

TOPIC: FUNERAL.

Investigator: Mili

Informant: Timoci Mokuwakaca of Tavuki, Kadavu. Age: 72yrs

L

This is about the death of a chief of this village and place of NACOLASE. When a chief die, all the arrangement of the funeral, the funeral gathering and everything that is to be held is taken care of by the chiefs from NUKUNAWA. They are the people who look into the matter and they will decide what to do. They will order the people who will go and beat the LALI or blow the DAVUI (trumpet shell) to show the people that there is something really big happening and they have to be more careful as to what they do. The message of the death is taken to them and they tell the people concern to go and sound the DAVUI and the other to go and beat the LALI. This is to signify that the whole village is mourning for their chief. It is called the TAGI NI VANUA in Fjian. It also calls for the people to come to the place where the VEIQARAVI or the funeral gathering is held so that they can help in anything that is wanted done. When the LALI is beaten, it will go on and on until they take the body of the chief to bury it. Only then would they stop it from beating. As for those people who will be looking after the body of the chief which is inside the house it will be the chiefs of NUKUNAWA. These are the chiefly family only who will be sort of running the whole show. They are all related and so it is in their hands that the death of a chief and it's trouble lies. These people will look after the body days and nights. They will take care of all the matters concerning the death and if they want to do something about it, it is within

Cont'd Page 2

their power to carry that out. They will attend to the people who come to the REGUREGU and then the day for the funeral arrives. They will have the funeral and after the funeral they will come back to the funeral gathering, or they place where they have this thing. For the grave diggers, they will later go out to the sea to wash their hands and their body. When they return from the sea, the water is going to be forbidden for anyone to fish around that area or at the area where the grave diggers had their baths. There will be a boundary mark placed around the place to mark the area which is out of bounds to the people. The water is going to be forbidden to the people for quite some times, until the chiefs of NUKUNAWA announce that is now free for anyone to go and fish again. And then they will stay at the place of the funeral gathering for four nights, They do not have this loud crying like some people used to do today. This is greatly forbidden for people to cry out loud when a chief dies, the members of the family too is not allowed to do this. If they want to cry they just have to cry very softly and not very loud. All the chiefs from all over KADAVU will come to the funeral gathering and they will come to pay their last respect to their chief. After the funeral they will return to their own homes and for the chiefs of NUKUNAWA and the rest of the TAVUKI people they will do their duty and then when everything is over, then there is no need for them to stay around but to return to their own homes. That is all I can say about the way they have this funeral arrangement here at TAVUKI.

Thank you.

---