

INDIGENOUS PHILIPPINE “BEGINNING” KNOWLEDGE

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The Indigenous peoples in the Philippines including the Tagalog, the Bikol, and the Visayan, use the term *aswang* to depict various “beginnings” in their stories. This paper will explore the importance of the “beginning” expressions in the traditions of these Indigenous cultures. The paper will analyze the terminology involved in the study of “mythology”, “creation stories” and “folklore” as established by Western cultures and the opposing terminology applied in Indigenous methodologies when discussing “stories of beginnings”. The paper will conclude with a discussion about the significance of terminology usage in the analysis of “beginning stories” and why Western terminology should be cautiously used or avoided when analyzing Indigenous knowledge.