

There lived a man in the village. One day he decided to go hunting. He took 3 men with him with dogs. While they were going they found no game. They decided to rest. When they sat down, one waited to go to the river and drink. When he went down, he looked in the river and saw a very big snake - Sauwesa. It was actually on the tree, he saw the reflection. He called out for the other 3 to see the snake 'inside the water'. The snake mimicked him. They came down and saw it. One said, "Go down and see the snake." The snake mimicked, dived into the water. But I stood up and saw the snake in the branches and said, "Hey the snake is up here!" So one said, "Get the axe and we'll cut the tree down and kill it." The snake mimicked. So they cut the tree down and killed the snake. They made uuda (they baked with hot stones, put the meat inside and covered it with leaves and hot stones). They cut the snake into pieces. When they did that, they drank the su. They said, "Let drink the soup" and the snake mimicked. They said, "Alright let's eat." They took out the stones and leaves, but the snake was not cooked - just the same as how they put it in (and whole). So they got frightened and went home.

When they went, the snake went back to its place. It told another snake "I went and these village people did this to me." The other said, "Tomorrow you will go to one end to the beach and I'll go through the bush and we'll meet on the beach where the village is." Next morning, the baked snake went on the beach, met the other went in the bush. While he was going the trees and other plants were falling down and there was a big flood following the snake. The snake came to the beach. The whole village was flooded. Everything was washed away. These snakes met each other. There was man and his wife had gone to another village - say like Raine - and all of their relatives washed away. This man with his wife went back to the village built their house. Their children grew up, married each other. That's how the village became big again.

Notes:

Willie trans 30/7/82

Not Maisin, heard this one on the radio a long time ago.

