

MOUNT LOKON AND MOUNT KALABAT
Gunung Lokon dan Gunung Kalabat

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MOUNT LOKON AND MOUNT KALABAT

It is told that the earth was once filled with mountains and mountain ranges. Some reached dizzying heights while others looked no bigger than a hillock. It was a peaceful and quiet time and all living beings were living together happily without disturbing each other. They lived in harmony and the nature was well cared for. The land of Minahasa was no different. It was a fertile area surrounded by high and low mountains. On those days, mountains and mountain ranges were commonly named after their location, their situation, or their characteristics. For example, Mount Mahawu was so named because it was known to expel a lot of ashes. Sometimes, a mountain was named after the most popular name of the people who were living in that area. For example, when most people named Sopotan lived in an area, the nearby mountain would be called Mount Sopotan. Finally, some other mountains were also named after their situation. For example, a pair of nearby mountains that looked similar were called Mount *Dua Saudara* (The Two Brothers).

It was also the case with other mountains in Minahasa, such as *Kalabat*, *Sopotan*, *Lokon*, *Dua Saudara*, *Mahawu*, *Tampusu*, *Tolangko*, *Kaweng*, *Simbel*, *Lengkoan*, *Masarang*, and *Kawatak*. The mountain ranges were also given names, for example *Lembean*, *Kalawiran*, and *Kumelembuai*. Of all the mountains,

Mount Lokon was the biggest, the tallest, and the oldest. Just like the name, *Lokon* meant an elder who was so old and had a big body. In local Tombulu language, *Lokon* meant *tua lokon* or *tou tua lokon*, meaning someone who was old already. In the past, it was believed that each mountain and mountain range had its own guardian¹. The guardians of each mountain were unique in both character and temperament. Mount Lokon was guarded by a tall, burly man named Makawalang. He was a diligent young man and every day worked as a hunter in the forest. Therefore, it was nothing out of the ordinary to see Makawalang got in and out of the forest for days. One day, Makawalang went to hunt in a deep and far forest. He walked for days; climbed up and got down the hills. Day by day, the path he took was getting steeper and higher. The big and thick trees in the forest looked like green grass down below his feet. Finally, he stopped in a quite high place with beautiful view.

Makawalang was amazed with the beauty of the nature that he saw for the first time. All of his exhaustion for days disappeared because of the beautiful view. He thought, "I think this is the most comfortable place to stay over." Makawalang leaned his back on a tree. He looked at his right and left side, over and over again. He was really amazed with the view in the place that he

¹ Translator's Note: The word *guardian* is chosen because although it refers to a human (who inhabits the mountain), the way the story is told seems like the realm of the mountain is celestial and separated from the realm of earth.

just found. Makawalang observed the place, and finally fell asleep. When he woke up, he was so surprised. He asked himself how he came to be on the mountain. He thought, “Who took me to this place? Am I dreaming?” To ensure himself Makawalang pinched his cheek and muttered, “Ah...it hurts.” So he was not dreaming, he was in the real world. He was in a very tall mountain. His awareness sharpened when he heard the sound of water dripping onto a stone. Makawalang was so surprised when he realized that there was a canyon on his right side. Water fell on the canyon just like a line that parted the canyon.

On the right side, big trees grew in a line as if they were arranged in parallel with Makawalang position. From the place where he stood up, he could see a land of grass that was so wide spread like a green carpet. The birds sang to each other. All of these strengthened Makawalang’s faith to stay in that place. “There is no place as beautiful and as comfortable as this place,” said Makawalang to himself while playfully arranging the stones around him. Makawalang’s decision to stay in Mount Lokon was final. “Then, I must build a *popo* to live in.” said Makawalang while he was looking right and left, looking for something. In Tombulu language, *popo* meant a hut. Whistling, Makawalang packed his equipment to build a *popo* or a hut before the night fell. To build a *popo*, Makawalang had to find decent woods as the main materials of the hut. Other than that, he looked for palm leaves to use them as the roof and the wall of *popo*. Skillfully,

Makawalang cut some trees that would be used as the pillars of *popo*. He cleaned their leaves and the stems and cut them into some parts. The cut parts would be used as the pillars. The remaining parts would be used as the ridge of the roof to put on the palm leaves. Other than being useful as roof, the palm leaves were also used as the wall and door. In the early of the evening, *popo* was completed.

Full of smile, Makawalang tried to move the door, to check whether the door was strong enough while saying, "Finally my *popo* is finished. It may not as great and strong as *popo* with wooden wall, but what matters is it can protect this Makawalang from the heat of sunlight and the cold of night."

While resting, Makawalang lighted a fire to make his *popo* warm and to chase mosquitos away so that later in the night when he slept, he would not be bothered by mosquito bites. The day was getting darker, the sun started to set, and the sky turned to golden color. Makawalang hurried and roasted the rest of the meat from the animals that he hunted for his dinner. "I have to hunt again tomorrow and find some yams to eat. I'm running out of supplies," he said.

The night fell and Makawalang finished his roasted meat. He was full. Then, he arranged the leaves from the tree that he cut. He would use it as his mattress. Makawalang's eyes grew heavy and he drifted off to sleep. He woke up early in the morning. He had

to go hunting and gathered other food as his supplies for some days. That was how Makawalang lived every day after he stayed in Mount Lokon.

“Ah...hunting everyday makes me so tired,” said Makawalang in an afternoon. “Humm...maybe I can plant some corns and cassavas so that I don't need to get in and out of the forest to find food.” Finally, Makawalang decided to plant corn and cassava around his house. Every day, Makawalang looked after his plants. He trimmed the wild grass that grew around his corns and cassavas. Makawalang also earnestly and diligently took care of his house and the plants around it. It is as if he and the plants understood each other because Makawalang loyally look after the plants. After some time, the corns and cassavas were ready to harvest. His routine became around the activities of planting and taking care of his plants. By planting corns and cassavas, his food supplies were always fulfilled, even he had more food than his needs. Makawalang lived a happy life because he was safe and there was nobody to disturb him. Day by day, other than planting his own food, Makawalang also kept some livestock for his food, so that he did not need to hunt in the forest. Makawalang always kept his living area clean, even though he lived in the middle of a forest. He looked after the trees and animals that lived in his area very well, as if they were part of him.

The trees and animals also felt comfortable with him as if they could feel Makawalang's care and love for them. Makawalang considered them as his own family who deserved attention and love. That was how Makawalang lived his days. He enjoyed things that were available around him and what the nature had given to him. And so it was, Makawalang's life went on day by day, week by week, and then year by year. Makawalang stayed in his routine, taking care his plants and animals.

He had memorized all areas around Mount Lokon. He even gave names to the trees around him as he liked. Makawalang lived a harmonious life with the nature. The harmony also affected the earthlings who were living below Mount Lokon. They also lived in peace and comfort. The inhabitants of the area below Mount Lokon were pleased because the mountain was never angry. All they knew was, whenever the mountain was angry, there would be an earthquake. The earthquake was a disaster for the inhabitants of the area below the mountain. Their land would shake and the stones and earth would crumble on them. Such disasters were what the earthlings who lived below Mount Lokon scared of the most.

One day, Makawalang made a big mistake. Makawalang who was diligent and earnest in doing his job became a very lazy man. Makawalang felt that he had a lot of crops from his plants and livestock already. Therefore, he became a gluttonous person and

lived his life indulgently. “Ah...why do I have to keep planting and farming? I have prepared a lot for my life. Now, I better sleep all day,” said Makawalang while lying down and being lazy. Makawalang were not planting and farming anymore. He thought that he was the first person to live in Mount Lokon. No one would dare to chase him out, even though he made a mistake. And so Makawalang lived a lazy and indulgent life until he ran out of his food supplies. Finally, the plants that he used to take care of were no longer growing. Makawalang’s life became irregular. He started to cut trees and hunt the animals as he wished, without even thinking. His house, that he used to think as his own paradise, was left and neglected. The *popo* he built as his house was crumpled because he did not take care and protect it. At that moment, Makawalang was pushed to live by moving from one tree to another tree. His nomadic lifestyle disturbed the ecosystem of the plants and animals around the mountain.

Makawalang’s deed had created chaos in the forest. The animals felt disturbed by Makawalang’s behavior. The plants and trees were angry to him. The news about Makawalang’s destructive deed had reached the earthlings who lived below Mount Lokon. They agreed to send Pinontoan and his wife, Ambilingan, to meet Makawalang. They were asked to push Makawalang out from Mount Lokon because they felt that he did not deserve to live in the place anymore. He did an unforgivable thing.

The earthlings were scared if Mount Lokon was angered because of what he did. Urged by the earthlings who lived below Mount Lokon, Pinontoan and his wife, Ambilingan, went to Mount Lokon to meet Makawalang. They tried to find Makawalang's house. After days of walking, they had not met Makawalang.

"My Husband, we have walked for days, but we have not met Makawalang. What should we do?" asked Ambilingan to her husband.

"Humm... I also have no idea where to find him, My Wife" said Pinontoan.

"What if we ask to the inhabitant of this mountain?" asked Ambilingan to her husband.

"My dear wife, noone is living in this mountain, except Makalawang," answered Pinontoan to Ambilingan. Then, they continued their walk in silence.

The night had come. Pinontoan and his wife had to take a rest under a dense tree, while they were waiting for the morning to come. Suddenly, from far away, they saw a light. They were sure that the light came from a bonfire that was set up by someone.

"Dear husband, someone must have set out the fire. Let's go there!" said Ambilingan to Pinontoan. Then, Pinontoan and

Ambilingan walked to the direction of the light. From far away, Pinontoan and Ambilingan saw a shadow of someone who has big and tall body.

“It must be Makawalang,” whisper Pinontoan to his wife.

“How should we tell him our intention?” asked Ambilingan to Pinontoan.

“Stay calm. Let me handle this and tell it to Makawalang,” said Pinontoan to Ambilingan. Finally, Pinontoan and Ambilingan arrived in Makawalang’s place.

Makawalang did not realize that Pinontoan and his wife, Ambilingan, had stood behind him. When Pinontoan greeted him, Makawalang was surprised because he thought that there were other people who lived in Mount Lokon other than him.

Makawalang was afraid and confused of why Pinontoan and his wife, Ambilingan came to see him. Before Pinontoan and his wife said the purpose of their arrival in the mountain, Makawalang asked them.

“Why do you come here?”

“We come here to tell you that you have to leave this place,” answered Pinontoan to Makawalang.

“Why do you ask me to leave” asked Makawalang curtly.

“We know what you were doing while living in this mountain. You don’t deserve to live here,” explained Pinontoan to Makawalang.

“I live in this mountain first. Why do you ask me to leave this place?” asked Makawalang in a sad tone.

“Yes. You have to leave because we are going to live here,” said Pinontoan to Makawalang firmly.

Makawalang could not do anything. He gave up dejectedly. Pinontoan would not want to hear his defense. Finally, sadly and disappointedly, Makawalang decided to leave that place.

“I will leave this place, but please, give me time to rest because it is already late at night,” asked Makawalang to Pinontoan.

“Yes, please. You may rest as it is indeed already late at night,” answered Pinontoan wisely. Makawalang stood up quickly and took some steps away from Pinontoan and Ambilingan. He took banana leaves as his mattress. Meanwhile, Pinontoan gathered some woods and branches around them to keep the bonfire.

“Go ahead and sleep, my husband. You must be very tired. We have walked all day long,” said Ambilingan to her husband.

“Yes. You sleep first. I have to keep the flame so that we will not be cold,” said Pinontoan while taking care of the bonfire in front of him. While keeping up the flame, Pinontoan tried to think

about his plan for the next day, about what they should do after Makawalang went from that place. Then, Pinontoan gave up because he was very sleepy. He fell asleep soundly beside his wife.

Early in the next day, Makawalang was awake and he got ready to leave that place. Makawalang saw that Pinontoan and his wife was still sleep tightly.

He did not want to wake them up. Without saying goodbye to Pinontoan and Ambilingan, Makawalang walked through the giant trees. He went down the hill to look for another place to stay. Pinontoan and his wife were finally awake. They looked for Makawalang but they could not find him, he was not there anymore. They shouted to Makawalang, but there was no answer.

“Maybe Makawalang left in the dawn,” said Ambilingan to her husband.

“Makawalang must be angry. That was why he left without saying goodbye to us,” said Pinontoan to his wife.

“Then, where will Makawalang move? Will he live in this mountain?” asked Ambilingan to her husband.

“He can live in this mountain, but he is no longer the guardian of this mountain. Now, we are the guardian of this mountain,” said Pinontoan. Pinontoan and Ambilingan finally decided to search

and choose a place to live. Just like Makawalang who chose a beautiful and comfortable place to live, Pinontoan and Ambilingan also chose the same. They chose the most beautiful and pleasant place. Both of them worked together to build their house. Pinontoan and Ambilingan agreed to build their house with *popo* concept using *loteng agar*, so that during the harvesting time, they could save their crops in *loteng* (the attic). Makawalang's journey to look for a new place was tiring. At certain place, Makawalang suddenly stopped. He saw a big cave. He got in the big cave and explored it until deep inside the cave. Yet, Makawalang did not know what to do inside the cave.

“What should I do here? Ah, it is better for me to build a house here,” thought Makawalang. Finally, Makawalang decided to live in the cave of the hill. Makawalang cut a strong tree that would be good as a pillar. He pinned big pillars for his house so that the earth would not crumble and fall upon him. “Hmm...finally I am done building my new house,” said Makawalang to himself. Makawalang arranged and organized the cave so that the place became a decent place to live in.

Then just like usual, Makawalang went out to look for food in the forest and to hunt. Since hunting was his daily occupation, Makawalang easily got his animals. At that time, he got two wild boars; one big boar and one small boar.

“I will keep these animals,” thought Makawalang. Makawalang decided to keep the wild boars. Finally, he looked after the boars in his place. Every day, he fed and took care of the boars, just like his own children. Again, Makawalang lived freely and happily. There was nobody bothering him. Every day, he worked to farm the plants for his food around his house. However, the situation did not last long. Makawalang was so anxious when he stayed in the forest. He thought that he might meet Pinontoan and his wife. Controlled by his worry of the possibility to meet them, Makawalang decided to no longer looking for food in the forest. Makawalang realized that if he went to the forest to look for food, he might meet them. He was anxious because he was asked to leave the mountain. The only way for Makawalang to live was by farming the plants for his food around the cave and feeding his wild boars. His boars ate fruits that grew around the cave.

“What would I do when the fruits can no longer fulfill the need of my boars?” Makawalang muttered to himself. “Oh, right! I just remember that I can plant some yams as the replacement food for my boars,” said Makawalang while smiling. Makawalang finally planted yams that he got from the forest around his house. He planted the yams around his cave. Makawalang realized that he had to provide enough food for his boars. If he did not give them enough food, he knew that the wild boars would get angry. One day, Makawalang ran out of food for his wild boars. The boars started to misbehave. They started to scratch their body to the

pillars of the cave. The scratch from the wild boars to the wooden pillars created some quakes. Even the earthlings who lived below Mount Lokon felt the quakes.

The earthlings who lived below Mount Lokon assumed that the shake caused by the wild boars scratching their bodies the wooden pillars of Makawalang's cave was an earthquake. They thought that it was a sign from Mount Lokon, warning them that it was angry and going to erupt. This made the earthlings who lived under Mount Lokon afraid because a disaster would come to them. Makawalang was aware of this thing. The shake and the earthquake happened suddenly. When the small wild boar scratched his body to the pillar, the vibration was not so great because the motion was weak. However, when the big wild boar (*kantong*) did the same, he created a great vibration. *Kantong* is a word in Tombulu local language which meant big female boar.

Makawalang was very afraid. He tried his best to fulfill the food of the boars so that they would not create the same misbehavior.

That was the first time for such a thing to happen after Makawalang took care of the wild boars. With that incident, Makawalang became more worried because such incident might reveal that he still stayed in Mount Lokon. That is why Makawalang tried hard to fulfill the food of the boars by planting more yams. He did his work diligently. He never took rest in the afternoon because he was busy to look after his plants, so that

they grew well and ready to be harvested. Every day, Makawalang was busy providing enough food for his boars. Yet, day by day, the wild boars needed more and more food. Makawalang was overwhelmed because the boars always needed more food. "I have planted a lot of yams; even this cave was all surrounded by yams. But why is it always not enough?" Makawalang complained.

Makawalang did not realize that when the boars were getting bigger. The bigger boars would also need more food. Makawalang did many things to provide for the boars. Finally, there was no leaf left around the cave because he took them every day to feed the boars. What bothered him now was the boars would misbehave again. He was anxious and worried because if they misbehaved, the earthlings who lived below Mount Lokon would feel it. That would threaten Makawalang's existence in the mountain. People would find out that he was still there and stayed in Mount Lokon, even though Pinontoan and Ambilingan had already asked him to go. The thing that made Makawalang worried finally happened. The boars started to create a noise because Makawalang did not provide enough food for them. At that time, the boars did not only scratch their body to the pillars of the cave. They also scratched the ground of the cave. The scratch created a great quake and it affected the earthlings who lived below the mountain. On the earth, houses and bridges might be broken, and landslide and tidal wave might happen. The

earthlings were chaotically scattered. They ran here and there, trying to find a safe place to survive. They left their belongings. All people tried to find ways to avoid landslide that might come at any given time. The incident really disturbed the earthlings. They tried to find out why the great earthquake suddenly happened. Pinontoan and Ambilingan also felt the great quake.

“How does this quake happen?” asked Ambilingan to her husband.

“Something must have happened in this mountain,” said Pinontoan sternly. Pinontoan was curious about the incident. For him, there were only two explanations for the incident. First, someone who stayed in the mountain had done a terrible mistake that had angered the mountain.

Second, it was about the time for the mountain to erupt. In the first case, Pinontoan and Ambilingan as the guardians of the mountain never did a mistake. In the latter case, if it was indeed about the time for the mountain to erupt, why did the quake stop shaking? Why didn't it shake continuously? As the only guardians of the mountain, Pinontoan and Ambilingan had to find the reason. Stealthily, they went down the hill. They got in and out of the forests to investigate the cause of the earthquake. Finally, they stopped.

“My dear husband, tried to listen! It seems that there is an animal voice from inside the cave,” said Ambilingan. She pulled Pinontoan’s hand and approached the source of the voice.

“Psst! Lower your voice, my wife. Do not let them know we are here,” said Pinontoan to his wife while he was creeping to look for the source of the sound. Pinontoan and his wife came closer to the cave where the sound was heard from. Pinontoan and Ambilingan were so surprised to see the wild boars inside the cave.

“The wild boars must belong to someone,” thought Pinontoan. It was impossible for the wild boars to stay in that cave by accident. Then, Pinontoan asked himself about who could be the owner of the animals. The wild boars looked well and were quite big, as if someone looked after them. When Pinontoan was thinking about the owner of the wild boars, suddenly a shadow of tall and big human being appeared. Pinontoan pulled his wife’s hand to look for a hidden place to stay for a while, so that Makawalang would not see them. They were really familiar with the shadow because they had met once and the three were the only humans who stayed in the mountain.

“That is Makawalang,” Ambilingan pointed her finger to Makawalang to show it to Pinontoan.

“Yes, it is. It is Makawalang,” said Pinontoan to his wife. “Now it is clear, the puzzle is solved already. We know who causes the earthquake. Those wild boars must belong to Makawalang.”

What puzzled Pinontoan now was how he should explain about that thing to the earthlings who lived below the mountain. Pinontoan thought the earthlings would blame them, because all they know was only he and his wife Ambilingan lived in the mountain. Pinontoan and his wife discussed how they would explain that problem to the earthlings.

Finally, Pinontoan asked an owl to explain about what happened in the mountain to the earthlings. They asked the owl to carry the message because it was impossible for them to come down again to the earth to meet the earthlings. Then, the owl departed to the earth and delivered the message from Pinontoan. The bird explained about how the earthquake happened. With the owl’s help, the earthlings finally understood that it was Makawalang’s wild boars that had caused the earthquake. Not long after, a quite big earthquake happened. Makawalang’s wild boars were very hungry. They started to scratch their body to the pillars of the cave and they also started to scratch the ground. The earthlings who lived below the mountain had known that the cause of the earthquake was the Makawalang’s wild boars. To stop the earthquake, the earthlings had to hide or hit a *tetengkoren* (a device made of bamboo with a hole on one of its side along the

length of the bamboo), wood, or other things that would create noises once they were hit. They also had to shout, “*Mangko!* Do it more!” That was a shouting to mock Makawalang’s wild boars so that they would stop scratching their body to the pillars and the ground inside the cave.

The earth was in catastrophe. The earthlings’ houses were destroyed because of the earthquake. Landslide and tidal wave also hit the area. Many earthlings died because the ruins of their buildings fell onto them and because of the landslide. Some people, however, survived the disasters. The survivors decided to meet Pinontoan and his wife to ask Makawalang to leave the mountain so that he would not create a disaster for the earthlings who lived below the mountain. They entrusted Pinontoan to be the guardian of the mountain. The intent was delivered to Pinontoan. They also asked Pinontoan to tell Makawalang that, as his punishment, his wild boars should be taken to the earth so that they would not create destruction from the mountain. Pinontoan promised the earthlings to meet Makawalang and asked him to be responsible for the disasters.

On the next day, Pinontoan and his wife went to meet Makawalang. Makawalang was scared because finally it was revealed that he was still staying in the mountain. Makawalang was so surprised to see Pinontoan and his wife in the cave where he lived. “They must have come to ask me to leave this mountain

because I am the cause of the disasters,” thought Makawalang. As the rightful guardian of Mount Lokon, Pinontoan explained to Makawalang wisely about all the incidents that already happened.

“Maybe you already knew why we came here to see you,” said Pinontoan while he was staring straight to Makawalang. “I and Ambilingan were given a task to deliver this thing to you. The earthlings asked you to leave the mountain, and return to earth,” said Pinontoan carefully to Makawalang. Makawalang was silent. He lowered his head because he felt guilty for all the things that happened.

“They also asked for the wild boars to be brought to the earth, so that they would not be disturbing people anymore or creating troubles again,” said Pinontoan. With a heavy heart, Makawalang complied with the earthlings’ request as delivered through Pinontoan and his wife. Makawalang then packed his things. He also tied the wild boars in a rope so that it would be easier for him to take them to the earth. Finally, he apologized to Pinontoan and Ambilingan and bid his farewell as he was going down to the earth. Makawalang’s time as a mountain guardian had ended. As his punishment, Makawalang had to come back to the earth because he could not look after the environment around the mountain well. Makawalang’s punishment was not only going back to earth. Makawalang also had to clean the ruins on the earth that were caused by the earthquake caused by his wild boars. He

accepted the punishment with a heavy heart. He could not reject the punishment because he realized that everything was his fault. He promised to himself that he would not make the same as the ones he made in Mount Lokon. He still felt thankful because the earthlings still accepted him to stay on earth. Days and nights, Makawalang worked hard to clean the ruins that were caused by the earthquake. He was sweating a lot. Once in a while, he stopped to take a breath and rest his hands and legs as he was so exhausted from working all day long alone. Finally, after a long and hard struggle, he finished his job.

The earthlings were so amazed with Makawalang's work. They had never expected that Makawalang could finish all the work by himself.

"Huff... finally, one job is done," said Makawalang while lying down under a banyan tree. The job that he meant was cleaning the ruins on the earth caused by the earthquake. Finally the living places of the earthlings were clean. The next job was already waiting. Now he needed to think how to take care of the wild boars that he brought with him from the mountain. He thought about a way out and finally he came to a decision.

"I have to butcher the wild boars and I will distribute the meat to the earthlings. I will do it as a token of my apologies," said Makawalang while he was staring at the leaves of the banyan tree.

Then, Makawalang got up from his rest and he told the earthlings about his plan. They agreed to Makawalang's plan. The next day, Makawalang and some of the earthlings butchered the wild boars and distributed the meat to all of the earthlings who lived in the area. They were so happy with Makawalang's decision and they appreciated Makawalang's intention and effort to start a new life on the earth. With the help of the earthlings, Makawalang lived well together with them on the earth. Makawalang lived just like the earthlings; he worked diligently and he started to socialize with the other earthlings. Even later, Makawalang got a chance to get married and have children. Makawalang's life on the earth was very happy and there was nobody who could bother his life again because he already stayed on the earth as a permanent resident.

The rightful Mount Lokon guardians were Pinontoan and Ambilingan, his wife. Their duties were to keep, look after, and harmonize the life of all living beings in Mount Lokon. Pinontoan and Ambilingan lived in harmony. They were very happy and comfortable to live in the mountain. There was nobody disturbing their happiness. They really loved all beings that lived in the mountain. It could be seen from Mount Lokon's appearance; the mountain was getting taller and stronger. The greatness and grandeur of Mount Lokon were finally heard by people from all over the places. Because of the height, the distance between the mountain and the sky was just like the size of a spoon. That made

a lot of mountains and mountain ranges around the area envy Mount Lokon. Pinontoan and Ambilingan were happy to hear about that. However, it did not make them conceited.

They even tried harder to keep and look after the mountain. There was no mountain in Minahasa could compete with Mount Lokon. All mountains in Minahasa acknowledge the greatness of Mount Lokon.

“My husband, I hear that there are many people who admire this mountain,” said Ambilingan to her husband in an evening.

“It is true, my dear wife. This Mount Lokon is very tall and big,” said Pinontoan to his wife.

“It is because we work hard to keep and look after it right, isn’t it?” said Ambilingan.

“We cannot be conceited and arrogant. Let us keep doing our job by keeping and looking after this mountain well,” said Pinontoan wisely to his wife.

Mount Lokon was already famous in all over Malesung Land (now Minahasa). Some other mountains admire Mount Lokon’s greatness, but some other mountains were jealous of its grand and greatness. They asked themselves why they were not tall and great just like Mount Lokon. They tried to find out what made Mount Lokon that great. At one time, the guardians of the other

mountains gathered to ask around about the secret why Mount Lokon was so tall and big. There was this mountain named Kalabat. Previously known as Mount Kalawat, the mountain was also located in Minahasa. Compared to Mount Lokon, Mount Kalabat was shorter in height. Mount Kalabat was among the mountains that envied the height of Mount Lokon. The guardians of Mount Kalabat were jealous when they tried to compare between Mount Lokon and Mount Kalabat. For this reason, the guardians of Mount Kalabat came and begged Pinontoan and Ambilingan to give half of Mount Lokon's peak to them so that Mount Kalabat would be taller. A lot of excuses were made to make Pinontoan and Ambilingan fulfill their request. The guardians of the Mount Kalabat started to have their wishful thinking.

"If Pinontoan and Ambilingan gave up half of the peak of Mount Lokon, added with its original height, Kalabat mountain would be taller and we would be able to go up to the sky," said the guardians of Mount Kalabat to his friend. The other guardian said, "If the guardian of Mount Lokon gave their land to Mount Kalabat, the Mount Kalabat would be the tallest and greatest mountain in all Minahasa." The guardians of Mount Kalabat wanted to say about their thoughts to Pinontoan and Ambilingan. They really hoped that their home became taller than Mount Lokon. Then, the guardians went to meet and beg Pinontoan and Ambilingan so that half of Mount Lokon's land was given to

Mount Kalabat. The messengers of Mount Kalabat's guardians came and meet Pinontoan and Ambilingan and they delivered the message. Pinontoan and Ambilingan were very generous; therefore they gave up the land that was requested from them. They did not even regret their decision to give up half of the Mount Lokon's land to Mount Kalabat. Because of the news, the guardians of the Mount Kalabat cheered happily. Their beloved mountain would become taller. The messenger of the guardians of Mount Kalabat went home and told the news to all of the people who lived in the Mount Kalabat. Back in Mount Kalabat, they held a party because their dream nearly came true. Soon, their mountain would be taller than before. After the party, the messengers of the Mount Kalabat guardians discussed about the representatives from Mount Kalabat who would go to cut and move the peak of Mount Lokon to Mount Kalabat.

It was not an easy task. They had to hold a special ceremony so that God would bless the job to move half of Mount Lokon's peak. They should also pray so that God would give them direction about who should do the job. The ceremony was conducted by the guardians of Mount Kalabat. All of the guardians had a task that was given by the elders of the mountain to bring some goods and materials for the ceremony.

"I have a task by the elders to bring *tobaku* (tobacco, unwrapped and unfiltered)," said one of the guardian of Mount Kalabat.

“What do you have to bring?” asked the other friend.

“I have to bring areca nut and betel,” said another friend beside him.

“What do you have to bring?” asked someone across him while he was pointing at someone else.

“I have to bring an offering,” replied the person while he was lowering his head.

Every guardian of Mount Kalabat tried to find out the task given by the elders of the mountain for the sake of the upcoming ceremony. Each guardian had already known their task. It was actually a common rule in the group and they did not need to ask about it. The next day was the day of the ceremony. All of the guardians had gathered and they wore their ceremony attributes. From the attributes of the ceremony, people would always be able to tell about the origins of the guardians. They had different attributes for the guardians who came from the north, south, east, and west. All of the preparations for the ceremony were complete. The ceremony itself would be led by the elders of the Mount Kalabat. Before they came into the location of the ceremony, the place was so silent. Nobody dared to make a sound. Suddenly, the sound of *tetengkoren* was heard. All participants of the ceremony took their position. The sound was a sign that the elders who would lead the ceremony were already in their position.

“*Sumigi...*,” said one of the elders. *Sumigi* in local Tombulu language meant to pay respect. All of the participants lowered their head to respect the elders. Then, the elders headed to the prepared podium. On the podium, there were some offerings and goods that were prepared as the requirements to hold a ceremony. The elder who would lead the ceremony sat in front of the offerings and recited some chants.

Then, he took some of the offerings, arranged the offerings, and put it in a container along with the other things such as *tobaku* and areca nut. He took a jug of water that was already mixed with some flower fragrances and put the jug besides the offering. The participants of the ceremony followed the entire process of the ceremony respectfully. They did not miss anything from the process.

“With the blessings from God, we are finally able to hold this job,” said the elder who led the ceremony. “Later, I will put these offerings that I have split already to the peak of Mount Lokon,” said the elder, breaking the silence of the crowd. “The ones who shall bring these offerings to Mount Lokon are the appointed guardians of the Mount Kalabat,” said the elder again.

Tetengkoren chimed again for three times. It was a sign the ceremony was already over. Then, the elder told the whole guardians of Mount Kalabat that God had blessed the job of moving half of the peak of Mount Lokon to Mount Kalabat. It

showed that the ceremony went well without any obstacles. The prepared offerings had to be taken to the peak of Mount Lokon. The offerings were the sign to respect the ancestors and the guardians of Mount Lokon so that there the movement would not have any obstacles. The people who would work on the job also got the blessings from God already, so that they would work well. So, people who go and work on the job were the chosen people who were strong and powerful people.

Finally, the ceremony ended. It was decided that the chosen people would go to Mount Lokon in the next day. They had to prepare some things and food that they had to take to Mount Lokon. In the next day, the guardians of the Mount Kalabat gathered to say goodbye to the workers who would go to the Mount Lokon. The chosen people were asked to stand up in front of the elders. They lined up in front, facing the other guardians. The elders of the Mount Kalabat took the potion water from the ceremony the day before. The elders then poured the potion water to all of the chosen workers, one by one. He did that so that the workers would be protected and they would not get any trouble or obstacle when they moved half of the peak of Mount Lokon to Mount Kalabat. The workers went to Mount Lokon to meet Pinontoan and Ambilingan. The workers said to Pinontoan and Ambilingan that they would cut the peak of the mountain like their agreement before. Pinontoan and Ambilingan did not forget their promise to give up half of the peak of Mount Lokon.

They gave a generous permission for the workers to cut the peak of the mountain. However, before they cut the peak of Mount Lokon, Pinontoan and Ambilingan reminded the workers that when they cut the mountain, they might not destroy or take any animals and plants that grew in the mountain.

“When you work on this job, no one may destroy or take animals and plants that grew in this mountain. If anybody breaks this promise, we will cancel our promise to give up some of the peak of Mount Lokon to Kalabat Mountain,” said Pinontoan loudly and firmly. The workers of Kalabat mountain replied at the same time, “Yes, we understand. We will not break any rule and we promise that we will not destroy and take anything, except the land from Mount Lokon.”

Pinontoan and Ambilingan were very happy to hear the promise given by the guardians of Mount Kalabat. Finally, with full of spirit, the guardians of Mount Kalabat cut the peak of the Mount Lokon. To make the job lighter, they were accompanied by some music from *tetengkoren* and some songs sung by the women in the background. The land that they took from Mount Lokon was loaded and transferred to cover Mount Kalabat. They were so full of spirit when they cut and took the lands from the peak of Mount Lokon. On the way, there were much of soils scattered around Mount Lokon. The scattered soil formed a range of mountain such as Mount Kasehe, Mount Tatawiran, and Mount Empung.

The ranges of mountain were strongly built beside Mount Lokon. The three mountains made Mount Lokon look greater. Pinontoan and Ambilingan, the soft-hearted guardians of Mount Lokon, could only watch the work of the workers from Mount Kalabat from afar. Pinontoan and Ambilingan did not want to take part in their job, even though they did not do a good job. Pinontoan and Ambilingan felt disappointed because there was a lot of soil from Lokon Mountain that was scattered on the way. If they gathered the soil, actually they could use the soil to add the height of Mount Kalabat. Geologically, the position of Mount Lokon was lower than Mount Kalabat. However, the workers started to be exhausted and lose their spirit. Therefore, they moved the soils from Mount Lokon to Mount Kalabat carelessly. A lot of soil was scattered. The scattered soil formed a range of mountain. They were Batu Angus and Dua Sudara. If the workers from Mount Kalabat worked well, they would not let the soil of from Mount Lokon scatter. They could have made Mount Kalabat taller.

Mount Batu Angus and Mount Dua Sudara were close to Mount Kalabat. Even though they did not do a very great job, they were relieved because they finally could move some lands from Mount Lokon to Mount Kalabat.

The job to move half of the peak of Mount Lokon to Mount Kalabat was done. The guardians of Mount Kalabat were very

happy. They made a report to the elders of Kalabat Mountain that their work had finished.

“Tell all of the Mount Kalabat guardians that tomorrow we will hold a ceremony to celebrate the finish of the job,” said the elders loud and charismatically. The news was spread to reach all of the guardians of Mount Kalabat. In the next day, they gathered to hold a give-thanks ceremony. Like the ceremony to ask God’s blessing, in the give-thanks ceremony, the participants of the ceremony also had to bring and gather some offerings. The guardians of Mount Kalabat sincerely brought the goods that became their task. They even gathered the food that actually was not their task because they were very happy about the occasion. It showed that the guardians were very delighted and happy because their plan worked really well. The thanks giving ceremony was finally held. There were more guardians of Mount Kalabat that came to the ceremony compared to when the ceremony to ask for blessings was hosted.

The elders who lead the ceremony were also happy to welcome the guardians of Mount Kalabat. *Tetengkoren* were played again to give a sign that the ceremony would start soon. The elder who would lead the ceremony was already in position.

“*Sumigi...*,” said the voice from the front of the crowd. All people that came to the ceremony lowered their head as a symbol of respect. Then, the elder who lead the ceremony prepared himself

in his position. He headed to the place of the offerings. The other guardians that would participate in the ceremony also took their position. They stood according the area of their house. The elders who led the ceremony took an offering and he lifted it to his head's height. He looked up while he recited some chants. Then, he lowered the offerings and put it back to its original place. Finally, he distributed the offerings to some of the guardians who stood close to him. The gesture was a sign that they thanked God for his protection. After the elders distributed some of the offerings to some of the guardians, all guardians get their portion and they ate together. The gesture was a sign that by working together they would be able to finish even the hardest job.

During the ceremony, the elders reminded all of the guardians of Mount Kalabat to maintain their unity and solidarity so that the mountain would stay strong and there would be no disaster coming for them. The guardians of Mount Kalabat followed the ceremony happily. They could not stop admiring their mountain that had become taller. They finally realized that they were actually wrong to feel jealous with the height and greatness of Mount Lokon. They were grateful because Mount Lokon was so kind and let half of its peak to be cut and taken. The guardians of Mount Kalabat went to meet Pinontoan and Ambilingan to say their thanks for the kindness and generosity of the guardian of Mount Lokon to them. The guardians of Mount Kalabat started their daily activities. They lived happily because Mount Kalabat,

the place where they lived, was taller. They looked after, took care, and protected each other. They lived to keep the balance of nature in mountain. All animals and plants that grew in the mountain were protected and looked after well. The sense of unity and solidarity among the guardians of Mount Kalabat were heard by Pinontoan and Ambilingan. They were very happy to hear the news. It showed that moving some of Mount Lokon's soil to Mount Kalabat had given some good influences.

Since some of Mount Lokon's soil was moved to Mount Kalabat, Mount Lokon felt better. The plants in the mountain grew better and healthier. The trees grew taller and bigger. There were more animals and they bred well. In short, Mount Lokon was getting more fertile, stronger, and greener. The guardians of Mount Lokon, Pinontoan and Ambilingan, were also blessed with some children so that their life was happier. The children of Pinontoan and Ambilingan lived happily in the mountain. They lived like their parents who were kind, hard-working, and never tired in preserving the nature and environment around the mountain. Pinontoan and Ambilingan told their children not to destroy the environment, moreover if they did it deliberately. The teaching was always remembered by Pinontoan and Ambilingan's children. They applied the teaching in their daily live. So, Pinontoan and Ambilingan's life kept going on until their children also have their own children. Then, there were more guardians of Mount Lokon. Even though there were more numbers of the

guardians of Mount Lokon, all the rules that were being told and taught by Pinontoan and Ambilingan stayed the same. They kept looking after the environment of the mountain. On an evening, Pinontoan and Ambilingan had a conversation about the journey of their life from the beginning until they had their descendants. Suddenly Ambilingan told her husband.

“My dear husband, I think it is a good time for us to finally say that some important things to all of this mountain’s guardians.”

“Why do you say that?” asked Pinontoan to his wife.

“We are old already, my dear, I feel that I keep a great burden if we don’t say these things to them,” said Ambilingan to her husband. Pinontoan also thought the same, that what Ambilingan said was true.

“Tomorrow, let us gather all of the guardians here. I will tell them the important things that we have to say to them,” promised Pinontoan to her husband while he was feeding his chickens. The next day, Ambilingan summoned all of the guardians to gather in his house. The invitation was distributed among the guardians by word of mouth so that all of the guardians knew about the gathering. After all of the guardians gathered, Pinontoan started to talk.

“My children, I called you to gather here because I had to tell you some important things,” said Pinontoan loudly. The guardians whispered to each other curiously.

“What will the elder of Mount Lokon say?”

“Had someone made a mistake?” asked a man.

“Maybe someone destroyed the plants?” guessed a woman. The guardians were whispering to each other and they were getting noisier as Pinontoan continued his speech.

“I and my wife are already old. We have to tell you some important things to make you keep and look after this mountain carefully,” Pinontoan stammered. “We do not want to repeat the incident that happened some decades ago.”

The guardians whispered to each other again and they asked about the incident that happened before, so that Pinontoan and Ambilingan became very serious in telling the story. Pinontoan explained further that, some decades ago, a man named Makawalang became the guardian of Mount Lokon and he did a great mistake. Makawalang did not keep and look after the environment of Mount Lokon well. He destroyed and neglected the plants and animals so that many of them died. He also neglected his own pets so that a big earthquake hit the earth. The guardians were silenced and lowering their head after they listened to Pinontoan’s story. They were afraid of the story.

“So, please understand and listen to this carefully, my children,” said Pinontoan to all of the guardians of Mount Lokon. “The fate of this mountain is now in your hand. You have to continue to do our task in the future,” said Pinontoan sadly.

The guardians of the mountain replied at the same time, “We will... we will keep and continue to finish your duties.” Pinontoan and Ambilingan felt relieved to hear the answers from the guardians of Mount Lokon. They felt that finally the burdens in their shoulders were suddenly lifted.

“My husband, I am relieved now,” said Ambilingan to her husband.

“Right, my dear wife. I am also happy that I could say that thing to them. At least, now they know about what happened in the past,” said Pinontoan. Pinontoan and Ambilingan’s only wish for the guardian of the mountain to keep the mountain, because the mountain was the pride of *Malesung* or Minahasa. Besides, the continuity of the mountain was very important for the earthlings who lived below the mountain. The mountain had become the source of water and food for all the earthlings.

Pinontoan and Ambilingan’s tasks were very heavy because they had to fulfill their promise to the Earthlings that they would keep and look after Mount Lokon. So, indirectly, not only did Pinontoan and Ambilingan look after the greatness of Mount

Lokon, but they also receive the mandate from the earthlings to keep them alive, while they were keeping the life of Mount Lokon. The guardians of Mount Lokon were so amazed by Pinontoan and Ambilingan. They were not only kind couple, but they also had great responsibilities to support the life of many people, including the earthlings and all the beings in Mount Lokon. Besides, Pinontoan also felt responsible to preserve the nature in Mount Kasehe, Mount Tatawiran, and Mount Empung. The three mountains were close to Mount Lokon. Therefore, Pinontoan appointed three of his children to guard those mountains. The first child was sent to protect Mount Kasehe, the second child was sent to protect Mount Tetawiran, and the third child was sent to take care of Mount Empung. With heavy heart, finally Ambilingan sent her children to protect those three mountains.

On the next day, the three children of Pinontoan and Ambilingan departed to Mount Kasehe, Mount Tatawiran, and Mount Empung. Pinontoan's first child was finally known by the guardians of Mount Lokon as Tatawiran. The second child was tasked to guard Mount Kasehe, therefore the child was known as Kasehe.

The third child was tasked to go to Mount Empung and finally known as Empung. Even though the three children had different traits, they did their task based on the principles they learned from

their parents. They did their duties for years in their own mountains, so that the mountains were well preserved. Pinontoan and Ambilingan were happy to see the result of the children's work. The three mountains that were taken care of by the children were stronger and looked greener from faraway.

Mount Lokon was happy because the small mountains around it could be guarded and taken care of by Pinontoan and Ambilingan's children. When nobody took care of the mountain, the life and the strength of the mountains would not last for long. Meanwhile, the earthlings who lived below the mountains really hoped that the mountains would live continuously. When the earthlings heard that Mount Tatawiran, Mount Kasehe, and Mount Empung were guarded, they were so happy because they could safely rely the prosperity of their lives on the four mountains.

The well-preserved mountain would certainly produce good springs and food resources that were needed by the earthlings. The earthlings were really grateful to Pinontoan and Ambilingan who had taken care of everything for them. They did their job wisely, therefore the nature was well preserved and the earthlings lived well. Since then, Mount Lokon, Mount Tatawiran, Mount Kasehe, and Mount Empung lived very harmoniously and happily. The other mountains in Malesung or Minahasa Land were amazed by the harmony among these four mountains. Even

though some of his lands were taken by and added to Mount Kalabat, Mount Lokon was never angry or cranky. Mount Lokon was grateful because it could share its lands with the other mountains. The guardians of Mount Lokon also felt grateful. They were happy to help Mount Kalabat. In the end, Mount Lokon was shorter than Mount Kalabat. Nowadays, due to its frequent eruptions, the peak of Mount Lokon is not as tall as it was. On the opposite, Mount Kalabat is now known to be the highest mountain in Minahasa.