

Buarovata and Dagari were brother and sister. They were staying. She was looking after him. She felt sad. "What will I do with my brother?" She said, "Our mother gave you a koefi, are you keeping it? And the stringbag she made, are you keeping that?" "Yes, I'm keeping them. They are here." The sister said, "Put your koefi on." She put the koefi on herself. She told the brother to climb the betelnut and give some to her. He went and also climbed for her mustard. She put the betelnut in his stringbag. She was going to the dance that afternoon. She walked and walked and walked. At last she came to the dance. They danced up and they danced down. Then she went in. The people said, "Oh! The boy is at the back. It's good." She called to the other boy, "Toma! Come in and stand with me." "You dance, I'll come in later." The boy came in and they started to dance. They were dancing up when a girl saw her. She said to her friend, "Aree, rukan! Tell that boy that we'll go and chew betel nut and come back." The sister said, "I won't sleep here, I must go back." So they walked back. So they went to the step and she called out, "Dagari, put the mat out - the one our mother gave to you - and I'll come up." So he put out the mat. She took the girl and went up. They were sleeping. Right in the middle of the night the sister woke up, came down and went to her own house.

The girl was sleeping. When she woke up the next morning she saw the boy and said, "Aga! This wasn't the boy I came back from the dance with and married." She said, "A handsome boy married me and brought me. Who is this Dagari?" She was saying this as she came out and was walking around the house. The boy said, "What are you talking about?" She said, "I'm looking for a broom." The boy said, "Come around this way and get it." She went around and got the broom. She swept all around the house and the varo. Under the coconut trees and the betelnut palms. She was arguing with herself as she swept the whole place. "It's alright, I'll stay back here. If I go back they might make fun of me." So she stayed there. She was staying with the boy. She got pregnant and gave birth to a boy. The sister heard of it and she came. She said, "Daguna^{2*}, (same as Dagari) what did your wife give birth to?" "A boy" The sister said, "Eh, look after him properly."

One day the husband said, "You gave birth and we are staying home. Our taro seeds are not planted yet. Put the baby in the string bag. Hang him on the verandah. We'll go, plant the taro seeds and come back." She said, "Aga! There is no one in the village to look after him." The husband said, "Nothing will happen. Leave him and we'll go." So she agreed with her husband. She put the baby in the string bag and left him behind while they went to the garden. When they were going, Buarovata came down. She went up and got the baby out of the stringbag. She went down. [sings] She was singing like that. When they came back she took the baby up to the verandah and put him in the stringbag. Then she went back to her house. They came up. The mother took down the stringbag and quickly took her son out. "Yau, yau. You smell so good."³ The husband said, "Aga! Where did the smell come from? It's not his." She said, "You don't talk. This little boy's body smells so nice."

They slept. The next morning the husband said, "Let's go up and finish planting the taro seeds." But the wife said, "Ah, everytime you do that you leave my son on the verandah and

¹ Dagari == "lazy, bad, greedy, lame"; buarovata = ?

² Another term for dagari.

³ The baby carried the fragrance of the flowers Buarovata wore when she was dancing.

go." She said that. After they went to the garden, the sister came out of the house and got the baby out of the stringbag and went down. She got the son and was singing and going around the house. The mother came back from the garden. She hid and silently came under the house. So the mother got up and said, "My inlaw, I heard you singing." When she turned around, she saw the mother. She just stood there and was digging the ground with her leg. She was digging until the ground broke in the middle. The boy and the auntie fell in.

