

The village was of very great length, the houses in a line. They (people) are staying there. The old woman, whose house was at the very far end (of the village), she built her house by herself. She is staying. Dawn came, all the populace went in to dig and plant. That old woman went to her garden and was staying. The sun did not go down, it was early afternoon and she cleaned (her taro) took her food, then came to the village. She went up (into her house) puttin gown her net bag then, with a *kibubi* (coconut water-container). She filled her big basket and took it, then she went down to the sea. She stood on the sea shore then she put down the basket and *kibubi* by her feet. She stretched up both hands and took hold of both ear tips. She held her head that way, winding it around. She lifted it off and took it down to the sea. She dunked it into the sea. After that she left it and went up and stood on the land. She stood for awhile and then went down. She was feeling around with her feet. She felt the head. She reached down, took hold, took it up on the land and poured it out: all kinds of fish went out, all around her feet. She went down, fetched salt water in the *kibubi* and went up. The basket she put down was full to the top wh fish. She put her salt water *kibubi* on top, picked it up and went up. She went up into her house and stayed. She peeled and broke her food (taro) into pieces and cooked these with the fish in the pts. It cooked. She took it down and was eating her fish while she threw down fish bones for the dogs. That's why they gathered at her *marako* - that same place. They were snarling (at each other). The people, seeing this, were saying "The old woman, what is she eating that the dogs are gathering and biting each other?"

Next day, the same thing happened again. (The people) went to their gardens. The village was empty. One man decided to wait, he stayed. The old woman she then went to her garden, then stayed. She cleaned her food (taro) and took it. Early afternoon she came to the village. She went up and put down her netbag. She took her *kibubi* and *kaifete* (basket) and went down. While she was going down that man himself went after her; he went down, hid himself away and watched. The old woman stretched up both her hands, held the head, she turned it and turned it. She pulled off the head, took it down to the sea, dunked it down under water; then she left it, came up on the land and stood. At that time, the man went down and, feeling around with his legs, he felt it. Then he took it up. He took it into the bush and hid it. And then he went up to the village. The old woman was standing. She wanted to get that head, so she went down and felt around with her feet. Back and forth she moved a couldn't find it. Then she came up. She came up, and with what could she see where the path would go? She went in all directions. She got lost in the bush and died there.

The man came and was staying. He thought of it and said, "Oh my, the old woman.... I took up and put down the head. What's happened (to it)? I'll go down and see." That's how he spoke and down he went. He looked for the head he put there but a coconut palm had grown up tall. It bore bundles of nuts on top of each other. He say dry coconuts down at the base all over. He said, "Oh my I put old woman' head here. Where did this one come from?" So he husked one of these same dry coconuts. He took it up, broke it, dug out the meat and gave it to a dog. It ate and finished and then he gave more and it ate. The man's thinking, "This food is good , so it's eating?" So he

said, "I will eat and see." So he bit and ate, and it was sweet and good. He and the dog together ate and finished. Then he went back to the base and husked (coconuts) and took them up. He told the people he ate and they listened, then he shared. All ate. They said, "Wo! what sweet food!" So they said. They ate the coconuts there. And so today we eat (them).

*recorded by John Barker*