Jordan Hoffman

Period 6

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Mayan Narrative (Digital Copy)

This is the tale of A’Tabai, a young hunter who lives in the thriving city-state of Chichen Itza. He is an excellent hunter, and has a wife and child. He has made enemies however, due to his pride and stubbornness over the years. Some of those enemies are now out to destroy A’Tabai and destroy his reputation. This is the story of A’Tabai.

After a long day of hunting, A’Tabai returned to his humble home on the outskirts of Chichen Itza. He was longing to see his wife and child, for he missed them. When he came to the house, he could see that it had been damaged. He rushed inside only to find that the house was turned upside down, and his wife and son were nowhere to be seen. He heard a call and ran back outside. It was his neighbor, Cualli beckoning him to come closer. He told A’Tabai that men had gone into his house searching for him, and ended up taking his wife and son. A’Tabai cried out with grief. Cualli soothed him, and then spoke. He whispered, “I heard talk of them planning on traveling to Tikal. Perhaps you will find them there.” With new hope, A’Tabai traveled to Tikal in hopes of finding his family. He had been there before while trading furs, so he knew his way around. Eventually he found a woman who said she had seen two men come in with a woman and child captive. He rushed over to the Great Plaza, a religious and ceremonial hub of Tikal. He found that a sacrificial ceremony was going to be taking place, and that a woman and child would be sacrificed to Yaluk, the God of lighting. He had a horrible sinking feeling in his stomach as he approached the altar. Sure enough, his wife and son were up there. He ran up in a frenzy, but was quickly tackled by two guards. As he stared into the crowd, he caught a glimpse of Eztli, his rival in Chichen Itza, and a man he did not know. A’Tabai hung his head low. He realized what a fool he had become. He had let his pride and ego get the better of him, and it cost him dearly. Eztli was watching with a smirk in the crowd. A’Tabai begged the high priest to be the sacrifice instead of his family, but it was to no avail. Both his wife and son were killed in front of him as tributes to Yaluk. A’Tabai collapsed in despair and broke down crying. The guards left him there and the crowd dispersed. Later that night, he followed Eztli into an alley and clubbed him to death. Now wanted for the murder of Eztli, A’Tabai took refuge in the dense jungle that surrounded Tikal. It is said he became a hermit, living off of what he hunted, always upset over the loss of his wife and son. Some people think that the wind carries his lonely whispers, as he has no one but himself.

\*Character names meaning

A’Tabai – god of the hunt

Cualli – good

Eztli - blood