



PALAU
BUREAU OF
CULTURAL
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HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION

A TRADITIONAL STORY FROM KAYANGEL ISLAND

GOOD
GRASSHOPPER
AND BAD
GRASSHOPPER



Carabit - Kloulubak - Swogger - Tellames



**“GOOD
GRASHOPPER
AND BAD
GRASSHOPPER”**

A TRADITIONAL STORY
FROM KAYANGEL ISLAND,
PALAU

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BUREAU OF CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION

BASED ON THE STORY AS ORIGINALLY
TOLD TO THE SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS

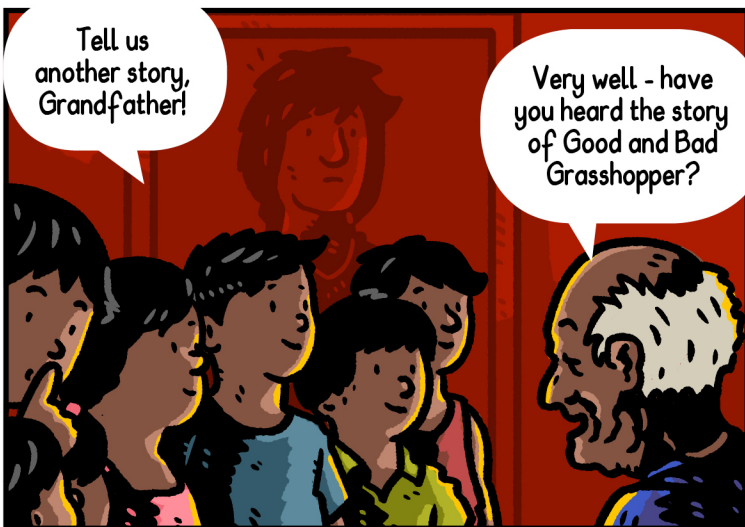
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GOOD GRASSHOPPER AND BAD GRASSHOPPER



What is happening in there?

Grandmother and grandfather are telling stories from the olden days!



Tell us another story, Grandfather!

Very well - have you heard the story of Good and Bad Grasshopper?



No? Well, pay attention, then...

This is a story from Kayangel - Palau's northern-most island. As you know (or perhaps you don't, if you haven't been paying attention) Kayangel Island is divided into two parts.



In Ngerdilong there lived a husband and wife who had never had any children.



But one day...



In due time the wife gave birth to a lovely baby boy.

They named him Keding El Chebud...



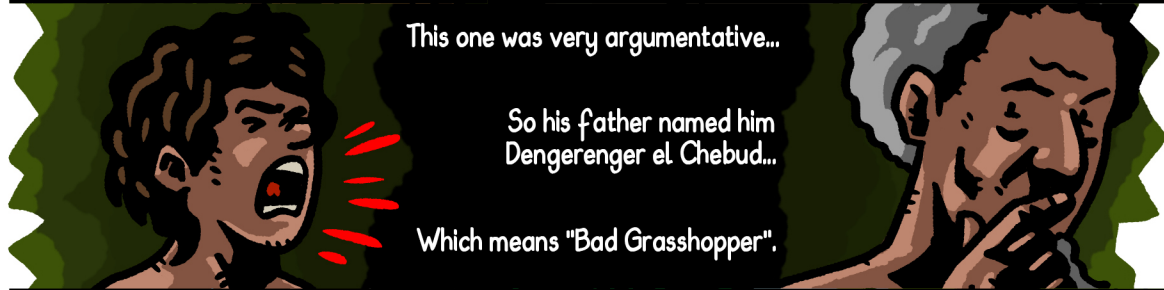
Which means "Good Grasshopper".



To everyone's surprise, the wife became pregnant again...



And she gave birth to another baby boy.



This one was very argumentative...

So his father named him Dengerenger el Chebud...

Which means "Bad Grasshopper".



They grew up to be very different young men.

And then, one day...









All through the Rock Islands,
the battle is fiercely fought...

The warriors commanded by
Ngirakederang of Aimeliik attack...

... but the warriors of Koror
are ready for them!



Ngirakederang, we are overwhelmed! The forces of Koror are too strong!

For us, the battle is over...



We must save as many of our warriors as we can.

We must Retreat!



Re - AAAH!!

SHHKK



Let none of our enemies escape! Board the war canoes! Hunt them down!



Quickly - launch Chercherol! If we row hard, we can still get away.

Throw out everything we don't need - make the canoe lighter and it will be faster!



No! Leave them. Remember Father's advice!

You are crazy - baskets cannot save us now!









Good Grasshopper seeks refuge with a young woman in the village of Ngchesechang in Firai state.



Eventually, weary and saddened, he borrows a small canoe and starts the long journey home.







... and the great war canoe Chercherol was left where it sank in the mangroves at Ngetechebud - where it still rests to this day.

Well, it's getting late - you kids better head home.



Thank you for the stories Grandfather!



Um... yeah. Thanks!



Hello, son!

Grab a basket and help bring that taro into the house!

Hey...

HONK!



Forget that - come with us! We're heading down to the dock for a bit of fun!



Sometimes advice from our parents and elders can be annoying. But they speak from years of experience. They give us advice because they love us and want us to stay safe in a world that can be really dangerous sometimes. Listening to them isn't boring - it's the smart thing to do.





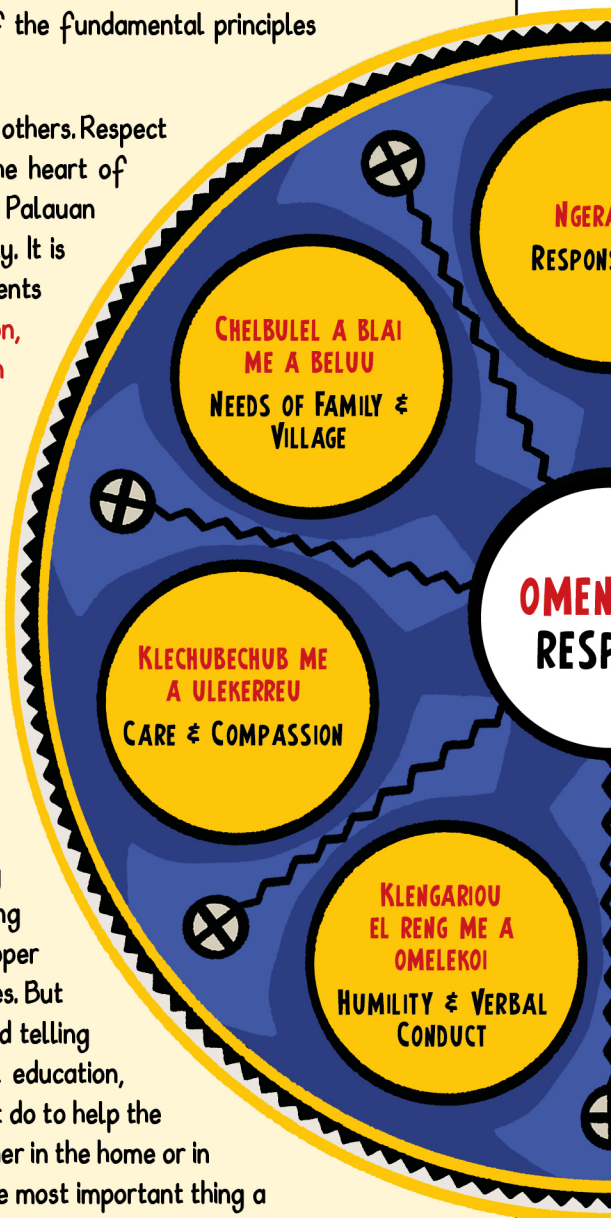
RESPECT

In traditional Palauan culture, **Respect** is one of the fundamental principles and components of education.

Respect is the act of showing honor and esteem to others. Respect for one's parents and one's community is at the heart of Palauan culture. Respect is the foundation for Palauan understanding of character and good personality. It is also the foundation of the other seven components of traditional education: **Responsibility, Occupation, Obedience Kindness & Perseverance, Visits to Kin & Others, Humility & Verbal Conduct, Care & Compassion, and the Needs of Family and Village.** While these may seem old-fashioned, and from a time long ago, they are still relevant to how we live in the modern world today.

Traditionally, children would learn from their family. As they grew up and began to leave the home, so they would join small clubs and learn new skills. Today, of course, they also learn at schools and colleges. Story-telling has always been an important part of this learning process, and has always been used as a teaching technique. Elders would teach respect and proper conduct by telling stories that had moral messages. But the wider community also enjoyed listening to and telling stories. Through such stories used in traditional education, children learned what they should and should not do to help the community stay healthy and peaceful. But whether in the home or in a club or in a school, respect has always been the most important thing a person can learn.

The story of Good Grasshopper and Bad Grasshopper is about Respect: about honoring and esteeming those who have more knowledge and experience than ourselves. It is about understanding that by doing the right and respectful thing, we benefit from that knowledge and experience.



From: "The Traditional Education System of Palau" by the Palau Society of Historians and the Bureau of Arts and Culture, 2006