

Daiso Kosaro Jiwo and Susun Gara Susuki

Daiso Kosaro boy was staying. He announced that he was going to build a house. Finished, then he wanted to get sago leaves¹ for the roof. He and his wife, who was pregnant, went up a river. They came to sago stand. He arrived, pulled the canoe around to the bank and put the poles away. His wife stayed on the canoe platform. He went up and gathered many bundles of sago leaves. He carried them and put them down. He was doing that when a spirit woman came out. It attacked his wife and they were fighting. The spirit woman hit Susun Gara girl and pushed her under the water. Then the spirit woman then sat down, calling out "Oh, Daiso Kosaro boy, that's enough! Come! Let's go to the village." She called and he came out. He said, "Fill it up with the sago leaves and then we can go to the village." They loaded the canoe. They finished putting them all in. Then he pushed off and they were going. At that moment, his real wife came up and looked around. The canoe was gone. She thought, "Oh my! That spirit woman tricked my husband. She took him." He had left but she kept calling after him, "Oh Daiso Kosaro boy! This is me, your wife. You are going together with a spirit woman." Daiso Kosaro boy heard something, so he listened carefully. The spirit woman said, "Why are you listening so carefully? Paddle! Let's go!" They were going when she called out the same thing again. Daiso Kosaro boy listened carefully. The spirit woman repeated her words, "Why are you listening so carefully. Paddle! Let's go!" That is what she said. They came down to a beach. They came into the village. Susun Gara girl kept calling. But she became tired and went into a tree trunk, where she stayed.

She was living there and she gave birth to a son. She fed him and he grew to become a big boy. He said, "Mother! What do they spear fish with?" His mother said, "Go to that *gigita* tree² — the one right there — and chop it down. Cut it into short pieces, split them so they're narrow and plane them smooth. Then go to the tree standing there. Chop it down. Cut the top part, remove the bark, bring it here and tie the prongs to it." Then he went and cut the tree. He stripped the bark and then took it and laid it down. There he tied his fish spear. He took it down and stood on the beach. Fish were coming. He came down and jabbed his spear in the middle. He speared one, pushing the top down upon it. He went, grabbed the fish, lifted it up, took it up and threw it down on the sand. It was flopping about and then lay still. He said, "My father, Daiso Kosaro boy, should eat the tail while my mother, Susun Gara girl, should eat the head. Why did I spear it?" He took up the fish and ate it with his mother. He did this every day.

One day he went down and stood at the sea. Village men were coming down as he was walking along. One saw the figure³ of the boy go past. So he hid in the bush. He went into the jungle, stood and watched. Meanwhile the boy was standing and the fish was coming. He saw and then he jabbed in the middle and speared one. He pushed down his spear, grabbed the fish and lifted it up, saying those words: "My mother, Susun Gara girl should eat the head while my father, Daiso Kosaro boy should eat the tail. Why am I spearing this?" The hidden man standing there listened carefully and heard what was said. He said,

¹kato

²A kind of hardwood tree

³ondo

"My! What is the boy saying?" Just like that, he listened to the end. Then he went to the village. The boy took the fish up to his mother. But the man went back to the village and told the people. So they went and got the boy's mother. They took her to the village. They speared that spirit woman and she died. They returned the boy and his mother the village where they lived ever after.

Translated by Willie Sevaru and John Barker

This version was narrated by Willie. It matches the transcript but not Fredrick's original tape.