

These beings made signs to the people but did not speak. After they had gone the people wondered what these signs meant. One each of next three succeeding days the gods again visited the people, ~~the~~ making signs, but still not talking to them. On the fourth day, Black Body remained after the other three had gone & he spoke to the people in their own language. "You do not understand the signs the gods make to you," he said. "I will tell you what they mean." They wish to make more people, but they want the forms of these people to be like themselves. "You have bodies like theirs but you have the heads, feet & claws of insects. The new people are to have hands & feet like ours. Have your skins well cleaned when we return which will be in twelve days."

On the morning of the 12th day the People washed themselves thoroughly. The women dressed themselves in yellow corn meal - the men in white. Soon they heard the approaching call of the gods, shouted four times, each time nearer than before, and after the fourth call the gods appeared. Blue Body & Black Body each carried a sared buckskin. White Body carried 2 ears of corn - one white - one yellow, each completely covered to the tip with grains.

The Gods laid one buckskin in the grass with the head to the west - and then they placed

Creation Myth
according to Hmong-Mien traditions.

At the beginning white appeared in the East and
- it was day: - blue appeared in the South and it
was still day: - yellow came in the west and ~~it~~ it
^{was} evening: - dark came in the north - and
the twelve people of the first world lay down and
slept.

~~The twelve~~ people of the first world were
dark ants hard beetles bats
red ants stone-carrier beetles white faced beetles
dragon flies black beetles locusts
yellow beetles argo's deep beetles white locusts.

These twelve people began life in the first world.
There were oceans ^{in all 4} in each of the four directions and
in each ocean a chief. And the people sinned and
quarrelled among themselves. Then the chiefs of the
oceans told the people they must go elsewhere.
Again the people sinned and quarrelled and a man
and woman went to each direction and as they
tried to enter they were driven out and again
told to go away. For four nights the women
talked about it and in the fifth morning something
white was seen in the East. Then they saw the same
thing in the South, the West & the North. It was
water flowing all around them. They climbed
in ^{upward} circles until they reached the sky where it was
smooth, and they looked down and everywhere was
water.

Then one having a blue head thrust his head from

the 2 ears of corn with their lips to the ^{East} ~~East West~~.
and over the corn they spread the other buckskin
with its head to the East. Under the
white ear they put the feather of a white
Eagle, under the yellow ear, the feather of
a yellow Eagle.

The Gods told the people to stand away
& allow the wind to enter. The white wind blew
from the East & yellow wind from the west, blowing
between the buckskins. While the winds were
blowing the Eight Minge People came &
walked around the skins on the ground four
times. While they walked the people saw
the eagle feathers move. When the Minge
People had ~~for~~ completed their fourth
round, the upper buckskin was lifted.
A man and a woman lay where the ears of
of ~~white and yellow~~ corn had been.

The white ear had been changed into a man
& the yellow ear into a woman and the
wind had given them life. It is
the wind coming out of our mouths that
gives us life - When it stops we die.
In the skin at the lips of our fingers
we can see the trail of the wind.

Thus the Gods Created First man
and First woman

He sky and called to them " Here in the East is a hole.
And they entered and ascended to the surface of the
second world, where dwelt the Swallow People.

~~The first world had trees and~~

The color of the first world was red and the
Second world was blue. The people sent ~~sent~~
two carriers, Locust & White Locust, to the east
to explore the land. They travelled a whole day & reached
the edge of the world, & in all their travel they saw
nothing, but bare level ground. Then they went to the
South - the West & the north and all was ^{little} un-
inhabited, bare ground. They ^{became as my tribe} made friends with
Swallow People and all went well until again ^{at the only} the ^{23 days}
people sinned, and grieved, and the Swallow People
told them to leave - to go away. Again
they climbed in circles & found the sky smooth
and hard with no opening. Then they saw
a white face looking at them - it was the
face of the wind. He told them to fly to
the South where they would find ~~an~~ an opening.
Then they found a slit in the sky & entering
it they found their way into the third world.
And the color of the third world was yellow,
and here they found the Grasshopper people -
Again the People sent out the Locust carriers
and again found a barren land over
for a great river that flowed to the East,
but there were no people. Again the people
asked the Grasshopper people to join them in one
tribe and again the two people mingled

All went well again for 23 days, but once more the people sinned, and once more they were expelled.

Up they flew in wide circles and again they found the sky hard & smooth. As they searched for an exit they saw a red head emerge from the sky. It was the Red Wind and he told them ~~of~~ to fly to the west. Here they found a twisting passage made by the wind and up they flew in circles and came out into the fourth world. Four grasshoppers came with them - one white, one blue, one yellow & 1 black, who are with us to this day.

The refuge of the 4th world was mixed black & white but the sky colors were as in the lower worlds though they lasted in a different way. In the 1st world the white, blue, yellow & black lasted an equal time. In the 2nd world the blue & black lasted somewhat longer. And still longer in the 3rd world. In the 4th world there was only a little of the white & yellow, and the blue & black lasted much longer. There was neither sun, nor moon, nor any stars.

When the people reached the 4th world they saw four great ~~and~~ snow covered mountains on the far far horizon in each direction. Once again the 2 corners were sent East, they traveled far but did not reach the Eastern Mountain. Nor did they see any sign of life.

When they returned from the South they had seen no living creature but they had seen 2 different kinds of tracks, and they described these which were deer & turkey tracks. Next they went to the west but found nothing. At last the journeyed north and when they returned they ~~related~~ told of finding a race of strange men, who cut their hair square in front & who lived in houses ~~and~~ in the ground or who cultivated fields.

The following day, 2 of this newly discovered people - the Kisaní (the Pueblo People) came to the exiles camp & later guided them to water. The water was red & they must not cross the stream on foot, or injury would occur. The Kisaní showed them a square raft made of four logs a white pine, a blue spruce, a yellow pine and a black spruce. So the people crossed the river and visited the homes of the Kisaní. The Kisaní gave the people corn & pumpkins to eat. This land had neither rain nor snow and the crops were raised by irrigation.

The people held a council & resolved to do nothing to offend the Kisaní -

Late in the Autumn the People heard the sound of a distant voice calling. It came from the East. Three times more - they heard the voice calling, each time nearer at hand. At last four mysterious beings appeared before them. They were White body. Blue body. Yellow Body & Black Body.