

# LAC LONG QUAN & AU CO LEGEND

Legend has it that Vietnam's origin lay in the harmonious union of Lac Long Quan, King of the Sea, and Au Co, Princess of the Mountains. In the generation of Sung Lam, the Dragon Lord of the Lac, the North was ruled by King Lac Long Quan, the son of King Nghi. One day, Lac left the kingdom to the care of others and headed south to visit the sights. At one point he left his wife Au Co the Princess of Au (or maybe, of the Au, name of a tribe), and her attendants in one of his temporary palaces and went into the woods, forgetting to return. Because he left his realm unattended,

The southern people suffered depredations from the northern people, they were not allowed to live in peace as they used to, and so they called on the Dragon King: "Father, where are you, why do you let the northern people harass and attack us, your people?" He liked to stay near the water, so he resided along the seashore. Lac Long Quan protected Lac Viet people from being harmed by devils and monsters. He helped them fight against nature disasters. He taught them how to crop and to sew. He also taught them to cook rice in the bamboo tube.

The Dragon King suddenly appeared, and what he saw was Au Co with her fantastically beautiful features. He felt glad in his heart and transformed himself into a very handsome young man, accompanied

right and left by numerous attendants who sang and beat on their drums as they went. Palaces rise up out of nowhere. Au Co willingly followed the Dragon King, and he hid her at the Dragon Platform Rock.

When King Lac came back from his wanderings, Au Co was no longer there. He sent out parties in every directions but because his uncle the Dragon King had the capability of "changing himself into all kinds of shapes, from devils to demons, dragons and snakes, tigers and elephants, he scared away all the search parties, which dared not venture too far." Then follows the narration of how King Lac's descendants lost their throne, ending the line of Shen Nong in China. The story goes back to the Dragon King and Au Co:

The Dragon King took Au Co for wife and she bore him a bagful [of eggs]. Considering this to be an ill omen, he had the bag thrown away in the field. After six or seven days, however, out of the bag hatched one hundred eggs and out of each egg was a boy; only then were they brought home to be raised. These boys needed no breast-feeding or mouth-feeding, they just naturally grew up into fantastically handsome young men, blessed each one of them with great mind and courage. Everybody respected them, thinking they were an unusual breed auguring well for the country.

But as the Dragon King liked to stay long in the Underwater World, his wife and children yearned to go north. When they got to the frontier Huang Ti [the Chinese Emperor] heard about it, he got scared and had troops sent out to hold the pass. Unable to precede further, Au Co and her children came back south and called out to the Dragon King: "Father, where are you, why are you leaving us alone, unprotected so that day and night we are in this terrible plight?" The Dragon King at once appeared and they met at Tuong [Chinese, Xiang]. Au Co said: "I originally came from the north and after living with you, I bore you one hundred sons. You left me and did not raise the children with me, and I became like a widow. All I could do was to pity myself." The Dragon King answered: "I am of the dragon breed, the king of the aquatic breeds; you are an immortal living on land, and though we have children born of the combination of yin and yang elements we are, like fire and water, not meant for each other, we are different breeds. I am afraid our union cannot last, we must now separate. I will take fifty boys with me down to the Underwater World and divide it up for them to rule, let the other fifty follow you on land and you can divide the land up for them to rule. Though we may go up to the mountains or down to the sea, if anything happens we should let

each other know. Don't forget." The one hundred children obeyed, said farewell to one another and parted.

Au Co and her fifty sons went up to Phong Chau. The sons established their suzerainties and vassalities while they raised the eldest son to be their king with the dynastic name of Hung Vuong and they called their country Van Lang. Thus, the story ends, the hundred sons of Au Co and the Dragon King are the ancestors of the Hundred Viet tribe.

*Lindy Luong*



*Mấy em làm theo chị nè*



*Vũ khúc Lý Ngựa Ô*

## *Thanks Scouts For What I've Learned*

For the seven years I have been with Truong Son Unit I have never learned so much knowledge, met so many great people and formed many unforgettable memories.

Scouts makes your lives , I guess, worthwhile. It comes with a full blast of a challenge, knowledge, leadership skills, cooperation, friends and inner-growth. It also helps build a better person, helps enforce self-esteem, and helps show how to work as a team. It has its high points and low points.

It can be a piece of cake but most likely it will always be a challenge.

Things I love most about being with Truong Son are going camping and going to new places, exploring new stuffs and doing so many awesome things. We go camping usually twice a year and I like to make the most out of it. We learn knots and morse code,

semaphore, and lashing. Every summer before The Labor Day we go to Lien Ket camp. There are hundreds of people there. They were really fun. You do all sorts of fun things. I just hate when we have to go to sleep when your freezing and sleeping on top of roots and rocks.

Scouting is a real challenge and when you complete it, you feel a nice sense of pride and accomplishment.

*Vannie Luong, Cadette*



*Ngành Thiếu thi đua nấu ăn*

