

1. Given the map below, extracted from Google Earth, the Tabon Caves in the Lipuun Point of Palawan where the Manunggul Jar was discovered are facing the South China Sea and the Spratly Islands. Below the Palawan peninsula is the island of Borneo. Do you find any relationship between the symbolism of the design of the jar and the surrounding environment? What do you think is the source of inspiration in such design given its environment?

- The site where the manunggul jar was found has definitely something to do with the jars' design and symbolism. As I look on the map, I've noticed that the Tabon Caves are surrounded with bodies of water with islands and islets. People from this area tend to live their lives connected with the sea and the forests. They use this as their means of transportation, they hunt and get food from here, they simply live their life revolving in this areas. And because of this, they used it into their benefit and made it as a source of inspiration to the structure, symbolism and the design of the Manunggul Jar. In terms of the structure of the jar, it was made out of clay and some sand soil which is one of the common, and traditional way of making a jar. It was also mentioned in the article that the upper portion of the jar, as well as the cover is incised with curvilinear scroll designs and painted with natural iron or hematite which is commonly found in places that can have still, standing water or mineral hot springs like in Palawan. The design of the cover of the Manunggul Jar features three faces - the soul, the boatman, and the boat itself. The faces of the figures and on the prow of the boat have eyes and mouth rendered in the same style as other artifacts of Southeast Asia of that period. The design is a proof of our common heritage from our Austronesian-speaking ancestors despite the diversity of the cultures of the Philippine people.

2. Using your own analysis of the map, formulate your own theory of the possible role of the Palawan peninsula in the history of civilization in the early Philippines.

- Earlier in high school, I was taught that Palawan is called the "Cradle of Philippine Civilization". One of the largest islands in the Philippine archipelago, Palawan is steep in history and heritage – with historians and archeologists. In my theoretical opinion, Palawan is a great place for civilization in the early Philippines because it is a peninsula where things you need for a living is naturally existing. The Tabon cave in particular is a great place for shelter. The bodies of water surrounding it is a good source of food and also a good way for transportation for them because they use boats as means of transportation. Beside the cave, there is a forest where they can hunt for wild animals to cook and eat, get something to quench their thirst, and get woods, rocks, and many more items that they can use like example to produce fire and such.