

**A-yeu Hai, A-yeu Hxe and A-yeu Dao.***Narrated by Wang Ming-ji.*

Of old, when sky and earth had come into being, A-yeu Hai (Hmao-ndlw A-yeu), A-yeu Hxe (Hmao-chi A-yeu) and A-yeu Dao (Hmao-dang A-yeu), three kinsmen left A-nzhi-di, and, following the game, came to Na-lu by the River A-na. A-yeu Hai and A-yeu Hxe could both handle the crossbow. A-yeu Dao could not handle the crossbow but was a man of great strength.

At this time the Chinese came from the Chinese land and attacked A-yeu Hai, carrying off the women and children, gathering up and carrying away all the goods. A-yeu Hai returned from hunting to find that the Chinese had even gathered up the sour cabbage, tied it into a bundle with his crossbow strings and carried it off. A-yeu Hai ran after the Chinese and said, "Please yourselves what you take of the things, but give me back my bundle of sour cabbage so that I can boil it this evening for my evening meal". The Chinese said, "What can we do with this bundle of sour cabbage if we take it on? Give it to him." So the Chinese threw the bundle of sour cabbage to A-yeu Hai.

A-yeu Hai took the bundle of sour cabbage along, pulled it to pieces and recovered his crossbow strings. Then he went out and shot the Chinese. So the Chinese let the group of women and children go, and presently he took them all back.

Because of this A-yeu Dao's descendants brought the clan to Tu-na-yi and Li-na, then leaving Tu-na-yi and Li-na came to Hi-cu. (There was a snake hole at Hi-cu which they stopped up, hence the name Hi-cu.) A-yeu Dao's clan then left Hi-cu and came to Gi-zeu-tai. Leaving Gi-zeu-tai they reached Li-nu and Li-zyu.

At this time there was a man who was very fierce. If relatives came to see him and the Xyu-jia family would not let them cross in the boat, he would run and, standing upon the cliff, would curse the Chinese on the other side of the river. A short time afterwards he had a law suit with an official at Xyu-shang, which was heard first at Kuei-Xiang, then at Zheng-xiong and finally at Zhaotung.

He was a very firm person and they wanted to give him an official position. First they sent thirty men to come and conduct him, but he would not go with them. After that they sent forty to come and take him, his wife and all his household and escort them to Zhaotung City. (In those days the old folk did not understand about escorting. They said that the Chinese had come and "taken" him away.)

When a full year had passed, returning from Zheng-xiong he came to Li-nu, to his brothers' place, leaving his soldiers at Li-zyu. At night when it was about time to sleep his brothers said, "It is very good that the official has come to sleep here, but the bed is not good". However, the man who had become an official said, "All that is needed is some millet straw, that will do well". In the night he took two silver ingots and hid them in the straw. Early in the morning he was up and away across the river. Presently, when the head of the house gathered up the

millet straw and the brothers saw the two silver ingots, they picked them up and ran in pursuit. In front of the Hmao-yang homestead they caught up, calling after the official as they went. The official's soldiers wished to come and ask what they wanted, but the official would not permit them, coming himself to enquire what was the matter. They said, "The official has left behind these things, so we have chased after you with them". Then he said, "These are what I have brought for you". So presently they returned home again. (We have not heard where this official went afterwards).