

Fouha Rock



There's no better way to get to know a culture than to understand their beliefs around how the world was created. Let's explore the Chamoru creation story.

According to oral tradition passed down for many generations (which has created many variations of this story, depending on who tells it!) a brother, Puntan, and his sister, Fu'una, created the world together. One day, Puntan asked his sister to take apart his body and use it to create the world. One of his eyes became the sun, and the other, the moon. His eyebrows formed the rainbows in the sky, and his body, the soil. Fu'una used her supernatural powers to bring life to these parts, forming the world we know today. In order to be with her brother, she threw herself to the earth and creating Fouha Rock, out of which the first human beings emerged. Today, the Chamoru people still consider Fouha Bay, as a meaningful and powerful location that's intrinsically linked to their creation as a people.

From this creation story, you can easily see the prominent role that women were given in Chamoru society, one that's equal to men. Even though Puntan gave his body to create the world, it was the energy of Fu'una and the contribution of her own body that gave the world life—and human beings.

Animism is the belief that everything in nature – living and non-living – contains a spirit or soul. In ancient Chamoru society, the Chamorus held animism as a religious philosophy that supported the concept of the interconnectedness between people and nature.

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