

Old man who received fishing magic from Spirit man. #17

Lambert 20/3/82 Book: 3-21

People lived in a big village. Among them lived an old woman with her husband. He said to his wife, "In the evening I shall go fishing in the lagoon." One evening he pulled down his small canoe, put his net in it and went. He threw down his nets into the lagoon, when up and made a fire and rested. A spirit man was wandering about and was coming up to where the old man was. The spirit man went down and became a fish in the man's net. It was splashing in the net. The old man said, "Come down quickly. I'll catch that fish." So the old man went down to his canoe and took his spear down. The fish was splashing and the old man speared it. The spirit man cried out, "Aga! Cousin, I'm not a fish!" In the canoe he said, "Cousin, you pull up your net. Let's go and throw it in another river." They blocked another river. They were catching fish and filling the canoe until it was sinking. Like that they went to the old man's village. His cousin the old man said, "Cousin, we'll go in and up here. Your sister-in-law will cook food, we'll eat and you go. They went up. His sister-in-law cooked food and they ate. Then he got up and dug his ginger, giving it to the man. He said, "Cousin, you tie this on your net floats and sinkers and then you'll catch fish."

The old man took this and went. He did as his cousin said and he caught fish for them to eat. His wife shared it with the villagers. The village people kept saying, "How is that old man catching fish like this?"

They were staying and then people began talking of burning the grasses. They started fires. That old man speared wallabies and pigs. They carried them back and he shared them. The village people got their wallabies and pigs, came back and cooked them and then put them on the smoking leaves. Then the spirit man came in the night. He went up into their houses. He took all of the pigs and wallabies, giving them to his cousin. The village people were seeing him doing this. So they said, "We'll tell that old man lies, we will take him, go and kill him."

Later, the people cut and made sago. They slept until it was dawning and then they made fafara(coconut-sago). It was getting dark and they went to sleep. That spirit man went into their houses and took away all the fafara. He gave it to his cousin. Dawn came, then they pulled down their canoes; they took down their belongings and put them on the canoes. That done, they pushed off. They went, they were going. The old woman and man pulled down their canoe after them, and together they went. They were crossing a big river. In the middle, they killed the old man with his wife. They died. Their canoe they broke it was sinking and then sank down. The village people all turned back to their village.

The old man and his wife were dancing on a sandy beach. They were coming and the spirit man looked for them. He saw them and said to his wife, "Look, see! Your brother-in-law with his wife are coming dancing." So the old man's cousin took him with him to his village where they lived together.

Notes:

Trans: G., J. - checked W 10/5/82

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A big village and people live in it. They were staying. When an old man wanted to go fishing. He got his net. He went and he threw it. He stayed and he stayed. A wa man was

walking along. It was almost dawn. He was coming back (the wa). He said, "Ah! Who is this who is blocking my way?" He got into the old man's net. The net was moving and the old man saw it. The old man said, "Quickly dawn, and I'll go down and spear these fish." when dawn came he went down and pulled his canoe down. He paddled to his fishing net. While the wa was trying to get up in the net, the old man shot him with his spear. He shot the man. When he pulled him up the man said, "Aga cousin! Why did you shoot me?" The old man said, "Aga I shot a man!" so the devil got on the canoe and said "cousin, lift your net and we'll go to that river."

- same as #17, so I stopped transcribing.

At end: Lambert added:

The old man stayed in the cousin's house. The wa man changed himself into a pig and he went and ate up all the villagers' gardens. He came back and then they lived in his village.

