The Sacred Turtles Of Kadavu, The Legend - Fiji
A Closer Look at Fiji and Its Neighbours
A Brief Overview of Fiji

Located in South Pacific Ocean just above Tropic of Capricorn.
Colonised by indigenous population in pre-historic times.
Tiny archipelago of over 300 islands – only 100 inhabited.
Population 800,000.
Enjoys a tropical climate; tourism was a big part of economy until political unrest.
Colonised by British in 1850.

British influences include: formalised language, English, Christianity, Fijian flag, indentured Indians and rugby!

Gained independence in 1970.
Coups and political problems since.

History of myths, legends and folklore. Fijians are very superstitious.
FIJI ISLANDS

- Fiji is an island nation in the South Pacific Ocean east of Vanuatu, west of Tonga and south of Tuvalu.

- Fiji comprises an archipelago of more than 332 islands.

- The two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

- Fiji has a local government system where city and town councils fall under the general supervision of the Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development.

- Fiji's second city with large sugar cane mills and a seaport.
The country of Fiji lies about two-thirds from Hawaii to New Zealand.

The main natural resources of Fiji are timber, gold, copper, fish, offshore oil and hydro power.

Fiji has a variable rainfall with more rain falling in the warmer season.

It is warm for most of the year, particularly in November and finishes in April.
The Sacred Turtles Of Kadava (Kandava)

Strange turtle-calling ritual by women of Namuanu.

Myth behind the ritual involved Princess Tinaicoboga and her daughter Raudalice.

Approached in warboat with fishermen from nearby Nabukelevu.

Bound, gagged and almost killed.

Saved by sea-gods.

Turned into turtles.
Chant Sung By Turtle-calling Women Today

The women of Namuana are all dressed in mourning.
Each carries a sacred club each tattooed in a strange pattern.
Do rise to the surface Randalice so we may look at you.
Do rise to the surface Tiraicoboga so we may also look at you.

Weather you doubt the legend, there is no doubting the fact that the women from this village can actually call turtles.
Turtle-fishing is banned here.
The strange power of calling these turtles is possessed only by the people of Namuana village and it is true that should a member of their traditional enemy tribe from the village of Nabukelevu further down the coast be present, then no turtles will rise.
GEOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

POPULATION: 2009 estimate 849,000

CLIMATE: tropical marine; only slight seasonal temperature variation

CAPITAL OF FIJI: Suva

CURRENCY: Fijian dollar
MUSIC

Fijian music represents the indigenous tradition. Fijian music lies beyond the combination of Polynesian and Melanesian music. In Fiji, people play instruments like the guitar, ukulele, and medallion, and also the Lali drum. The style of the music has a social significance; war, victories, etc. Indian, Chinese, European, and other Pacific islands were with the circle of music in Fiji.
There is this one traditional dance in Fiji called the MEKE.

Men, women and children all get together and participate in the MEKE. MEKE, which is a combination of dance and repetitive rhythmic chanting telling the stories of everyday life.

Sometimes the music is often in the form of the steady beating of sticks.

MEKE types are fan dances by women, and spear or club dances by the men.
Fijian art includes art but also the arts of dance and music.

Pottery-making is one kind of art. Each district has its own distinct signature in its pottery style.

MASI (tapa), which is the generic pan-Pacific term for bark cloth made from the Paper Mulberry tree.

Woodcarving is a declining art in Fiji, no doubt another victim of the modern era.

Basket and especially mat-plaiting is a universally practised art.
ART

Fijian art includes art but also the arts of dance and music.

Pottery-making is one kind of art. Each district has its own distinct signature in its pottery style.

MASI (tapa), which is the generic Pan-Pacific term for bark cloth made from the Paper Mulberry tree.

Woodcarving is a declining art in Fiji, no doubt another victim of the modern era.

Basket and especially mat-plaiting is a universally practised art.
Fiji cuisine is a great mixture of Polynesian, Indian, Melanesian, Chinese and western cuisine.

Most common are yams, breadfruit, taro root (dalo) and leaves (rourou) and the cassava.

Meat includes complex cuisine such as beef, poultry, pork and seafood.

The guava, mango, bananas and pineapples are put into salads, appetizers, soups or beverages and coconut milk.

Herbs like chillies, garlic, ginger, Turmeric, fenugreek, coriander and cumin are added to your dishes to make it a whole lot better.
FOOD

Fiji cuisine is a great mixture of Polynesian, Indian, Melanesian, Chinese and western cuisine.

Most common are yams, breadfruit, taro root (dalo) and leaves (rourou) and the cassava.

Meat includes complex cuisine such as beef, poultry, pork and seafood.

The guava, mango, bananas and pineapples are put into salads, appetizers, soups or beverages and coconut milk.

Herbs like chillies, garlic, ginger, Turmeric, fenugreek, coriander and cumin are added to your dishes to make it a whole lot better.
CELEBRATIONS

Fijians: May 4th National Youth Day, Palm Sunday

Muslims: Ramadan (fasting), Eid Ul Fitr (after fasting)

Hindus: Holi, Diwali

Christians: Easter, Good Friday

Common Celebrations like Christmas, New Years & Boxing Day are also celebrated.
CUSTOMS

Fire Walking

Drinking Kava is a big part of Fijian life

The dance ‘MEKE’ is another custom

One of the biggest customs in Fiji is the Yaqona Ceremony

The Masi (tapa) cloth is used in all sorts of products or can be framed.

The LOVO, this is a magnificent feast, cooked in the earth.
TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Fiji has a great variety of tourist attractions and day tours.

In Fiji you can go sightseeing all the way down to the sea bed while diving.

In Fiji also have shopping tours for tourists.

You can go exploring through rainforests to villages.

You can visit Fiji's Coral Coast which are the loveliest in Viti Levu.
LEGENDS/MYTHS

Dakuwaga the Shark God

Fire Walking on the Island of Beqa

Legend of the Firewalkers of Fiji

The Sacred Turtles of Kadavu

The Tagimoucia Flower
THANK YOU