

Juan Måla: A Story of a Clever Man

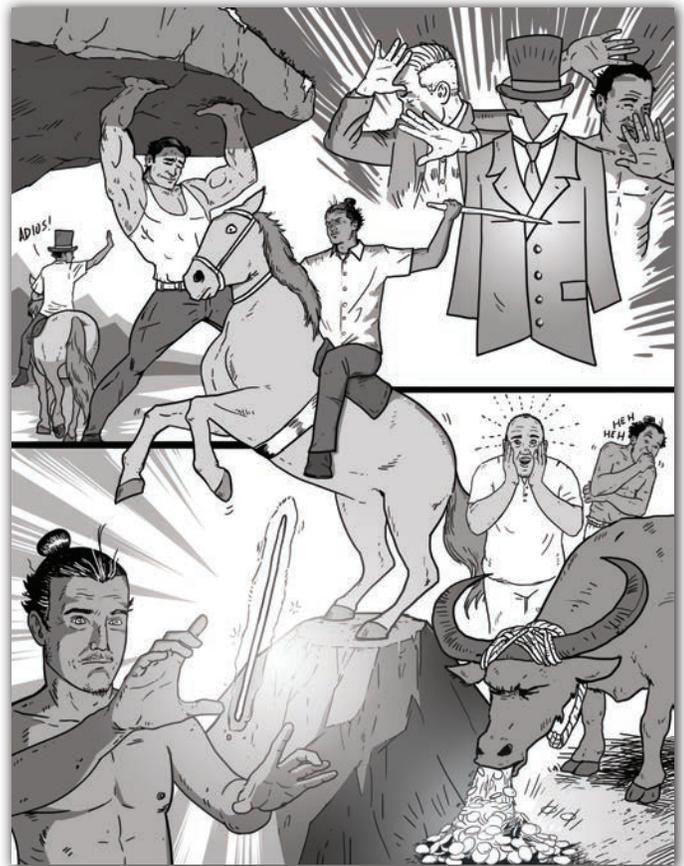
As featured in *CHamoru Legends: A Gathering of Stories*
By Teresita L. Perez

Questions to Consider

1. Many of the characters Juan Måla meets make fun of him for being poor and unkempt. Do you think any of the characters he tricked deserved what was coming to them? Why or why not? How do you feel about the ending knowing Juan never gets caught for his trickery?
2. Have you ever been tricked by someone before? How were you tricked? How did you react when you found out?
3. Juan Måla is described as being a clever man. To be clever is to be quick on your feet, resourceful, and intelligent. Can you recall a problem or situation in your life where you had to be clever? How did it turn out?
4. When we first meet new people, it can be hard to trust them right away. What qualities in a person help you determine if they are trustworthy or not? Does Juan display those qualities?

Creative Prompts

1. In the story, Juan treats his carabao very poorly, forcing it to swallow coins and throw them back up. Afterwards, the poor animal goes to his new home with his new owner. Write a story from the perspective of the carabao. What is his life like on the new ranch? What other animals does he meet and how is he enjoying or spending his time there?
2. Imagine you are Juan Måla in the beginning of the story. All you have is your carabao and ten pesos (or dollars). Write a story about how you would find food or money without having to trick others. What talents or skills do you have that could help you?
3. Write a letter to someone who tricked you. Did it hurt your feelings? Did it make you angry? Did it make you laugh? Explain how they made you feel and what you wish they had done differently.
4. In the beginning of the story, Juan wakes up hungry but doesn't have enough money to buy a filling meal. On Guam, we are blessed with many resources. Write a simple, yet delicious recipe someone could use when they don't have a lot of money to buy food. Think about the natural resources we have on Guam—like lemmai, guihan, or coconut. What ingredients would you use and how would you prepare them?



CHamoru Legends: A Gathering of Stories can be purchased at all local bookstores and at www.uogpress.com.

Visit UOG Press's Youtube page to hear free readings of featured stories for our worksheets.



