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HILO'S WINDS.

The Hawaiian Legend of Their Release by Maui.

In the March number of the Paradise of the Pacific, Rev. W. D. Westervelt gives an interesting account of one of Hawaii's oldest myths. Extracts from this splendidly written article are as follows:

Maui the demi-god was the Hercules of Polynesia. His exploits were fully as marvelous as those of the hero of classic mythology. He snared the sun. He pulled up islands from the ocean depths. He lifted the sky into its present position and smoothed its arched surface with his stone adze. These stories belong to all Polynesia.

The Maoris of New Zealand say that Maui could at will change himself into a bird and with his feathered friends find a home in leafy shelters.

With the birds as companions and the winds as his servants Maui must soon have turned his inventive mind to kite making.

Maui after repeated experiments made a large kite for himself. It was much larger than any house of his time or generation. He twisted a long line from the strong fibers of the native plant known as the olona. He endowed both kite and string with marvelous powers and launched the kite up toward the clouds. It rose very slowly. The winds were not lifting it into the sky.

Maui remembered that an old priest lived in Waipio valley, the largest and finest valley of the large island, Hawaii, on which he made his home.

This priest had a covered calabash in which he compelled the winds to hide when he did not wish them to play on land and sea. The priest's name was known as Kaleioku and his calabash was known as "ipu-makanika la maumau." Maui called to the priest who had charge of the winds to open his calabash and let the winds come up to Hilo and blow along the Wailuku river on the side of which Maui stood. The natives say that the place where Maui stood was marked by the pressure of his feet in the lava rocks of the river bank as he braced himself to hold the kite against the increasing force of the winds which pushed it towards the sky. Then the enthusiasm of kite flying filled his youthful soul and he cried aloud screaming his challenge along the coast of the sea towards Waipio:

"O winds, winds of Waipio,
In the calabash of Kaleioku.
Come from the ipu-makanika,
O wind, the wind of Hilo,
Come quickly, come with power."

Then the priest lifted the cover of the calabash of the winds and let the strong winds of Hilo escape. Along the the sea coast they rushed until as they entered Hilo bay they heard the voice of Maui calling.

With a tumultuous rush the strong winds turned towards the mountains. They forced their way along the gorges and palisades of the Wailuku river. They leaped into the heavens. The kite struggled as it was pushed upward by the hands of the fierce winds, but Maui rejoiced. His heart was uplifted by the joy of the conflict in which his strength to hold was pitted against the power of the winds to tear her away.

The kite had been made of the strongest kapa which Maui's mother could prepare. It was not torn, although it was bent backward to its utmost limit. The line was stretched and strained as the kite was pushed back. Then Maui called again and again for stronger winds to come. The cord was drawn out until the kite was far above the mountains. At last it broke and the kite was tossed over the craters of the volcanoes to the land of the districts of Ka-u on the other side of the island.

Then Maui was angry and hastily leaped over the mountains which are nearly fourteen thousand feet in altitude. In a half dozen strides he had crossed the fifty or sixty miles from his home to the place where his kite lay. When Maui returned with his kite he was more careful in calling the wind to aid him in this sport.

Maui would send his kite into

the blue sky and then tie the line to the great black stone in the bed of the Wailuku river.

Maui soon learned the power of his kite when blown upon by a fierce wind. With his accustomed skill he planned to make use of his strong servant and therefore took the kite with him on his journeys to the other islands, using it to aid in making swift voyages. With the wind in the right direction the kite would pull his double canoe very easily and quickly to its destination.

Time passed and even the demi-god died. The fish hook with which he drew the Hawaiian Islands up from the depths of the sea was allowed to lie on the lava by the Wailuku river until it became a part of the stone. The double canoe was carried far inland and then permitted to petrify by the river side. The two stones which represent the double canoe now bear the name "Waa-Kauhi" and the kite has fallen from the sky far up on the mountain side, where it still rests, a flat plot of rich land between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.

Leprosy.

The organizing secretary of the mission to India and the east informs the London Globe that treatment with leprolin, the new serum prepared by Capt. Rost, I. M. S., is being tried in several of the Indian asylums of the mission to lepers. At Purulia, in Bengal (where the society supports 600 lepers), three cases are declared by the deputy sanitary commissioner of the district to be "to all intent and purpose completely cured." Others show less favorable results. It found to be of lasting benefit the society will adopt the treatment in others of its forty-two asylums in India and the east. Meanwhile Dr. Wilson of Miraj, Bombay presidency has expressed his opinion that Capt. Rost has made a very great discovery and again opened the door of hope to the lepers.

Love of Country.

In the interior of Japan a young farmer on the outbreak of the war was suddenly called to the colors. Two days preparation was given him to settle his affairs and to start for Tokyo. His wife had a very young infant. The young mother was so overcome with grief at this unexpected news that she fainted away and within an hour died, leaving her husband alone with the new-born babe. What could he do with it? Who would care for such a small mite? Feeling that his own life was forfeit to his country, the poor man in a frenzy of passionate grief killed his own child. Of course the law had to step in and he had to be tried for murder. A merciful jury acquitted him on the ground of emotional insanity.

Gases of Vesuvius.

In his remarkable collecting experiment at Vesuvius, Professor Janssens lowered into the crater a receptacle that could be opened and closed whenever desired, by an ingenious arrangement of valves, and in this way he drew up samples of gases at different points down to a great depth. A study of these gases is expected to throw light on the emissions from the craters of the sun.

Herr Bock of Babenhausen, in Germany, has been carrying on observations of the humming of telegraph wires. The humming of wires running east and west is said to prestage a fall of temperature often ten or more hours in advance of the thermometer. The humming of wires running north and south advise a rise in temperature almost always several hours in advance of the thermometer.

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Hilo, April 16, 1901.