**The Legend of Tangut the Globe Fish**

This legend is about how the Globe Fish got his many spines and how the Trigger Fish got its color today.

**Introduction**

A long time ago in New Ireland Province, PNG there were two villages of Kavin and Salapin Island. Tangut was the king of Salapin Island. He ruled all the inhabitants of the island and produced sago food to offer to the people he would later kill and eat.

An old woman and her young son came to Salapin Island on a log from Kavin village on the mainland of New Ireland. Ariving on Salapin Island the two were taken care of by Tangut who realized he would feed the young boy to become a good meal in the future and pretended to marry the woman.

Tangut was the only man who knew how to make canoes and his tools were well hidden from the rest of the people. He was the only one who knew also the key words to his cave. The keys to the cave’s door was “ Kalang Savat” to open the door and “Kalang Tabat” to close the door.

The woman and her young son now know they have to escape as the woman overheard Tanguy saying he would eat the boy. But she had no means of transport to return to Kavin village. The boy had grown old now and it was nearing time for Tanguy to kill and consume him.

**The Escape Plan**

There had to be transport to run away from Tangut and the only means was by canoe. Since Tanguy himself had the tools and knew how to construct one, the mother told her son to cry every time Tangut comes in with the sago food and ask for the tools and how he too can make a canoe.

“What is all the crying for?” Tangos would ask and the woman would answer “He cries wanting to know how to make a canoe and also wants your tools. “

“Here is how you do it and here are the tools.” So Tangut offered his tools and knowledge to the boy because as a sign of leniency, keeping the two with him for the long awaited meal.

The mother had advised her son to also make as many spears as he can to attack Tangut during their runaway trip. The woman prepared very red clay known as tar to be used a blood color in the sea.

The preparation was nearly completed when Tangut prepared for his meal. The woman knew his secrets used uncooked sago to paint the closed eyes in the night and whenever Tanguy would come for the kill, he would be mistaken by the eye painting fooling him that the eyes were open. They both were awake and not asleep.

The trick worked until the escape canoe and spears, everything was ready. On the last night Tangut visited them to kill the boy, saw the painting and returned to his bed disgusted.

“I thought the two of you are asleep,” You have to get some sleep as you have to finish your canoe tomorrow. I will also go to sleep now.

When Tangut returned to his bed for a quick nap before he would return to kill the boy, the mother and son took everything and the woman used the secret magic key words to the door and they escaped.

Towards the morning when Tangut went to kill the boy he found the place empty. Very wild, he began his chase.

The mother and son half way to Kavin met Gup the Trigger Fish and he asked them “Why all the rush?” “We are running away from Tangut, he will kill us and he is pursuing us,” they answered.

“Do not worry,” said Gup. I can distract him when he comes but if you have any red clay or tar, paint me so I can be attractive to him while you head on home to Kavin.”

The woman quickly painted Gup the Trigger Fish in stripes of red clay and they continued paddling home. When Tangut met Gup he asked, ”Did you see a mother and son travelling this way?” Gup did not answer but began dancing and distracting Tangut enabling the two more escape time. Tangut noticed Gup’s red colors and watched the dance for a while and the mother and son arrived at Kavin village and got ready to kill Tangut.

**The Killing of Tangut**

In a short while the son and mother saw Tangut approaching from the sea. When he drew nearer, the boy threw many spears at him but Tangut refused to die. The spears all over his body made it impossible to return the boys attack and so he dived into the sea with the many spears stuck to his body and escaped underwater. The boy continued throwing more spears and Tangut enabled his body to swell as protection against the spears piercing through his heart. He could not fight any longer because of the many spears in his body so he swam away and turned into what is now today the Globe Fish.

**Today’s Rememberance**

Today in Salabin Island in a place known as Metemai, the foot prints of the bald headed giant and big tummy of Tangut can be seen in the entrance to his cave. The packed sagos still hang in the cave walls as stones.

The Globe Fish today has many spines and the Trigger Fish has very attractive red line colors.

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