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The origin of the Hmao-chi ancestral sacrifice.

Narrated by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time the Hmao-chi clan and the Hmao-ndlw clan were close cousins. One day three of the cousins went to fell a tree in order to make crossbows. The two older cousins took the large, the good pieces to use. The youngest Hmao-chi, not yet very big, went and took that which was not so good together with a branch of the tree to use. He made a small crossbow which had to be wedged and was really no good, but the two older ones made a couple of excellent crossbows.

One day these three went together to hunt wild pig. The two older ones said, "We two will go into the middle of the forest and hunt. You are still not very big, so you stay outside and keep watch". The younger Hmao-chi said, "Very well, I will keep watch here, you two go and hunt". When the two older ones had gone into the forest this young Hmao-chi saw a large wild pig at the edge of the forest. He stretched his small crossbow, placed an arrow on top, took careful aim, and loosed one shot, which hit the wild pig and killed it. He took his grass cape and covered the pig. When those two older ones returned he took them to see it. They said, "Now you have shot a pig we must carry it to present to the landlord".

They carried it to present to the landlord, who said to them, "Which of you shot it?" The two older ones said, "This boy here shot it". The landlord said to the boy, "I will give you a horse". The young Hmao-chi said, "I do not want it". The landlord said, "I will give you some silver". But he said, "I do not want it". So the landlord said to him, "What do you want?" He said, "I only want a family for myself". The landlord said to him, "In that case, behind my house is a fruit tree. You go and pick some to eat. Of my slave women, whichever one comes and wants fruit from you to eat, I will give that one to you". The youngest Hmao-chi went to pick and eat, and a girl from the landlord's own family came and asked for some. When he returned the landlord said to him, "Who came and wanted fruit from you to eat?" He replied, "Only the landlord's young sister asked me for some to eat". The landlord said, "Well then, I will give you my young sister". He said to the landlord, "If you give me your sister what shall I do in the future when I worship the ancestors?" The landlord answered, "If you want to worship the spirits, come, take my flag and carry it, and take my horse and ride it". So the matter was concluded, and now, when the Hmao-chi family worship the ancestors, they follow this custom.