

**Daiso Kosaro (Sorcery) Boy Susungara Girl, Their Story Story #25**

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#25

Daiso Kosaro boy was building a house and needed sago thatch for his roof. He went in to get the sago, leaving his pregnant wife on the canoe platform. He gathered a great many bundles there. While he was off working, a spirit woman came out from the river. It struck his wife and pushed her down under the water, taking her place on the canoe. It called out, "Daiso Kosaro boy, you've got more than enough sago. Let's get going." He came out carrying bundle after bundle to the canoe and then he began paddling. They had gone some distance when his wife came out from the water. She looked around and called after him, "Oh, Daiso Kosaro boy! Here I am. Here is your wife. You are carrying a spirit woman with you." They had almost come to the village and so they could hardly hear her. She kept walking about and calling out. Finally Daiso Kosaro began to hear her, but the spirit woman quickly said, "What are you stopping to listen to? Let's go!" They kept going. His wife continued walking about and shouting. Once more Daiso Kosaro thought he heard something. "Why are you bothering to listen so carefully?" exclaimed the spirit woman. "That's only a bird singing. Let's go!" And so they kept going until they arrived at the village. His wife meanwhile kept shouting for a long time before giving up.

She settled there and gave birth to a son. She took care of him and he grew up to be a big boy. One day he asked his mother, "What do they spear fish with?" His mother taught him how to do it. "Go and cut that *gigiti* tree," she said. "Cut it into short pieces, split them so they are narrow and plane them smooth. Then go to that other tree there. Cut it down, cut off the top, remove the bark and then tie the prongs you made earlier to it. Now you will be able to spear fish." He made his spear and went down to the water. A school of mellet (*sava*) swam by. He thrust his spear confidently into the middle and push it into one of the fish. "Wou! My mother is Susun Gara girl. My father Daiso Kosaro boy should eat the tail and my mother should eat the head. So why am I spearing this fish (with no father to share it with)?" He said the same thing with each fish he speared.

Some people found out about this boy. "This boy is always talking about his mother Susun Gara and his father Daiso Kosaro. Where did he come from?" And then they realized the truth. "His mother was pregnant when his father came up to cut sago thatch. He must have left her behind." So they took the boy and his mother back to the village. They speared and clubbed the spirit woman to death. After that they all lived together in the village.

Translated by Franklin Seri and John Barker