

assess the fact that Lia was suffering from epilepsy, several cultural barriers reared themselves to interfere with the treatment stage of the medical model. The Lees did not understand many of the specifications for administering the medication for Lia, and fostered an innate distrust of Westerners and Westernized medicine in general. Between their not understanding what to do and their distrust of doing so any way, Lia was never given what the doctors thought would be the proper treatment for her condition until she was taken from her parents.

For the most part, Lia's parents utilized the human services model system of help. This system considers the sick individual within the context of the surrounding world and universe around him or her. There is a great deal of emphasis placed on the environment, as well as on the need for balance within and without the individual. As such, it is noteworthy to mention that Lia's parents viewed her epileptic condition as one in which her soul had fled and was communing with forces outside of the physical and empirical world of substance. Therefore, their primary means of treatment was to deal with Lia's soul in this ethereal sort of way by utilizing conventional practices and rituals that were endemic to Laos. Additionally, because of this view of Lia's condition that was decidedly at variance with the conventional westernized view of epilepsy, Lia's parents did not necessarily view her condition as a problem initially.

Still, the help they administered considered Lia's problem in a holistic way which was in accordance with the surrounding environment. Therefore, they utilized herbs that grew outside of their home to attempt to effect natural