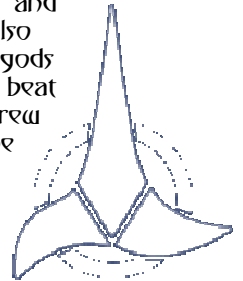


The First Scroll of the paq'batlh Is The Book of Qui'Tu



The First Book of the paq'batlh is the book of Qui'Tu, it tells an ancient Klingon legend, about how the gods came to Qo'noS from the distant Qui'Tu, which burned with fire. They took the fire of Qo'noS in their hands and shaped it, forming it into a heart that beat more powerfully and more forcefully than anything in the cosmos, the heart of the first Klingon, Kortar (also Kotar). Kortar's heart beat was a lonely one, without equal in the universe. So the gods shaped from fire a second heart, as mighty and powerful as the first. Those two hearts beat together in unison and the gods trembled at their power. The beat of the two hearts grew stronger and stronger, until the gods could not withstand their might. United together, the first Klingons slew the gods that created them, proving there was nothing two united Klingon hearts could not accomplish. (DS9: "Homefront")



Kortar (also Kotar) was the first Klingon. He and his mate destroyed the gods who created them, and turned the heavens into ashes, and as punishment, Kortar was condemned to ferry Klingon souls of the dishonored over the River of Blood, to Gre'thor on the Barge of the Dead, where the demonic being Fek'lehr waited to consume particularly loathsome souls. (Who assigned and enforced this punishment has not been made clear, as only he, his mate who aided him, and the gods he slew have been mentioned in this area of Klingon mythology. (VOY: "Barge of the Dead"))

After they slew the gods, the First Klingons were forced to survive in the harsh wilderness of Qo'noS. The world was a hostile and dangerous place and, although they were strong, the first Klingons were faced with terrible hardships, and hunted by dangerous beasts. But they were Klingons, and they did not despair. Instead, they took the fire from within their hearts and brought light into the darkness. They took stones from the mountains and worked them into weapons to fight the beasts that menaced them. With these tools, they overcome all obstacles that stood in their way.

Note: The earliest recognizable Klingon skeleton uncovered by archeologist's dates back to approximately 500,000 BC. At this time, Klingons apparently lived in extended family tribal units that were at least somewhat nomadic, traveling from place to place in search of food, following the migrations of various food animals. These early Klingons discovered fire and used stone and bone tools made by hand. Archeological evidence suggests these weapons were used for more than hunting; Klingon remains have been uncovered with spear and knife points lodged in them. The early Klingons likely fought over the most valuable hunting territories on Qo'noS, beginning their long history of conflict.

Klingon legend tells of Ja'Duch, a legendary warrior and hero, said to have founded the first Klingon house. Ja'Duch was a great hunter and fought battles against other tribes to



protect his people. He was renowned for his generosity, and for his unusual custom of performing the ru'ustai ("bonding") ceremony with the families of his honored enemies, who lost their own protectors. In this way Ja'Duch brought the families of his defeated enemies into his own tribe, which grew quickly and became strong. They established a vaS'a, a village, under Ja'Duch's direction, so creating the House of Ja'Duch, the first great hall or "house" of a Klingon warlord. Nothing is known of what became of the House of Ja'Duch following the death of its founder.