it in the ground, then they fixed it lengthways so that the guests would have somewhere to rest their heads.

73 Then Lingan said, <<Get the large vat also and put it on the fire, and put it close to the wood post you erected. When you have put it on the fire, then fill it with rice wine.>>

74 They said, <<Alright.>>

75 And they did it.

76 They filled the vat with rice wine and when it was mid morning, the rustling sound of the snakes coming could be heard in the distance.

77 In a little while, they arrived at Lingan's and Pfatpfaton's house.

78 The people were shrinking back saying, <<They might bite us.>>

79 The snakes came to the yard and they rested their heads on the sugar-cane-press.

80 There were various kinds of snake - there were black ones and red ones and pale-colored ones.

81 All the kinds of snakes were there.

82 Then they saw many lizards coming too.

83 They dipped their heads into the rice wine that was in the vat.

84 The snakes and lizards all became drunk, and they were squirming around Pfatpfaton's and Lingan's house.

85 The people said, <<What's going on, Lingan? They might bite.>>

86 She said, <<No, they won't. Don't throw stones at them. Even though they are like that, don't strike them.>>

87 And the people said, <<No, we won't.>>

88 That's how it was and this is the end.

89 Pfatpfaton and Lingan lived happily ever after.