

and lived there.

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Ellice Islands Creation story.

Tangaroa was the creator. He grew on the Tree of Samoa (Nui island version).

Nanoua Islanders say that in the beginning heaven and earth were sticking together. Heaven was called Rangī and earth Papa. They were things not persons. Between heaven and earth lived two beings, Rānukite and Mānaia (the rainbow). Tangaroa was walking on the outside of heaven and heard these two beings complaining that there was no light. He called to them, "What is it that you want?" They answered "Lift heaven that we may have light." So Tangaroa lifted it and Mānaia the Rainbow helped him.

The Ellice Islands were populated by the hero Fola'a who brought Samoans

traveller by canoe. He had two wives: a Samoan and a Tongan. These found coconuts floating in the sea and planted the first trees.

Before Fola'a brought the canoe he swam alone to investigate the islands. He came to Nanomea and found two women there, but when he asked their names they would not tell him. So he made a rope and hung it to the heaven so that it dangled over one woman as she slept. Down this he climbed and awoke the woman with his foot. She awoke terrified and immediately called her friend by name, "Ika, Ika!" and her friend called back "Noko, Noko!" So Fola'a learned their names.

When heaven stood on high Tangarua the errata lived there and Lankite accompanied him. There they await and welcome the spirits of the dead.

Lankite had two sons. The elder,

named Maunman sprang from his belly
The Younger named Narean from a
swelling of his forehead. Narean was
very small but wise.

Worship of Illice blanders.

The people made
idols of wood about the size of a
man's thigh. These were not in human
form. They were stained black and
bound with coconut leaves and set
up in the living houses.

At death there was a dance and a feast.
The body was buried with head to
South, feet North. If this was not
observed the soul was lost. If the dead
were a chief the skull was preserved
and worshipped.