

The Legend of Lake Balinsasayao

(A Visayan Folk-Tale)

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A LONG time ago, on the top of one of the mountains in the island of Negros where Lake Balinsasayao is today, there was a broad, fertile plateau. This plateau was the home of a warlike tribe of Negritos who were under the leadership of Chief Guinatab.

Chief Guinatab was a daring and ruthless warrior who ruled the members of his tribe because of his skill and bravery in war. His tribe of Negritos was hated by the people who lived on the lowlands, for these savage hillsmen sometimes stole the carabaos, pigs, goats, and chickens of the peaceful plainmen, and carried away the corn and the bananas when they were ready to be harvested. These savage mountain people swarmed upon the lowlanders with spears and bows and arrows, and killed any who resisted or did not take to flight.

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One day in June the warriors of Chief Guinatab carried away one of the most attractive of the lowland girls. They wanted her for the wife of their chieftain. Resentment and sorrow were felt by all the people of the nearby plain, but upon the mountain there was great rejoicing and merrymaking in celebration of the wedding of their chief and a beautiful lowland maiden. The people danced to the noisy music of drums, flutes, and gongs. The dancing and feasting continued throughout the day and far into the night. All were happy except the kidnapped bride, who wept and prayed for deliverance.

While the merrymaking and feasting was at its height, suddenly there was a blinding flash and a deafening roar. The rain began to fall in torrents. Peal after peal of thunder followed the continuous flashes of lightning. The very mountain began to shake. There was a great wind—a hurricane was upon the frightened mountain tribe.

Suddenly there was another deafening roar and a blinding flash of unusual intensity. The earth shook. A great opening appeared on the mountain side, and amid indescribable terror and confusion the huts and the people of the village were swallowed by the earth. Everything disappeared. The crevice closed, and the village of Chief Guinatab and his people was no more. The village was gone.

The rain continued all the night in a torrential downpour. When the morn-

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LITTLE WUNG FOO

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chairs by two poles extending out in front and behind.

Once Wung Foo took a journey with his father on a boat. The river was so wide there was room for sailing-boats in the middle, and for lines of house-boats along the banks. Women washed and cooked on the decks of the house-boats. Children played there with little barrels tied to them. If they fell into the water the barrels kept them afloat until someone could pull them out.

When he went home, Wung Foo studied harder than ever. He was glad he was going to be a mandarin, or at least a silk merchant like his father. Perhaps he might go away to be a merchant in San Francisco in the United States, or to Manila in the Philippine Islands. But when he got very rich he would go back to China, and when he died his bones would be buried with those of his forefathers according to custom.—*Condensed from Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia.*

REVIEW

1. Did you like to read about little Wung Foo?
2. Tell about Wung Foo's grandmother.
3. How did Wung Foo dress in the winter time?
4. Tell about Wung Foo's home.
5. Tell about the way the women lived.
6. Tell about Wung Foo's journey.
7. Tell about the Chinese house-boats.
8. What is a mandarin? (See the dictionary.)
9. Where is China?
10. Where is Canton?

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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5. Have you examined the picture of each instrument? (See page 202.)

6. Tell about each of the following instruments: (a) violin, (b) viola, (c) violoncello, (d) double-bass, (e) harp.

7. Can you name the "bowed" instruments of the orchestra, that is, those which are played by a bow?

8. How many strings has each bowed instrument?

9. What is the position of each player in the string section?

10. Can you pronounce correctly: violin (vigh-o-lin), viola (vee-o-la), violoncello, (vee-o-lohn-chel-o), 'cello ('chel-o).

11. Which is the smallest bowed instrument?

12. Which is the largest bowed instrument?

13. Which is larger, the violin or the viola?

14. Which is larger, the 'cello or the double-bass?

15. Have you seen and heard all the instruments of the string section?

16. Which instrument of the string section can best play a solo?

17. Which instrument of the string section cannot play a solo?

18. What large stringed instrument of the orchestra can play a solo very well?

19. Which is the most ancient stringed instrument?

20. How do we know the harp was used in ancient times?

21. In what country is the picture of the harp an emblem?

22. How many strings has the modern harp?

23. Which stringed instrument

LAKE BALINSASAYAO

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ing came, behold! instead of the fertile plateau there was a lake.

The news soon spread to the lowlanders through an old man who had made the trip up the mountain. "God has punished the wicked Negritos for stealing our food and animals, and our beautiful maiden," the people said.

The plainsmen ascended the mountain. Sure enough, there was the lake instead of the mountain village on the plateau. Of Chief Guinatab and his men they heard nothing. Perhaps they were all drowned in the lake. As the lowlanders looked into the water and saw the shadows of the leaves blown by the wind, they thought that they could see the Negritos dancing down in the water.

The people called the lake "Balinsasayao" which means in the native dialect "too much dancing," because they said that the lake had been formed after there had been too much dancing and merriment among the mountain people.

Today, if you climb the mountains of Negros, you will still find the beautiful lake almost at the top of a mountain peak. The highest peak near the lake has been named Guinatabon to remind the people of the Negrito warrior who was swallowed by the mountain.

do you think you like the best?

24. Can you tell about the string section of the orchestra?

25. Can you write from memory a composition about the string section?

(To be continued)