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## WOMAN: I'M DAUGHTER OF YAP AH LOY

By  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Tunku Abdul Rahman listened to her attentively. The Director-General of Muzium Negara, Encik Shahrum Yub, turned the pages in a history book — and confirmed her mother's name.

The lady — she said she was 92 years old — was talking to the two men about her history. She claimed that she is Yap Ngit Thian, the youngest daughter of Kapitan China Yap Ah Loy.

She said that she could not remember her father because he died while she was a child but her mother told her some stories about him.

As she recounted the past to the Tunku at his residence here today, her face lit up. And she spoke in fluent Malay.

She said she was the youngest in a family of four boys and two girls and she is the sole survivor.

"My father married a Malacca nyonya after he had fled there from Kuala Lumpur because of some trouble," she said.

She named her mother as Kok Kang Keown, Encik Shahrum consulted his book on Yap Ah Loy and he found the name to be correct.

She said she remembers one brother as a gambler and another as a "no-goo-der."

According to Madam Yap, her father wanted to kill one of his sons even before he was born because of a superstition.

"One day, two white men visited my father and demanded some land from him. My father refused and in the ensuing fight, he killed one of them," Madam Yao said.

"But when he returned home, he told my mother he had seen the spirit of the dead white man in the house.



The Tunku listening attentively to Madam Yap as she tells her history.

"At that time my mother was pregnant. My father told her that he must kill the child because the spirit had brought bad luck to the family.

"My father said that if the child was not killed, it would later sell the family's property and even remove his bows from the grave."

Through the intervention of some friends, the child was not killed, she said.

Madam Yap claimed that her father's warning came true. That son did not work and eventually he sold my father's property. My father's bones were also dug out of the original grave and buried again in a Chinese cemetery in Kuala Lumpur," she said.

Madam Yap remembers the spot where once stood the residence of Yap Ah Loy and his grave. She said it was somewhere near the old clock tower in Jalan Benteng.

Even her own birth had a story to it. She said her mother had great difficulty giving birth to her. "She suffered great pains for many days.

"Then someone told her to sit in my father's chair to deliver me. She did so and I was born," she said.

However, Yap Ah Loy disapproved of the way she was born and because of that, she was to be brought

up by someone else.

"I had to take the surname of the person who took care of me, Chee. My father believed that I was not entitled to the Yap surname because of my abnormal birth," she added.

But her own life has been uneventful, except for the Japanese period when "they knew who I was and used to throw parties for me."

She said she married a Seremban lawyer and they had a daughter. "I do not know where my daughter is now," she added.

She said that she was living with a Malay family in Kampung Pandan after she moved out from her grandson's home in Petaling Jaya. She said she is now a Muslim.

The Tunku said Perkim would help to pay her daily expenses once a suitable home had been found for her.

And before she left, she showed the Tunku a jade.

Encik Shahrum took a close look at the jade under a magnifying glass and said it looked very old.

"My father gave this jade to my mother to be handed over to me. He told my mother to warn me not to sell to anyone. I can only show it to a good person," said Madam Yap.

She added that the Tunku is a good man".