

FUNERAL.Investigator: Willie. DInterviewed: Makelesi Tinai ..Tonia, Verata, TailevuSUBJECT: WHEN A CHIEF DIES .

-When a chief dies the village will be very solemn and no weeping sound is heard only the lali. This lali is the sign of the weeping villagers. This is also a sign of respect and a sign of mourning

- How will the news of the chiefs death be taken to his relatives who live far.

-The "Mata ni koro in that particular village will take the message of the chiefs death to his relatives afar and also to the villages.

-What is the name given to this Mata ni Koro.

-In Tonia the Mata goes first to Lutu to announce the death of the chief.

-Who will than spread or take the news to everyone.

-As I have mentioned before the Lali beats tells or announce to people that a chief in the village has died. They is a particular tribe who is responsible for doing this.

-When the lali is beaten there is no one who is allowed to cry.

-No one is allowed to cry except the children of the chief or the chief's children.

-Where does the chief lays when he dies.

-A tavata is made for the chief to lie on. This Tavata is made for the chiefs body to lie on, On this tavata too the villagers would carry his body to his grave.

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- Is there any guards to guard the dead body of the chief?
- When a chief dies there are people from a particular tribe who are responsible for guarding the chiefs body and the house where the dead body is. The guards are dressed in Drauni Vasili there body will be painted in chacoled(design) and will be holding their clubs with them.
- TO the people who come to the funeral what is the traditional things they bring.?
- when people attend the funeral of a chief they will be bringing with them mats, tabua, and masi. This is for their Kani REGUREGU. As their come to present their Kani Reguregu passing the door where the dead body is they will say,O.....oa. When the gifts are already presented to the man in the Vatuniloa then the Kani Reguregu will be taken inside the house. This is where the Kani Reguregu is kept.
- What is then done to this Kani Reguregu?
- The things brought by people will be kept. Then the coco ni vata will be chosen from here. The Yau from here will be used to parcel the chief. Before the dead body is parceled with mats when there was no coffin. Before the body is layed in the grave the grave is Conaki too. That is mat is also spread inside the grave before the body is carried or placed in the grave. Three big Coco are placed first in the hole before the chies body is placed. When the funeral commences no one is allowed to stand everyone are to sit down wherever they are. Vakabati and Delani Loga are also spread in the grave before the body is laid. When the body is burried the villagers will then plant flowers on top of the rave.

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-When is the body of the chief or the chiefs body placed on the Tavata?

-When the chiefs body is ready to be taken to the grave than the ~~body~~ body is placed on the Tavata. Then the chiefs body will then be taken to his grave. After the funeral the body bearers or the Tavata bearers will go down to a river to bath. The taboo will be placed on this river so no one is to swim, fish or to do anything with the river for the decided time. A plant or stick is planted near the river to show that the place is taboo. That no one is to use the river in any way. In many places the river can be used again after the decided time. After 50 nights or on the 100th night.

-Before the chiefs body is placed in his grave, is there any traditional thing done before his body is placed in the grave?

-Before the body is placed in the grave a tabua is presented to the grave diggers. This is a Vakasobu of the chiefs body.

X Before the Bati tribe goes to dig the chiefs grave. They will take with them a stick (gasau) to measure the depth of the grave. Chief grave is different from the commoners grave. Chiefs body are also burried in the Vanua Tabu. No one is allowed to go to this place and when the grave diggers are digging the grave there will be also guards there to guard the grave until the chief is burried. NO children is allowed to come to the vanua Tabu.

X | *Is there a particular tribe who is responsible for digging the ~~chi~~ chiefs grave?

-Yes the tribe Bati are responsible for this.

-Who escorts the body to the grave?

-The chiefs family, his relatives and chiefs from other

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(mist)

-villagers will attend the chiefs burial. Bati will be escorting the chiefs body every where. They guard the chiefs body. A talatala also go with the crowd to perform the Lotu ni Veibulu (ance)

When the talatala has performed the funeral service the chiefs body will then be lowered to his grave. The grave will then be burried properly and a piece of Masi is placed on top of the grave before flowers are placed on the Masi. Flowers are properly arranged before people go back home. When everyone has got home a tanoa yaqana is than mixed. The chiefs relatives will chose a lady from all the Mataqali to stay for the Bikabika. (4 nights)

u night. This ladies will stay here until the Bogi 4. When the graves of (lady's) diggers have washed themselves in a river the river will tabbo for five nights on the 5th day the river will be able to be used again by villagers. On the bogi 4 the chief's relatives prepares a magiti. On this night also ~~will~~ the door which was closed, that is the door the coffin bearers went through as they took the body out will be opened.

-Who is responsible to prrsent the Dola ni Katuba? (open the door)

-The chiefs relatives will chose who is to do the Dola ni Katuba. Food and Yagona is presented here.

-Whos is responsible for the Bikabika?

- The chiefs relatives ,after the funeral would ask a lady from each Mataqali to stay back for the Bikabika. The ladies who will do the bikabika will stay in the house for four nights. On the bogi Vathe chiefs relatives will give them mats etc. as their gift for them or presents.

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-There will be mats masi etc. given to the grave diggers and they will be Yau for the chiefs relatives kept a side.

- How about those who wear mourning clothes, those who grow their beards?

-When a person dies, His relatives will go on a tabu. There will be wearing mourning clo~~the~~s , some will be growing their beard others dont drink grog until the Bogi Drau. (100 night)

On the 100th night when the tabu has come to an end, they will be a big magiti prepared and the Yau for the ULUVA NI SULU. All this magiti, and Yau will be presented to the Vasu. Vasu are ~~the side o~~
~~er~~ the mother side of the dead person. Those who are Tabu will bring their magiti and their yau to the Vasu who~~s~~ will also be ~~wa~~ waiting with a magiti. The vasu will then take off the mouning clothes from the relatives who are on/~~tabu~~.

-Who is heir to his father's property when his father dies?

-When the father dies, his eldest son is heir to his property.

-Where does the spirit goes when a person dies?

-when a person dies the body will goe back to the soil and the spirit to the one who gave it. Goes to God/

-I use to hear when a person dies his spirit goes back to his relatives.

-to my opionion when a person dies his body goes back to the earth and the spirit to God. BUT sometimes when people sees the dead person, I believe that it is only the angels of Lucifer.

-I also heard that sometimes people preserve a part of the dead person's body for them.

-to people who preserve or keep the dead man's head it is because

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-they believe that there is power in the head. they dead man's head gives them power. But now days most of us are converted Christians and this belief is laughed at.

i belive that is all done to a chief when he dies.

Winaka vakalevu.