

Ubekikiki (Lagoon Story) Frederick Book: 4-7 #36

Trans W. 7/5/82

There once lived a man. He took his small net and went to a lagoon. He closed the mouth of one river (with his net?) and staying. High tide was going down and out. The man caught fish and threw them up to his place until there was fish all over. A spirit man came out and said, "Cousin, look at all the fish you're getting. Ai! O.k., I'll thread them together." That's what he said. The man continued to catch fish and throw them upwards and the spirit man ate them, finishing them off. It went on like this until morning, when the spirit man went back to his village. The man went up. He only had his net. He tied it and went to his village. No fish.

A different day he put his feathers into his hair. He sharpened his black palm spear with a stone and then went back to the lagoon which he closed again. The high tide went down. The man did the same as before, he threw fish up until the ground was covered by them. The spirit man came out and said, "Cousin! All these fish you're catching. Ai! O.k., I'll thread the fish together." That's what he said. Then the spirit man looked and saw the feathers waving in the man's hair. He said, "Cousin what is there in your hair? Give that to me." The man said, "How can I give? This is how I was born. The people I live with nailed these on my head." "Cousin, you do this to me." So the man took his spear and touched it to the spirit man's head, then he got a stone and nailed it in. The spirit man cried, "Agagaga!!" His 'cousin' said, "cousin, this is how they did it to me. You wait and I'll nail it down." That's what he said. The spirit man stood still while he hammered. The spear went right through his head. The spirit man died. He fell down and lay there.

And so the man bundled up his net and carried his fish. He threaded them together and returned to his village.