

Xay Chue Lee

Xay Chue Lee relates the historic elements of Hmong legends. He also advises the young Hmong in the United States.

You are one of the living. You are smart and have an education. You have to work for the government first before you can live your life the way you want it. I will now sing you a song that will tell you something. Any country of people should have this song you can have a heart and know how to feel sorrow for others. Now listen carefully. I just don't want you to hear it, but know it comes from me. I'm the only one who knows these things and can tell them to you. Those that know will likely not tell you about what I'm going to say. Forgive me God, I'm going to tell the kids and teachers here about things that they want to know.

The Hmong have a government. The Hmong have a home. The Hmong have a father, mother, grandfather, and grandmother. The first Hmong was named "Fly Can Do." He could fly and do things at the same time. The second one was "Iron." Nobody can kill him. He is hard to kill. The third one is Va Chue Chong. The fourth is Va Seng Xai. The fifth is Va Kong Pao. The sixth is Va Pa Chia. The seventh is Va Ya Youa. The eighth is Va Pao Chiade. He is the one that came to the United States. He came to Hawaii from a boat. The last one is Da Pa Chia. He lived in 1918. He didn't come to the United States. He stayed in Asia. These are the government leaders that came one after another. Following Pa Chia came Lee Pon. From 1961 came General Vang Pao. Because of General Vang Pao teaming with the Americans, we are here in United States.

All those ones that I just named are of the Hmong government. Jesus has given us Hmong the following: food, medicine, and life. He gave us these so that we Hmong can make a life. Shaman are also given to us by Jesus. The second one is Thee Shee Na and his wife, Nhia Gao Ghoua. They are the first man and woman who farmed and grew rice. These are all given to us by Jesus. After that any farmer and family have to take care of themselves and their farm. This is Hmong history.

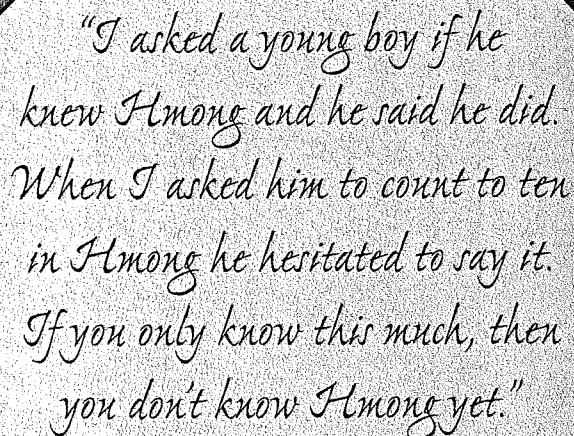
Following these things came the Hmong. The last name was given then to each Hmong. There were Va Cha Seng Lee, and Va Hue Houa. Following these two came Moua Chue Fu, Thao Foua Toua, Ya Dao Mong, Xiong Cha Che, Her Sa Thou. We Hmong didn't know how to follow the system. Everybody follows their own system. That is why we Hmong are the way we are today.

I asked a young boy if he knew Hmong and he said he did. When I asked him to count to ten in Hmong he hesitated to say it. If you only know this much, then you don't know Hmong yet. I advised him to speak Hmong to his family when he was at home. When he is at school, he should speak English. The reason you should do this is so you won't lose your Hmong language. When other Hmong come and visit you and they talk to you, you will understand what they are saying to you. You only know about your

grandma and grandpa and the relatives that are living. Those relatives of yours that lived a thousand years ago you don't even know about.

When talking to others, I tell the truth and if it ends then it ends. I don't make jokes about anything. When you listen to me talk, you probably don't like it. I talk loud and I don't know how to talk funny so you can like it. Next time there should be more of all of you Hmong and teachers. If you want to know anything, just come to me. I can teach you whatever you want to know.

When coming to school you should never cause any problems with your teachers. When you have something to say to your teacher, never go to his/her desk. You should always walk around it and stay behind it. The reason you should do this is because the teacher is the leader.



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