

## **THE LAKE OF THE SISTERS AND THE TREE BROTHERS**

A Legend: The Creation of The Lake of the Sisters on Mount Ali

Adapted and Formatted by Lois Walker

Cast: 8 Readers, Including 6 Character Parts

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- READER 1: Here is a heartwarming legend about the Lake of the Sisters:
- READER 2: Once upon a time, long ago, only native Polynesians lived on Mount Ali in what is now central Taiwan.
- READER 3: One tribal chief of these natives had two beautiful daughters.
- READER 4: The elder daughter was named Awana
- READER 5: The younger daughter was named Awacha.
- READER 6: Both girls loved to sing and dance. They especially loved to do this on nights when the moon was full.
- READER 7: And they always invited other young girls of the same age to go with them into the woods where they sang and danced on the turf.
- READER 8: Can you imagine this? They must have looked like lovely little fairies.
- READER 1: Almost all native people living on Mount Ali were peaceful except for one tribe's chief named Mogulu.
- READER 2: He was vicious and cruel and often took advantage of others. Since he was strong enough to kill a wild pig or a panther all by himself, everybody was afraid of him. People nicknamed him the Bear of Mount Ali.

- READER 3: One day Mogulu went hunting with two other men. As they came close to a clearing in the woods, they heard singing. Following the sounds, they came upon Awana and Awacha with a group of young girls happily singing and dancing on the grass.
- READER 4: Mogulu said loudly to his subordinates,
- Mogulu/5: "They are really not bad-looking! "
- READER 6: Upon hearing his voice, all the girls stopped and stared angrily at Mogulu.
- Mogulu/5: "Ha! ha! ha! Continue your singing and dancing. I am the Bear of Mount Ali. You are lucky to perform in front of me! "
- READER 7: Upon hearing his nickname, the group of girls was frightened and ran away quickly.
- READER 8: Only Awana and Awacha stayed.
- READER 1: Now Awana and Awacha were high spirited girls, and they were angry. Awana said,
- Awana/2: "How can you be so rude? You think you can insult others without good reason just because of your strength? "
- READER 3: Next Awacha spoke.
- Awacha/4: "What kind of hero goes around insulting girls? If you always behave like this, God will punish you."
- READER 6: Mogulu was not happy with this kind of talk. He put his hands on his hips and frowned.
- Mogulu/5: "Shut up! How dare you speak to me like that!"

- READER 7: But one of the other men whispered to him,
- Man/8: "Chief, they are the most beautiful girls on Mount Ali. Why don't you take them home as your concubines?"
- READER 1: Mogulu liked this idea.
- Mogul/5: "Yes, not a bad idea! Each of you men grab one of those girls and bring them along. Let's go!"
- READER 3: The sisters were angry. Their faces were flushed. As Mogulu laughed, they struggled but were unable to loosen themselves from the strong hold of the two big men. Suddenly there came a shout,
- Brother/6: "Leave them alone!"
- Reader 7: Two young men appeared from behind a tree. One of them looked straight into Mogulu's eyes and without the slightest fear said,
- Brother/6: "Even though we two brothers are unable to match you, we cannot let you take these girls. We believe that the Mountain God will help us. "
- Mogulu/5: "Fools! You will die before the Mountain God shows up. He cannot help you."
- READER 1: Suddenly a flash of light and a crash of thunder came down from the sky. The clear sky became dark. The ear shocking thunder scared Mogulu. One of his men trembled and cried,
- Man/8: "Chief, is the Mountain God angry?"
- READER 3: Mogulu was stunned but pretended he wasn't afraid. Even so, he and his men ran away through the trees.

READER 7: As the brothers and sisters watched them run, the sky cleared up.

READER 1: The two sisters and the two brothers sang and danced happily in the woods and soon they forgot all about Mogulu.

READER 3: But, of course, Mogulu did not forget. A few days later, he sent a messenger to visit the two sisters' father. The messenger announced:

Messenger/7: "Mogulu orders you to send your two daughters to him within three days. He will take them as his wives. If this is not done, he will burn down your homes and kill all your people."

READER 6: This message spread through the tribe very quickly. Everybody was worried and afraid. They did not want to sacrifice the two beautiful and tender sisters to Mogulu, but they knew he would do just as the messenger had said.

READER 8: Three days passed and on the night of the third day, Awana and Awacha left the tribe quietly and walked the passage between the two tribes.

READER 1: They knelt down and prayed respectfully to the Mountain God.

Awana/2: "Kindly God, please protect our tribe. Do not let Mogulu hurt anybody."

Awacha/4: "If we have to suffer, let us two sisters take the responsibility!"

READER 3: They prayed continuously and cried constantly. Their tears wet their clothes and the grass around them. It was near dawn when the first rays of sun came through the trees.

READER 6: Suddenly lighting flashed, followed by deafening thunder.

READER 7: At that very moment, The Mountain God transformed Awana and Awacha into two lakes, one larger than the other, but connected to each other. The lakes cut off the passage between the two tribes.

READER 8: The sun rose higher and the lake waters became so bright that they looked like two big mirrors.

READER 1: The water flickered like two sisters blinking their beautiful eyes.

READER 3: Before long, Mogulu and more of his men, came to the lake side carrying knives, bows and arrows.

Mogulu/5: "This is strange! Where did these two lakes come from? They were not here three days ago!"

READER 6: Mogulu and his men were puzzled and were talking about the strange new lakes when the two sisters suddenly emerged from the water's surface.

READER 7: The mountain breeze lifted their black hair and ruffled their red clothes. The water reflected the nearby woods, as well as their lovely figures. The elder sister said to Mogulu with a clear voice,

Awana/2: "Mogulu, you have done too many bad things. If you do not repent and make a change, the Mountain God will punish you and disaster will fall upon you!"

READER 8: But Mogulu only laughed loudly.

Mogulu/5: "Ha! I am the great Bear of Mount Ali. What can the Mountain God do to me! You two come with me quickly."

READER 1: The younger sister said angrily,