

## What Made Filipinos Brown

Apo Kaneya was the ruler of Mountain Simula. He had an order that nobody would court his beautiful daughter. But there was a brave man named Damino who bravely courted Mahinhin, Apo Kaneya's only daughter.

"You are so brave, young Damino," Apo Kaneya said.

"I love your daughter very much, Apo," Damino answered.

"But you are poor and we are rich. I will give you a chance. If you can climb the mountain in two days and be back home on the third day, you can marry Mahinhin. If you fail, then you will be killed," Apo Kaneya said.

Damino accepted the challenge. He went up the mountain. He was able to reach the top but when he was coming down, thunder and lightning struck him. He rolled down the foot of the mountain. When he got up, he was brown. The mud stuck to his skin.

Damino went to Apo Kaneya. But Apo Kaneya didn't recognize him.

"Who are you," Apo Kaneya asked.

"I am Damino. A lightning struck me and I rolled down the mountain. When I woke up, I have brown skin," Damino said.

"Oh, I don't like your color. Stay away from us," Apo Kaneya drove Damino away.

"No father. I will go with Damino. I love him," Mahinhin said.

"How can you marry a brown man like him?" Apo Kaneya said.

"It is not his color but his heart that made me love him. Please, father, accept our love," Mahinhin said.

There was silence.

"If you really love him, my daughter, marry him. His love proved that he is a brave man. Go and live happily."

That was the story of the beginning of the Filipino brown race.

## Let's talk about the story.

Answer these questions.

1. What good trait did Damino show?

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2. Tell something about Apo Kaneya.

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3. What happened to Damino on the mountain?

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4. Is Damino and Mahinhin's love for each other true?

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