

BOOKTALK

Abadeha *The Philippine Cinderella*

Adapted by Myrna J. de la Paz/illustrated by Youshan Tang








Myrna J. de la Paz spent her childhood in the Philippines where she learned about traditional Filipino folklore. She retells this Cinderella tale in hopes that the rich indigenous pre-colonial lore of her people will not be lost after over 300 years of Spanish and American influence. Ms. De La Paz now makes her home in Los Angeles. Youshan Tang spent his childhood in China but now lives in San Francisco. A graduate of the Central Academy of fine Arts and Peking University with degrees in Chinese art and literature, Youshan recently illustrated another Cinderella tale for Shen's Books: *Anklet for a Princess: A Cinderella Story from India*.

As in most Cinderella tales, Abadeha is a young girl when her mother suddenly becomes ill and dies. Her fisherman father voyages to another island where he finds and marries a widow with two daughters. Abak brings the stepfamily home expecting that Abadeha will be cared for and cherished. Abadeha is mistreated and given the usual impossible tasks by a stepmother who threatens to whip her with the tail of a stingray. The sweet and hardworking girl is helped by the Spirit of the Forest who gives her a lovely sarimanok (a chicken with long flowing feathers). The cruel stepmother kills her pet and Abadeha is told to bury the bird's feet near her mother's grave. A magical tree grows from the spot and is covered with treasures. The son of the island chieftain comes upon the tree and tries on a ring which causes his finger to swell so that it cannot be removed. The prince dreams that a young girl who springs from an orchid removes the ring. When he awakens, the search for the lovely and kind girl begins and eventually, with the help of the Spirit of the Forest, Abadeha is able to meet the prince and remove the ring.

Abadeha wears a golden gown and jewelry from the enchanted tree and her father arrives home from his fishing trip in time for the wedding. Stepmother and her daughters are banished to the chicken yard. The tale ends with marriage and the message that the prince and his bride share their wealth and happiness with their people.

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MOTIFS AND IDEAS

-  Abadeha's father is a fisherman; story contains many island images
-  mother dies; father remarries a widow with two daughters
-  when daughter is mistreated, she is helped by the Spirit of the Forest
-  as in some Asian Cinderella stories, a beloved pet (this time a sarimanok) is killed by the stepmother
-  an enchanted tree grows from the bird's feet which Abadeha has buried near her mother's grave
-  the prince is the son of the island chieftain
-  a dream leads the prince to his future wife who removes a ring from his finger

CONNECTIONS

The title page of *Abadeha* is done in an ancient and almost forgotten type of writing called Alebata. Using the Internet, key in *Alebata* to learn more about this language. Use the space below to write about what you find.

VOCABULARY WORDS

pleaded	betel	ancestors	laden
sarimanok	radiant	hammock	commotion
carefree	mock	ritual	solace

Choose the word that matches the meaning:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. a hanging bed made of ropes or canvas | a. solace |
| 2. orange-colored nuts from an Asian tree | b. mock |
| 3. consolation or comfort | c. betel |
| 4. persons from whom one is descended | d. hammock |
| 5. bright or shining | e. ancestors |
| 6. to ridicule or make fun of | f. radiant |

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QUICKWRITE

In *Abadeha* there is an enchanted tree and on the tree are rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, jewels, and gowns. Write about what would hang on your enchanted tree (if you had one!):

.....
.....
.....
.....

VISUALIZE IT

Draw your enchanted tree. Underneath your drawing write a caption that summarizes the illustration.

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A **CHARACTER** is a person or animal who takes part in the action of a story.

Example: the wolf in "The Three Little Pigs."

CHARACTER TYPES are recognizable, unchanging figures who we meet over and over again in folk and fairy tales.

Example: the "antagonist" or the "evil one" ... the one the hero or heroine must overcome to fulfill a mission or a task.

Directions: Sort the following characters from some of the Cinderella stories you are familiar with into the proper **character types**.

Angkat in *Angkat*

the falcon in *The Egyptian Cinderella*

Spirit of the Forest in *Abadeha*

Domitila in *Domitila*

the godmother (Nannin') in *Cendrillon*

The Old One in *The Turkey Girl*

the invisible warrior in *Sootface*

Baba Yaga in *Vasilissa the Beautiful*

The son of the island chieftain in *Abadeha*

the pari in *The Persian Cinderella*

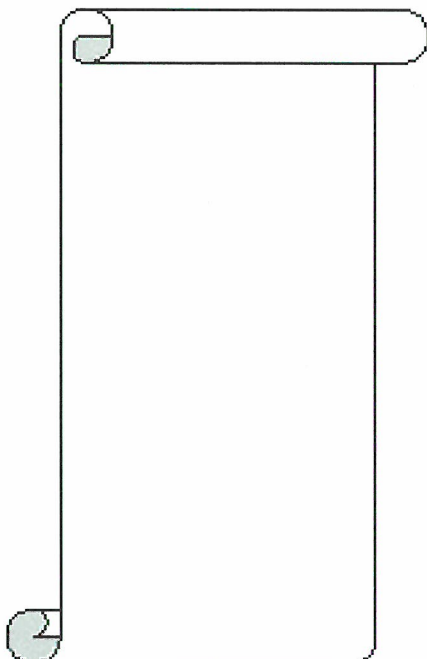
Shee-Nang in *Jouanah*

Settareh in *The Persian Cinderella*

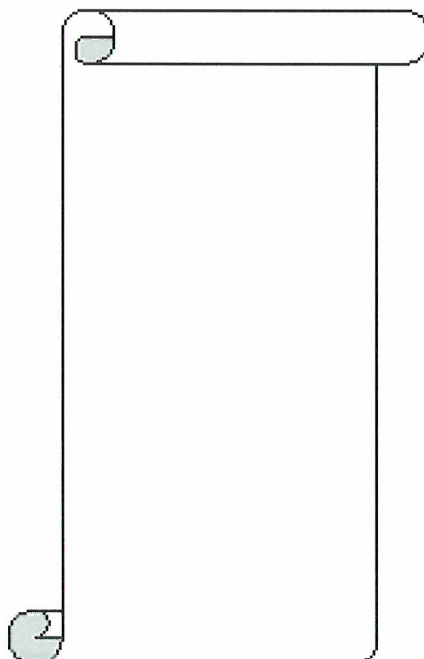
Abadeha in *Abadeha*

the magistrate in *The Korean Cinderella*

"Cinderella"
Character Type



"Helper"
Character Type



"Prince Charming"
Character Type

