

TOPIC: LEGEND

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LEGEND OF SOME OF THE ORIGINATORS OF FIJI

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There was a time in the past years and this happened when people started to attend school because education had been introduced to Fiji. The school-mistress at the time was a Miss Dereck. She asked her students if they could study something about the history of Fiji. Well she is wrong in this sense if she refer to the story as the geography of Fiji or it's history if she means what happened in the past years in our country. Now, let's go into this so-called geography of Fiji as Miss Dereck asks her students to do. During those days there were no such roads that can take us from here to LAUTOKA. So these group of people travelled from here to LAUTOKA by boat. When they reached LAUTOKA, they travelled on foot from there to VISEISEI. In VISEISEI land they went passed some range of mountains and this range of mountains was called by our ancestors as CAMOLIA, So these students kept on walking and then they came to a place where they decided to rest for a while. The things that the Europeans students are carrying is just like the one carried by the Fijian students. It was going on to four when they decided to stop, so they looked for a clearing where they could put up a tnet or shelter for the night. In that things which they carry, they've got food, clothes wear and other essential things they need on that trip. They carried these things on their back. So they rested there and in the morning

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they moved on. When they came to some strange place, they stood there for some times just admiring the scene and they see these things for the first time too. They travelled through some forests and some open country land too. The travelling was really hard for them but they never give up. They came to a place where they noticed some glass pieces as if someone cracked a bottle on that place and nearby they spotted some cans of meat the used one, the European student turned around and he asked the Fijian students if they really had these sort of thing in Fiji before and they answered that they do not no if this was so. Well for these empty cans and brokern bottles, it was left there by some surveyors who went there to survey the lad and have it placed on the map. So they kept on with their jorney until they came to this place called VATUKACEVACEVA. Passing VATUKACEVACEVA they decided to go into NAKAUVADRA land. So we decided to sleep there at VATUKACEVACEVA and then go to NAKAUVADRA in the morning. We asked around if it was possible to go to NAKAUVADRA and they said that if we want to go there we have to leave very early say at five or six in the morning. And I asked them if someone can lead us to the path to NAKUVADRA and then we can carry on from there on our own. None volunterred and when we said that we are going to pay them three shillings, we were surprised with the number of volunteers who fight over as to who should take us there. To them three shillings is a lot of money and so was it during those days. And we settle with two persons whom we chosen to take us. In the morning after we've eaten our breakfast we were told that these two people will take us as far as KETENI. So they were taken there by these two people and then on to NAKUVADRA land. The journey involves a lot

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of mountain climbing. That morning the day broke out to see us climbing up towards NAKUVADRA land. We went on and on and on until we arrived at NAKUVADRA. When we arrive there we noticed that the grass there is different from the one which grows on our land back home. This grass has got white flowers and they are really pretty. As soon as we arrived the two escorts who took us said that we should make our I SEVUSEVU now if they want us to take them in the journey through NAKUVADRA. They said that for any person who wants to come to our land or to NAKAUVDARA they should make a SEVUSEVU first before they go any further on this land. We gave them a bag of YAQONA but they said not to present that but to use the one's which is not pounded yet. So we gave them the YAQONA and then they did the ceremony of I SEVUSEVU. They talked in their own language and it was really difficult for us to understand what they were talking about. They were really smart as to how they make the presentation of the YAQONA. After they've done the presentation, they turned to us and they said, now we must all line up here and wait for the MATANIVANUA to come and take this YAQONA, but first of all he will accept it in the Fijian way of receiving presented things. They told us not to be scared of anything or try to run away when he is there in front of us, we all have to remain ~~zixx~~ calm until everything is over. And also we must not get scared when the ceremony is on. We lined up and we wait of what is going to happen now, but the unexpected was x really a surprise for us. After we were all lined up like that then we saw the grass moving and out of that grass came a large snake. The snake was a really large one and it came right up to

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the place where we all lined. This large snake hasn't got a tail as if it has been cut off. It came right up to the place where the two boys left the YAQONA then it just turned around and then it carried the YAQONA away. When it left, the two escorts turned to us and they said that it is now free for us to go and look over the place. So we took up our things and we followed this two guys. They said that is the sign when they give permission to people who wants to visit NAKAUVADRA. So we went into NAKUUVADRA and during our sightseeing the European fellow was asking a lot of questions concerning some of the home foundations which are now in ruins, he asked them to who does this home foundations belong to and I heard the two boys explaining it to him. And when we came to this particular spot and it is in this place where they had a home which belongs to a chief or some noble person in the olden days. They explained that the foundation of that house which is now in ruins belong to a Solomon person. And this SOLOMON islander, the mother is from here in Fiji and when they came on that journey from TAQANIKA, he left the mother and then he sort of jumped up and when he did this he landed here at NAKUUVADRA and then the chiefs of Fiji said for him to stay there now since he refused to accompany the rest of the people who came from TAQANI-IKA. After the two fellows explained this to him, they went on further into the place to see the rest of NAKAUVADRA. And further up during their journey they came to this place where they saw a large lake in front of them, so they stopped and on this lake you could see mangroves and other plants growing on it. The European fellow spoke up asking about the lake and then these two guys explained

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everything about this lake and they said that this is the RED SEA. And they said that this Red Sea is where Noah's arc was floating when the world was under water. That is when God flooded the world. And then later on the boat grounded someplace where it is called VELOVELO today. Today, they say if you go to that place you will see the remain of Noah's boat which saved him and his family when the world was flooded. So we stopped there and we turned back and then we came to this spot where the land sort of juts out to a sharp point. The two boys pointed out and they said that the place is called ULUI BUA. After he pointed ULUI BUA out to us, the European guy asked them if they could take us out that far, but the two boys said that they are not going out any further. If they want to go on they can go on on their own, as for them they are not moving any further. So we thanked them for what they had done for them and we paid them with three shillings. We watched them go down the slope and they said that if we want to go further on all we have to do is ask in the next village and they are sure to help us. We saw them go down a slope and they followed something like a path and then we couldn't see them because they were gone. As for us, there weren't any road or any path of some sort, we just walk one behind the other, as if something is leading us on it's own free will. On and on we went, until we came to the spot that the two guys pointed out to us saying that the place is ULUI BUA. When we came over there we spotted a house just in front of us, so we went up to that house and knocked. The door opened and this house belong to two brothers. The younger brother was at home but the elder brother was out in the plantation and when we arrived there, we told him of what we were expecting to do and that is

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they wanted to go through this other land. The young fellow took us inside his home and he said that for anyone who wants to go sightseeing in that area they have to make a I SEVUSEVU first before they go into the land. And when we asked him to whom should we make the I SEVUSEVU, he answered that he is the person who takes care of the matter and also it is his big brother, but his big brother is out in the plantation but they can also present to him, both is accepted. So, we went inside the house and then we made the I SEVUSEVU to him and he said now it is alright for us to go in and see the place. He showed us the path and we followed it but not long when we were gone, we decided to come back and rest. But for the big brother who was out in the plantation when we were doing the I SEVUSEVU he was really wild when the brother told him of what had happened and he turned around that we are going to be sent back because we didn't do any SEVUSEVU to him. And he told us that if we want to go in there we should make another SEVUSEVU to him before we go. He said that we were not supposed to do it to the younger brother but to him. Some of the people came after us and they told us of what had taken place at the two brothers' home, so we returned and we again present our second I SEVUSEVU and this time it was to the big brother. He accepted it and then he briefed us as to what we are going to meet in the place where we wanted to go. The travelling is not like the one in which we took, this travelling in going inside a cave. So they went to the cave and they looked at the mouth of the cave. They stood there just looking at it and then they decided to wait for a little while before they go in. They went in the cave and then they came to this particular place after hours of climbing. They

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were told to look for the mouth of the real cave which they are going to go in in order to see the place which they want to see. If they are not able to find it then it is no use their going there because the mouth of the cave is not seen yet. They found this many caves which they entered but it always ended up in a dead end. From morning to afternoon at four they still couldn't find the cave. So they decided to stop and rest for awhile. They put up some tents for them that night and then they prepared some food for their meals that night. When they had finished eating their meals, then the European guy stood up and he said that he is going to make another YAQONA so he went and did just that. He took off his coat and then he removed the rest of his clothes. And then he took some clothes and he dressed up like someone from the last few years of uncivilization, and this time he really looked like a native, just like one of us before the foreigners brought clothes to Fiji. After he had put on his native dress then he started to chew on the YAQONA roots which are not yet pounded. After he had chewed it he said that he is going to mix the YAQONA. He counted the number of us and he found that there was four of us so he prepared four cups of YAQONA. Then he mixed the YAQONA and after he had mixed it he said that he is going to drink the first cup and the person who drinks second represents REWA. Again he drinks the second cup and the person who drinks after that represents MACUATA and then I will drink the last cup, drink second is IAW and the last cup of YAQONA will be given to SAMU NABAINIVALU to take. So they did that but these Fijian guys were really scared of what this European lad was doing. And another thing they cannot refuse the cup of yaqona that was given to them, they have to

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accept it and drink that too, because it is our native drink and we can't refuse it if it is given to us. During that time, the Fijian people were really uneasy of this foreigners and the things they might do, because the Fijians seem to notice their power. So after this weird act performed by this European guy they mix another new grog and they sat down and they started to have a quiet drink themselves. After they finished the yaqona, they were told to go to sleep, but this boy did not go to sleep. He made a hat out of some leaves then he lay down facing the door, the bensine light was on and he was reading a newspaper but this newspaper is torn in the middle, he meant to have that torn so that it doesn't block his view. He was looking straight outside all the time and he stayed that way for a long time. Not long when we laid down, we ~~saw~~ heard the noise of a dog crossing the front part of our tent. When he saw the dog cross our tent the European guy stood up and he went after the dog. The dog was running in front and he was following closely from behind. They raced on and on until the dog came up to a mouth of a cave and it went right in. The dog disappeared there and it was no where to be found. As for this man, he took the newspaper which he had with him and he left on a tree's branch just near that cave. Then he came back to our tent then he went to sleep. In the morning when we woke up he told us that we are moving on and we are going to see this land which all of us had been dying to see. So we had our breakfast and then we left soon after that. This time this man was leading the way for us and we came up to the spot where he stuck the newspaper on to the branch of the tree. And just near that tree they spotted a cave, just small enough for a dog to enter

through that opening. So we got down to investigate more of our finding, then this man ordered us to dig up the spot, we got our digging equipment and we started to dig the place up. Not long we realized that the cave opened up to a much bigger one. So we kept on digging until we were able to uncover the whole mouth of the cave big enough for us to use as an entrance. So they went in and they followed a path which leads right inside of the cave. The path was that of real gravel as if it has been there all the time. On and on they went until they came to a small river, they crossed the river and then they climbed this slope. When they reached the top they saw this large field like that of a playground. The grass was real green and it was beautiful to look at it. They crossed this ground and kept on ahead with their sight-seeing and when they looked in front of them they saw something like the eyes of a cat when you see them in the dark. But when they came neare and nearer they noticed that it is another cave leading somewhere else. They followed this cave until they came to a hill. They stopped because they were all thirsrtly. And just nearby they spotted some coconut trees, so they decided to climb some coconuts and have them since they are thirsrtly. And for one fruit they were really relaxed by this one coconut. Well the most amazind thing is the size of the coconut trees, they were just too big to be true but he managed to climb it, he counted how many of us and he dropped the coconuts. When he climbed down again, we realised that we do not have any knife to cut the coconuts with, but just near the tree we spotted a I SAU and this piece of stick is used by our ancestors to husk the coconut. So we got hold of our coconuts and we husk them using this stick, and we

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cracked them using the stones there, so our thirst disappeared in a few moments after we've enjoyed the cool drink from this coconuts. After we've rested a little this man said that they are going to look around the hill and check what's there. On the other side of the hill they found another cave. So the European stood up and she wrote something on a piece of paper and it was written in Fijian the word written on this paper was Could we come inside your cave. We would like to have a look inside your cave. Then she folded this piece of paper and she threw it into the cave. When they stood there waiting as to what's going to happen, they were surprised to find the same piece of paper but this time something was written on the other side, and it says that they're not to come inside the cave. Again she did the same thing three times, but still there was no reply as to whether they should continue in or return. The same thing happened they were not to come inside the cave. So she stood up and she got hold of one bottle of whisky called the Velaska and she broke it and she spilled the contents inside the cave. Again she took another piece of paper and she wrote the same thing and she threw the paper into the cave. Not long another piece of paper came up and it was written on it that they can come in and take a look but for the European lady to remain inside. So she took the piece of paper and she showed it to the rest of the team and they were all Fijian kids. And she said that they were going in and she is going to remain there waiting for them. LAISA who was the kid from NAIVILAVCA from REWA was to take the lead and right at the back was SAMU NABAINIVALU and in the middle they have the LAUBAN fellow. So they went into the cave and the lady stayed behind to wait for them.

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So they went in and when they reached the ground level of the cave, their light went off, and then they asked if they could have their light lit again, they light their bensine light and not long it went off again, three times, they light it and it went off again not very long after they light it. So they took up another bootle of whisky, open it and they spill it over that place. And not long after that the light went on again and then continued with their trip into the middle of the cave. From far off they could hear the sound of the waves lapping on the rocks on something. And later it grew louder as if they were right on the spot where this thing where they were going. So they decided to check if it really water in front of them. One of them took a piece of rock and he threw it in front of them and they heard the stone land somewhere along a beach or something. They went up and came to this place all covered with water. They looked around and they couldn't see anything so they decided to check and see what the depth of the water is, so they took out a fishing line and they dropped it into the pool after tying a piece of rock at the end. The rock dropped and dropped until it stopped and when they took it out and measure it it was 20 feet long and that was the depth of the pool of water of the sea over that spot. So they left the place and wander somewhere else and they across a boat of some sort bobbing up and down on the waves in front of them. When they went up to this boat they were really struck of it's beauty so they went on board and they inspected the inside of the boat. They saw some chlkes and some pens so they decided to write their names on that boat. They got hold of their chawks and they started to write their names all over the place and then they left to return to

where the lady was waiting for them. They came back and on their way back something happened to them, they were not finding it easy to breath. The blood was starting to come out of their faces, their noses and their body. But still they struggled on to try and find the place where they first came from. And not long they looked around they found Samu flat on the ground as if he is dead. So they turned back and they fan him in order to give him some air. Then they half carried him back to the mouth of the cave where they first came. When they arrived there the lady asked them what happened and they told her that when they were coming back something just happened to them and then she asked them to tell her exactly what happened in the cave. And they told her about the water and then the boat, and what they did there. The lady told them to return to the cave and rub off their names but none wanted to go back inside because they were all scared. So they decided to leave the place. But when they looked around for the mouth of the cave that was to bring them back, they noticed that the mouth of the cave was closed. They looked everywhere but they couldn't find it. So the lady again ordered them to leave the place and return to the boat and rub off the names which they wrote on the boat if not they are not going to get out of that place alive. So they were forced to turn back although none of them really wanted to return because they were really scared of the place, but it seems that they believe her words, so they came back. They came to the place where the boat was anchored and then they tried to rub off the names which they wrote on the side of the boat and someplace else, they tried it with water but it couldn't come off, so they used their pen-knife to remove their names and it worked. After

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they've done this thing they returned to the place where the lady was waiting for them. And this time when they looked around for the mouth of the cave they were able to see it. So when they went there, the lady explained to them about the boat, the boat belongs to the gods of Fiji and it can take them anywhere they fell like it and it is done all in a split of a second. And the boat is called MINITI. So they returned again to the place where they first came and then they decided to make thier journey back to SUVA. They came back by the boat the DIKEVA and then back to their own homes.

- Could we go back to the beginning of the story, you said that there are three natives involved, could you name them and describe the place they come from.
- Very well. The first person is ~~XXXX~~ LAISA and the father is someone you know and that is FILIMONI from NAIVILACA in NOCO but before he was born, his father went to the Solomons to preach the good word of the Bible and then he got a kid from one of the ladies from there and that is how he got his son LAISA but later they both returned to Fiji together. And he was one of the people who told me about this story.
- And what can you say about his two other guys.....
- The other kid is JONE LEDUA and he is a teacher at LAU at present and the other fellow is SAMU NABAINIVALU and this person is from KADAVU.
- What can you say about this European lady whom you mentioned in this story of ~~xxxx~~ yours.
- This lady is called MISS DERECK and she is a school-teacher at DAVUILEVU. But during that time there are only two schools here in Fiji and that is one of the school at NAILILI which was a

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Catholic school. And the second school was the one at DAVUILEVU. They had these scouts school and we still have these things today.

- You told me that they used a boat to move around and the name of that boat was DIKEVA. Could you describe what type of boat this is and the things which you have inside this boat.....
- The boat is that of the old model of a Fijian canoe. It has got a sail and it is a really fantastic thing to look at because of it's shape. And it is something similar to the small boats which we used this days for yatching.
- When they made that trip to LAUTOKA could you describe what LAUTOKA REALLY LOOKED LIKE at that time.....
- LAUTOKA was just a bushy land, no houses like we have today.
- Is there anything else you would like to do.. or say.....
- No ~~xxx~~ I don't really remember much to help you in this thing.
- Thank you.

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