

Origin of house of la'zi, ganha'do, gitxata.

Abstract: The la'zi version of Semlaham
Sam Lewis to Beynon, 1916.

Before the flood there were two villages opposite each other on the Nass River. In the g.anha'do village was a young chief who was having an illicit love affair with the wife of a chief of the other village. Finally the husband caught the two together and killed the g.anha'do chief, hiding the body in the house framework of his uncle's house.

The g.anha'do searched for the missing man, and sent a slave woman across to search the other village, on the pretext of getting fire. One by one she searched the houses, until one day, in the house pointed out by a shaman, she felt a drop of blood fall on her foot just as she was leaving. Outside, she stumbled intentionally and put out her torch, and went back into the house. Above the door she saw the headless body of the g.anhada chief.

The g.anhada attacked the village, and the only survivors were gao'a and her daughter, who hid in a hole. They fled from the village and went into the hills. There gao'a received many offers from animals who wanted to marry her daughter. Eventually she married her daughter to the ~~son~~ of Chief of the Skies (samogidam laxa). They had five sons and one daughter.

One morning the g.anha'do heard noises across the river, but could not see because it was foggy. The young men made fun of the noises from the ruined village. When the fog cleared, they saw five bright, painted houses. The young men went across to gamble and to fight.

The Chief of the Skies had given the grandchildren of gao'a ^{supernatural} special powers. The eldest boy could turn the earth over, the next could shoot with a sling, the next had power with a spear, the next with his fists, and the fifth had a special stone club. The girls had special curing powers. On each of the houses was a crest: the sun, stars, rainbow, sky above (lak'oom), and mirage (tak'un).

The g.anha'das went over and gambled, but lost consistently, so they decided to provoke a fight and take everything. They taunted the youngest brother's small club, until he used it to kill all the gamblers. The rest of the g.anha'das attacked, but they were defeated. Some fled down the Pass, escaping the wrath of the eldest brother, who turned their village over and killed all who remained.

The fleeing g.anha'das reached salt water and joined the ~~g.~~ Hingit village of the g.anha'das chief g.eg.a on Dundas Island. One day the newcomers killed some ~~other~~ people of another Hingit village. Chief g.eg.a was angry and told them to give one of their sisters to the injured tribe as compensation. They did so, but the Hingits murdered the woman by burning her to death. Now wid.naxs was angry, and killed g.eg.a and all his group, and he and his g.anha'das band fled once more. They went south to Banks Island, and then to the gitxa'ta village on Pitt Island.

Here the Flood caught them. When the waters receded they were on Banks Island. They went to lak'le'n and joined the gitxa'ta tribe.