

Boy Who Brought His Dead Father Home Anna Bk: 15: 44 Tape: 8/49 #111

A man was staying. He was trying to go to the garden. He said to his son, "Son, while I'm in the garden you collect all of the dry coconut leaves and put them out in the sun to dry so that we can go fishing in the night." So his son got all of the dry leaves and put them out. When his father returned from the garden, they put the leaves on the canoe and sailed out. He said to his son, "We won't get fish here. We'll go to another place, light the leaves and then spear fish." So they did that. They went and pulled the coconut leaves up. They lit the leaves and began to spear fish. While they were doing this, enemies came down. They saw the man spearing fish, so they came down quietly and speared him. They took the man's body and put it on the canoe. The boy saw and hung on underneath the canoe. The people said, "Eh! We'll take this to our village." While they were paddling, the small boy was hanging under the canoe. When he felt tired, he put down his legs and the water would make a noise. The men on the canoe said, "Ah! What is that noise?" Then he would quickly pull his legs up again.

They went and camped at the village. The rain came, so the people said, "We'll go down and get our pig. When they went to the house, that small boy pulled the canoe down. He paddled and paddled and paddled straight back to his village. When he got there he went up to his mother's brother's house. He said, "Uncle (yaa), I went with my father and they killed him. I brought him back and he is down there." His uncle went down, saw the body and brought it up and started to cry. [sings dirge] While he was crying, a man went down to the toilet. He went up to his people and asked, "What happened to make that man cry?" The small boy told him. So all of the people were crying there. They took him away and buried him.