

DAISO KOSARO JIWO AND SUSUGARA SUSUKI Nita Keru 20/9/82 #75

10:88-91

Tape 41-4;52

Cf. 25*

Daiso Kosaro Jiwo and Susungara Susuki grew up. They decorated Susungara Susuki and took her to Daiso Kosaro Jiwo and they married. They were living in his brother's house. One day he went and cut posts, rafters and other materials for a house. He brought them back they helped him build his house. One day, his wife said, "Daiso Kosaro Jiwo, if we go in there to get roofing for the house there will be too many mosquitos. Let's go to the beach and get the roof thatch there." So while his wife sat on the canoe, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo paddled and went right out. They passed the point and came to another point. He paddled the canoe up and got roofing for the house. He made bundles of the thatch and said to his wife, "You wait here. I'll carry this thatch down to put on the canoe and then we can go home." He carried all of the bundles of thatch down to the canoe. There was now only one left in the bush. He said to his wife, "You wait here. I'll go and get the last one." He told his wife. She waited as he went up to fetch the last bundle of thatch.

While he was away a waa woman came out. The ghost fought with Susungara Susuki. They were fighting. At last the ghost hit Susungara Susuki and killed her. She pushed her under the canoe. Then the ghost climbed on the canoe and called out, "Daiso Kosaro Jiwo! Come down and let's go home." Daiso Kosaro Jiwo said, "Oh! I just went up to fetch this. I'm coming back now." He brought the bundle of thatch and put it on the canoe. At that time Susungara Susuki was pregnant. The waa was only pretending. It swallowed water containers (kububi). Daiso Kosaro Jiwo paddled the canoe down and they were going.

Susungara Susuki was there, lying on the beach. She felt better. She was all right. She stood up. She cried out, "Daiso Kosaro Jiwo! Daiso Kosaro Jiwo! Your wife Susungara Susuki is here. You are taking the ghost woman with you!" She kept repeating this and Daiso Kosaro Jiwo heard her. He stopped paddling and asked, "What is that?" The waa said, "Paddle us home. Those are only birds crying." "Daiso Kosaro Jiwo! Daiso Kosaro Jiwo! Your wife Susungara Susuki is here. You are taking the waa with you!" He could hear her calling but he paddled back to the village.

Susungara Susuki was walking and she became tired. She came to a big tree called a benomba. She went and sat under the tree. She slept there. The next morning she delivered a baby boy. She named him after his father, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo. She fed him and he lived under the tree.

While he was growing, she gave birth to a white cockatoo (kekeo). The bird started to fly. It went up into the tree and came back again. One day when the winds were strong, it flew to a village. The bird stole mats, pots, fire and food from the gardens and brought these back to its mother. Every time it went to the gardens it would steal food. They cooked and ate. By doing that the son grew up.

One day he said, "Mommy! What happened that we live under this tree?" She replied, "Your father, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo, married me. We lived in your father's brother's house. One day we came to get thatch for a new house. I was waiting on the canoe. Your father went to fetch a bundle of thatch. The waa came and we fought. She knocked me out. She hid me under the canoe. When your father came back he left with the ghost. So I walked all the way. I came to this tree and you were born here." He said, "I just wanted to know."

He grew up and his mother did his kisevi. One day he went fishing at Daiya Point [near Uiaku]. He saw a fish coming and speared it. He cried out, "Oh! My father Daiso Kosaro Jiwo

should eat the tail and my mother Susungara Susuki should eat the head. But my mother Susungara Susuki will eat the tail and the head by herself." He took the fish up to his mother. She cooked and they ate. The next morning he went out again. When he speared a fish he said the same words: "My father Daiso Kosaro Jiwo should eat the tail and my mother Susungara Susuki should eat the head. But my mother Susungara Susuki will eat the tail and the head by herself."

One day the bird built a house on top of the tree. It brought firewood for its mother. It said to its mother, "Mommy! Let me take you up into the tree. I built your house at the top." The mother said, "Oh! You won't take me up there. I'm staying alive under the tree. If you take me up there I shall die." The bird replied, "Oh! You won't die." It said this to its mother but she would not go. One day it got a large log and took it up to the house in the tree. It threw the log down. As it was falling, the bird flew down and snatched it up again. It flew back and left the log in the tree house. Then the bird went to its mother and asked, "Did you see what I did?" The mother said, "Yes, I saw you." So the next morning the bird took its mother up into the tree and put her in the house. She lived up there while her son, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo, went fishing. When he returned they cooked and ate.

Kekeo flew in and stole food from people's gardens. It took taro, sugarcane and bananas. It brought them to its mother. She cooked them and they ate. One day a man from that village was fishing along the beach. While he was fishing, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo speared a fish and called out, "Aree! My father Daiso Kosaro Jiwo should have the tail and my mother Susungara Susuki should have the head. But my mother Susungara Susuki will eat the tail and head by herself." The man heard this. He was waiting while Daiso Kosaro Jiwo speared another fish. "Aree! My father Daiso Kosaro Jiwo should have the tail and my mother Susungara Susuki should have the head. But my mother Susungara Susuki will eat the tail and head by herself." The man heard it and said, "Oh! Daiso Kosaro Jiwo came to get thatch for his house. He left his wife here. She gave birth to a boy and named him Daiso Kosaro Jiwo. He spears fish and calls his father's name."

The man went home. In the afternoon he told his wife to make a fire outside in the varo. She went out to the varo and made a fire and put down a mat. The man said, "Daiso Kosaro Jiwo -- you come and sit on this mat. I will talk to you." Daiso Kosaro Jiwo sat down. The man said, "When you went to get thatch, what place did you go to?" He said, "I went to the point. I went into the bush and gathered thatch to carry down to the canoe. There was only one left, so I told her to wait on the canoe. I went up and carried it down. Then we came home." The man said, "Oh! You are mistaken. You left your wife there and brought a waa woman with you." So Daiso Kosaro Jiwo gathered dry coconut leaves and went and burned down his house. The waa woman was inside.

The next morning Susungara Susuki's fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters and in-laws went to get her. They walked and walked up the road where Daiso Kosaro Jiwo would come to fish. Daiso Kosaro Jiwo stood under the tree and called out. "Susungara Susuki! Come down and we will go home!" Susungara Susuki said, "Oh! I won't come down! I stayed here and I am all right. I won't come down." Daiso Kosaro Jiwo said, "Come down!" So the bird brought her down from the tree and they took her back to the village.

They took her home. They went and made new gardens. The bird, kekeo, lived with them. He likes to eat taro leaves. So every time the mother went to the garden she brought taro leaves, cooked them and gave them to the bird to eat. One day she was cooking the taro leaves and left some. The bird went and was flying around. It came back in the afternoon and asked its mother, "Where are my taro leaves (biiki)?" Its mother said, "Your taro is there." When it went and opened the pot there was only taro and no leaves. The bird asked, "Where are my taro leaves?" Its mother

replied, "I didn't cook any taro leaves today." But the bird said, "Oh! You are telling lies. I was sitting here and I saw you cook the taro leaves. You gave them all to your son, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo. You left nothing for me." So the bird said, "All right, you take care of your son, Daiso Kosaro Jiwo. I am going away. The real white cockatoo will fly up in the air but the one my mother Susungara Susuki gave birth to flies around the garden, sitting on the bananas and taro." It said that and flew away.

*** Translated by Julia Kibirisi Seri and John Barker ***

Notes:

- Taro leaves used to be eaten in the past, but not today
- on Tape 52, Margaret commented that this kekeo was tame because of its association with humans
- 8/5/83: Anne was told today of a version by Daphin in which Susungara's waa fools Daiso by putting his wife's facial tattoos on

This is in the Korafe Legend Book (page 43) as Daisi Kotari and Susugayari (Susugari); mostly the same of the first part of the legend -- cockatoo missing completely. Curious thing is that the names of the husband and wife are reversed

- good comedy in the Korafe version of the spirit woman not able to identify her house

