

*The Blind Man and the Legless Man*      Frederick Bogara      #10

Once there was a dance in a village. Everyone, all the boys and the girls, went to it. They left no one behind except for two men. One of these men was blind and the other had no legs. They were waiting there when the man with no legs said to the blind man, "Carry me on your back and I will direct you along the road. That way we can go to the dance." So the blind man carried the legless man, who guided him along the path. As they went along, the legless man spied a coconut palm. "You stay here," he said. "I'll try to get us a coconut to eat." So he pulled himself up the palm, got a coconut, and drank and ate it. The blind man heard that coconut hit the ground from his place underneath the palm and sang out, "One!" The next one fell and he said, "Two!" Likewise when the third fell, he called out, "Three!" But then the man in the palm lost his grip and he fell to the ground. So the blind man called out, "Four!" "Where are these coconuts you think you are counting?" the legless man cried out in pain. "It is I who fell!" And so they never did get to the dance.

This translation: June 22, 1995