We, in the past, called this village where we live Ddaemi Alawua /ɖæ˩mi˧-ə˧lɑ˧ʁwɤ˧/: "the village of the Ala family /ə˧lɑ˧/, of the monastery of Ddaemi /ɖæ˩mi˧/ "! This village of Ddaemi Alawua, well… there is the monastery of Ddaemi!

It was the important people [= the feudal lords] who named our village "Ddaemi Alawua"! This village, when we got there, well… it was my grandmother's generation, wasn't it. This place used to be uninhabited.

We are not from this place! We came from Lataddi /lɑ˧tʰɑ˧di˧˥/! (This is the na region which is located in present-day Sichuan province, on the shores of Lugu Lake.) We left Lataddi /lɑ˧tʰɑ˧di˧˥/, to come and live in Alawua /ə˧lɑ˧-ʁwɤ˧/. From Lataddi, we came to live in Alawua. It's the remarkable people… it's the lord, isn't it, who decides to send this or that family to live in this or that place.

(Explanation: the families of the newcomers had been entrusted to the lord of the Yongning monastery: /ɖæ˩mi˧-sɯ˩pʰi˩=ɻ̩˩/, 'the family of the lord of the Ddaemi monastery', by the lord of Lataddi /lɑ˧tʰɑ˧di˧˥/. Settling there was not easy: when they first arrived, the place was wooded, and there were wolves roaming around terrorizing the livestock. The houses were initially small wooden buildings, then the village expanded, and the felling of trees pushed back the wild beasts.)

In our area, in Alawua, there were three families: the Geta family /kɤ˧˥tʰɑ˩/; the Latami family /lɑ˧tʰɑ˧mi˥$/; and the Ela family /ə˧lɑ˧/. My grandmother, well… she came from Lataddi. The lord ordered these people to go and settle in the village of Alawua. But it is said that in the Latami family, in the past, the generation of elders, they had no children. Among the grandmothers, there was one named Ddeema Lhaco /ɖɯ˩mɑ˧-ɬɑ˩tsʰo˩/, and one named Ci'er Lhamu ‌/tsʰɯ˧ɻ̩˧-ɬɑ˩mv̩˩/. As for the male ancestors, at the generation of the grandparents... oh no, they were the generation of the great-grandparents, not the grandparents. So, they went to adopt my grandmother [in another family in the area, in the Yongning plain], and she became a member of the family. In her generation, there were three: Gguma Ci'er /gv̩˧mɑ˧-tsʰɯ˩ɻ̩˩/, Ci'er Lhamu /tsʰɯ˧ɻ̩˧-ɬɑ˩mv̩˩/, and Ddeema Lhaco /ɖɯ˩mɑ˧-ɬɑ˩tsʰo˩/. With my grandmother, Ddeema Butee /ɖɯ˩mɑ˧-pv̩˩ʈʰɯ˩/, that made four people.

The lord had ordered that we settle in Alawua; so, we worked for the lord! My grandmother, in the old days, was a remarkable person! All the tasks ordered by the lord, my grandmother took care of them. As my grandmother acted in this way, obeying the lord's orders, the settlement in Alawua went well, and the family prospered. The family grew bigger and bigger! There was an elder uncle; a younger uncle; a third; four in all!

(Question from the interviewer:) - What were their names? - One of them was called Gesso /kɤ˧zo#˥/! The second, Daeshi Daedeu /ʈæ˧ʂɯ˧-ʈæ˩ʈv̩˩/! The third was called Daeshi Baepae /ʈæ˧ʂɯ˧-pæ˩pʰæ˩/! The youngest, his name was Erchei Ci'er /ɻ̩˩ʈʂʰe˧-tsʰɯ˩ɻ̩˩/! So there were four men; and on the side of the mothers (=women), there were: Jjacee /dʑɤ˩tsʰi˥/, Jjacee Butee /dʑɤ˩tsʰi˥-pv̩˩ʈʰɯ˩/! (Note: the full name is Jjacee Butee /dʑɤ˩tsʰi˥-pv̩˩ʈʰɯ˩/; it is abbreviated to /dʑɤ˩tsʰi˥/ Jjacee in common use); and another one called Yijie Ddeema /ʝi˧tɕi˧-ɖɯ˩mɑ˩/. So there were, in addition to my grandmother, two women! That made seven people [in their generation]! So, there were seven of them, in the old days. My grandmother's children [slip of the tongue: should be: "my great-grandmother's"], well... she had no children! When my grandmother subsequently had children, the family expanded: from only seven people at the start, well, by dint of multiplying, there were twenty-seven people in the family! Since there were twenty-seven of them at home, all those people, it was my grandmother who took care of them. She was always at home. She would sit like this [in the heart of the house, making sure everything was going well]. The eldest uncle, she would tell him to go there! She told each of her brothers what to do. It was my grandmother who gave orders to everyone! On her orders, the eldest uncle, he would go outside to earn money, and he would bring it back to my grandmother. The younger uncle, the same. They would bring home what they had earned; we used to share everything in the past! My two aunts, they took care of the housework. My grandmother, she orchestrated everything. "You, do this! I'll do this! That's how we organized ourselves.

The whole village was there. We cooked a pot of food [note: it was generally not rice as today, but sorghum, easier to grow, or other cereal], we distributed it to everyone; people were very united, it was good! We, gathered during meals, were twenty people! We were called "the Latami family"! When we talked about the Latami... we used to say, "The Latami, how numerous they are!" »

My grandmother was a remarkable person! She took care of us children with the utmost care! She would assign us activities: "You, take care of this! You, take care of that! " She put beautiful clothes on us! Those who went to school, she told them to focus on their studies!