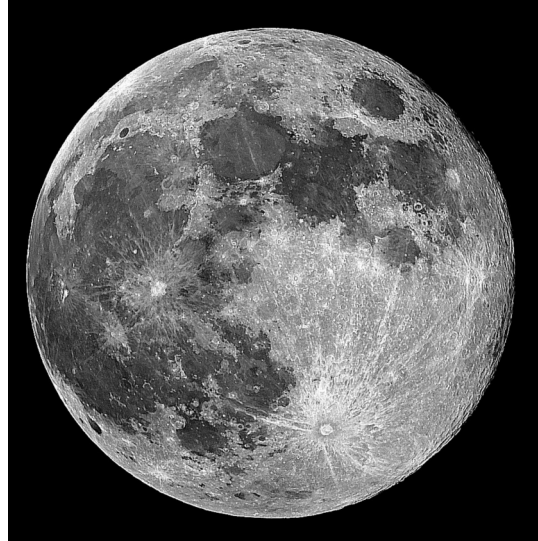
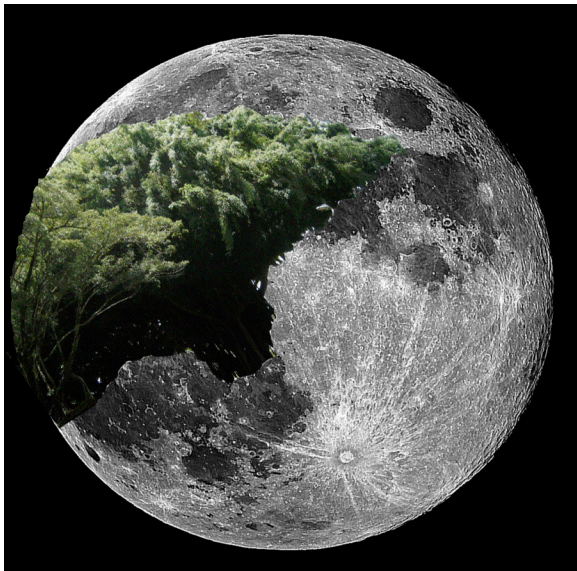


Hina moves to the Moon: A Hawai'ian story about the Moon

Because Hina fashioned the finest and softest kapa (cloth made of tree bark) in Hawai'i, her cloth was in great demand. She worked long hours with little rest and eventually grew tired of her life among mortals. It was said that her sons were unruly and her husband was lazy, so she decided to leave by traveling up a rainbow into the sky. She went to the Sun one day, but it was too hot and inhospitable. The next night she climbed the rainbow to the Moon. When she arrived there, she was so pleased, that she stepped onto the Moon and made it her home. The Hawai'ian name for the Moon, Mahina, is derived from her name.



In some stories, the shadows on the Moon are said to be a banyan tree from which Hina made cloth for the gods. Once, when Hina was up in the banyan tree, she broke off a branch for its bark. It fell to Earth, struck root, and was the first tree of its kind ever seen in the world.



The clear space in the moon is where the branch once was, and beneath the tree in that area is where Hina had her home.

Contributed by Paul Coleman, Ph.D.: University of Hawai'i, Institute for Astronomy

Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) /Chandrayaan-1 Education / Public Outreach

<http://moonmineralogymapper.jpl.nasa.gov>

<http://www.isro.org/Chandrayaan/htmls/home.htm>