



# The Gifts of Lumawig

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Long ago, when the earth was silent and empty of people, the Great Spirit Lumawig descended from the radiant sky. He looked upon the vast, quiet lands and decided it was time to fill the world with life, movement, and voices.



Lumawig walked through the tall, swaying grass and cut many long, green reeds with his divine hands. He carefully divided these reeds into pairs and placed them in different corners of the world, from the highest mountains to the sun-drenched valleys.



With a powerful voice that echoed across the horizons, Lumawig commanded the reeds to speak to one another. In an instant, the reeds transformed into men and women, and each couple began to talk in a language that was unique only to them.



The first people followed the Great Spirit's command to marry and raise families, soon filling the earth with many children. As the generations grew, each group kept the special language of their parents, creating a world rich with different cultures and tongues.



Seeing that his people needed resources to thrive, Lumawig created sparkling salt and brought it to a group of villagers. He sat with them and explained how to boil the water to gather the white crystals so they could sell them to their neighbors.



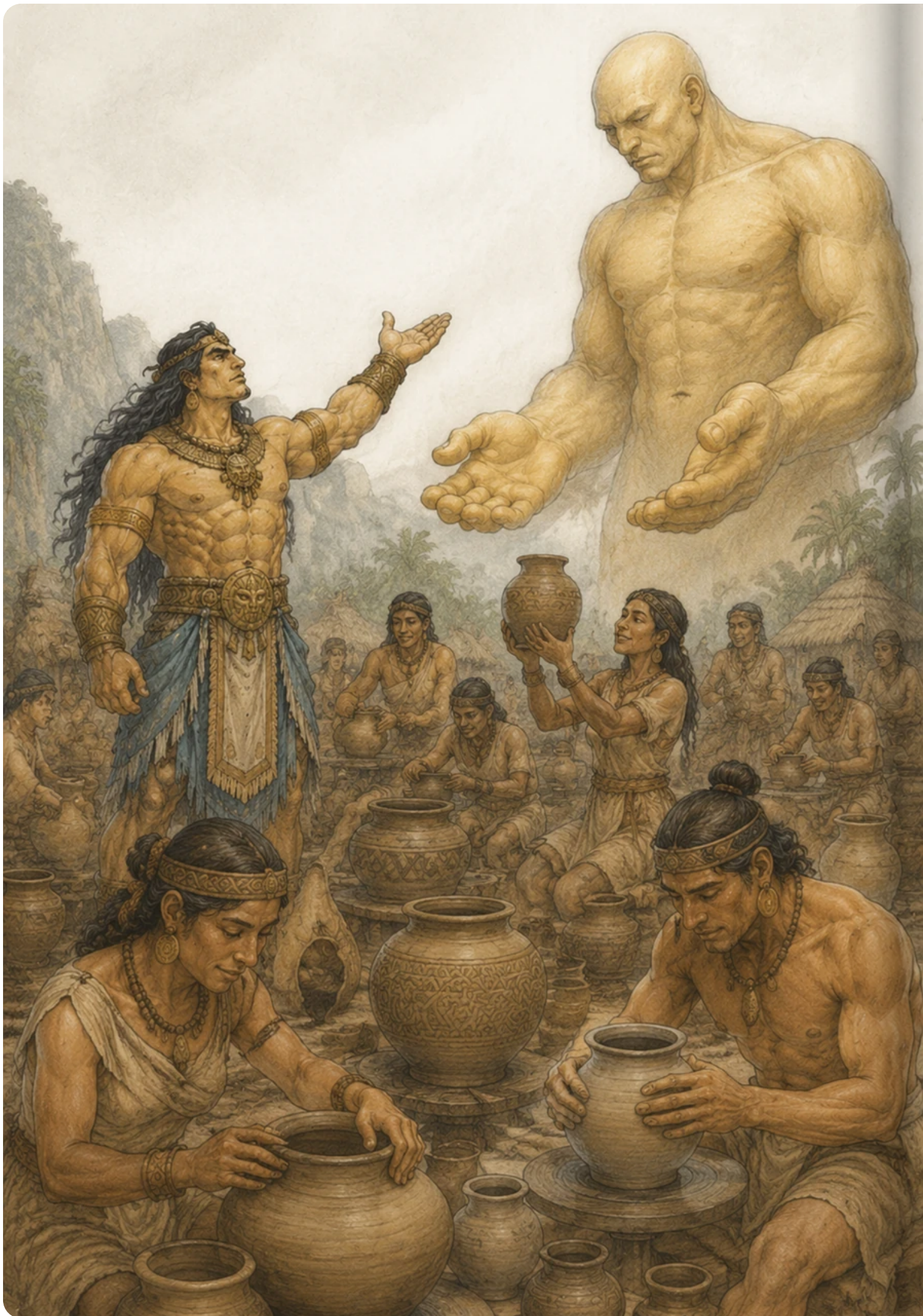
However, these first villagers could not understand the Great Spirit's directions and left the salt untouched. When Lumawig returned and saw they had not learned the craft, he decided to take the gift of salt to another village.



Lumawig traveled to a place called Mayinit and gave the salt to the people there, who followed his instructions perfectly. Pleased with their hard work, he decreed that they would always be the masters of salt and that all other tribes must buy from them.



Next, the Great Spirit visited the people of Bontoc and showed them how to dig rich clay from the earth to make pottery. The villagers tried to mold the clay, but their jars were lumpy, crooked, and far from the beautiful shapes Lumawig had envisioned.



Lumawig then took the art of pottery to the people of Samoki, who worked the clay with steady, graceful hands. They created jars that were smooth, strong, and elegant, proving to the Great Spirit that they were the rightful owners of this craft.



Having taught the people how to work, trade, and provide for one another, Lumawig looked down at the vibrant world he had organized. Every village now had its own special gift and purpose, and the earth was finally complete and full of wonder.