

### The Lazy man's story

A man once lived with his wife and sons. He always hung around the village. His wife had been bringing food from her garden. She kept cooking and feeding them until she finished the garden crops. Then she said to her husband, "Our garden is done. You must make sago so that the boys and I can survive." But that husband would not listen to his wife.

They always slept until day break when the man would get up, sling his string bag and go to another village. He would sit around there until he felt like coming back. Then they would again lie down and sleep together until the dawn. One day, he did the same as before: he slung his string bag and went off to another village. But his wife could find no food. Because of this, she filled her cooking pot with stones and cooked them. She left her pot sitting in the ashes of the hearth until her husband returned home. He climbed into the house and saw the pot sitting in the ashes. "What's in the pot?" he asked his wife. She replied, "What else? I was desperate for food and so I was forced to cook the last poor remnants of our crops. Get your fork and spear whatever you wish to eat from the pot." So the man took his fork, removed the leaf from the pot and tried to spear the taro he thought was inside. His fork struck the stones and broke. "What is this?!" he cried. His wife replied, "I told you that the food was finished, but you refused to listen. I had to cook these stones. You are going to eat them, for there is no taro left."

She shamed that neglectful man. The woman divorced her husband and married another man. She divorced her first husband because he was a lazy man.

Frederick Bogara      Book: 2-2, Story 2

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