

***Biyoki Jiwo and Biyoki Susuki* Margaret Dabira**

Book 15:84-92 Tape 51

An old woman lived on an island. There were two *biyoki*¹ boys who lived in a tree. The third lived with his grandmother. They were staying. On the other island there was a big village where people fought a great deal. They used to kill people and eat them. They went from place to place to do this. One day they came to the old woman's island. When she looked out at the sea, the old woman saw canoes, canoes and more canoes. She said, "Oh, my grandson!" She went and took her small grandson and went into the house. Meanwhile all those people came to the beach. When the people came up the little boy said, "Let me go down. I will kill them all." But she said, "No, I do not want them to kill you. Who then will I stay with?" The boy really wanted to go down but his grandmother was holding him. All those people came up to the village. They saw no one, so they went back to their canoes and prepared to sail off. It was then that the boy got on his feathers, went out to the *varo* and started to dance. He got his spears and was dancing up and down. He cried, "Come back! Come back!" Those people heard him. "Ah! Who is calling?" They looked up and saw a young man dancing. "All right, he is calling us back so we will go up and kill him there." So they went up. They started to fight. They threw their spears but missed him. He hit plenty of people. Some called out, "He is killing us so we must stop." But the rest said, "He is alone. Why do you tell us to stop? We must kill him." He was killing all of the people. They got frightened. "We had better go back to the canoes or he will kill all of us." But they kept on fighting. Finally, a man crept behind one of the houses and speared the boy in the back. They all rushed in and killed him. Then they left him in the *varo*, went down to the canoes and prepared to sail out.

Those people left him dead. His spirit was going but he thought, "If I go who will bury my body?" So his spirit came back to bury his body. So he came back. He went to the house. His grannie had been crying and had fallen asleep. The spirit went up and said, "Abu!" She responded, "Who are you?" "It is me!" She said, "But they killed you!" "I died. But who would bury my body? So I came back. I came to see you. Now you go up and get an axe and knife and give them to me." So the spirit took the axe and knife, cleaned the place and dug his hole. After digging he got his body and buried it in the hole. Then he cut two flowers – hibiscus (*biyoki*). He planted one at the head of the grave and one at the feet. Back at the house the grandmother was crying. There was no one to help her – no firewood, no water, no food. She was hungry. She was crying right into the night. She was crying and crying. The flower at the head of the grave became a boy. "Why is our grannie crying?" he asked. Then the one at the foot became his sister. They became chicken and rooster. So the sister said, "Go and ask her: why is she crying?" She then asked, "How will you go?" "I will go like this." So he went, stood and called, "Abu! Why are you crying?" The old woman said, "I have no food and I'm trying to die. So I'm crying." The boy came back and told the sister. The sister said, "What will you do?" "I will go and check in the gardens for bananas. If anyone has any I shall bring them back for our grandmother."

¹ Note that *biyoki* refers to roosters, hibiscus flowers, and a certain type of tree with red flowers.

He became a rooster and flew around. He went through the bush looking for a garden but there was none. He saw a house where Morobi Susuki lived by herself. She had a very big garden. The boy went in there. Meanwhile the girl had gone to the garden for taro and bananas. She was cooking them in the house. The boy went and sat on the verandah. She turned around and saw the rooster sitting there. She said, "Oh! Where did this rooster come from?" The rooster just watched her. "Where did this good rooster come from?" The rooster did not answer so she stopped talking. When the food was ready she took it down from the fire and asked the rooster, "Do you want some taro?" The rooster didn't answer so she asked a second time. The rooster said, "Yes, I am hungry and want to eat some taro." When the rooster said that the girl replied, "Oh, you should have spoken to me right away! When I asked you things you did not answer. Why not?" She dished out the taro and gave it to the rooster. He ate all the taro. Then he said, "I am going." She said, "Do you want cold food (*bosa*)?" "No, I do not want *bosa*. I want bananas." So the girl went in, got the bananas and gave them to the rooster.

He took the bananas. He was flying and flying and flying. He flew until he came to his sister. "Staying?" he called out. "I stay." He said, "I was looking for bananas but could not find any. At last I found these bananas and came." She said, "That's all right. Take these to our grannie so she can bake them and eat them." He went and called out, "Abu, I was looking for bananas but found only these. Bake these and go to sleep." He gave her the bananas and came back to his place. His sister asked, "Did you give them to our grandmother?" "I already gave them."

One day the girl got up and said, "We have stayed too long. It is best if we check our grannie. Is she all right?" So the boy went to check again. He went to the house. "Abu, did you finish the bananas?" "I finished all of them but this last one." The boy said, "I just came to see you." He went to his place. When his sister asked what had happened he said, "She is finished the last banana. Tomorrow she will have none."

The next morning the boy flew and flew and flew straight to the girl. He sat on the verandah. She saw him – "Came?" and he replied, "Staying?" The girl asked the rooster, "Do you want taro?" "Yes." So she went to the garden and got taro and ripe bananas. She gave the bananas to the rooster to eat. When he was eating the ripe bananas, the girl scraped coconut, squeezed it, and cooked the taro. When it was ready they sat down together and ate the taro. Then the boy said, "I am going." "What will I give you? I will give you taro." But the rooster said, "No, give me bananas." So the girl gave him a bunch of bananas. He said, "I came two times. The next time my sister will come." She said, "It is all right. You can go." So he flew and flew and flew to his place.

He came to his place and greeted his sister. She asked him, "Did you get bananas?" He said yes and went to his grandmother. "Abu, staying? Come out and get your bananas." So she came out and got the bananas and went back inn. "Have you any firewood in the house?" "Yes, I do." Then he came back to his sister. They were staying when he said, "Sister I am trying to tell you something." "You say it," she replied. "The first time I looked for bananas I met a girl with a

big garden, a house and many things. She gave me the bananas. The second time I went I said, 'I am not going to come again. My sister will come.' So you must go." "All right. You are telling me to go. Are you all right?" The brother said, "I am telling you to go, so you must go." "If I go, how will I come back?" He said, "When you go you must put everything that is on your body – your feathers – onto the girl. Then you must come back." She said, "It is all right, but if I put all my feathers upon that girl and come back, will you be all right?" The brother said, "I am telling you to do it, so you must." The sister said, "All right, you are telling me to see the girl so I am going. But after this don't change your mind.²" He said, "I am telling you so you will do it."

In the morning the girl got up and flew and flew and flew and flew. She sat on the girl's verandah. She made a noise. The girl came out and looked. She saw that it was a different bird. She said, "Aha! The one I used to see did not come. Which one is this? I used to talk to the other one. What happened to it?" The chicken was listening. Before she left, the brother had said to his sister, "You must sleep there and come back." That girl asked the chicken if she wanted taro. "Cook some taro and we will eat." So the girl cooked taro and they ate. Both of them were staying. The chicken pretended to feel sleepy. When the girl looked she saw that the chicken was sleepy. She said, "Aha! I will put a mat out and you will sleep." The girl said, "Yes, put a mat out and we will sleep." The girl told her to sleep, but the chicken said, "I will not sleep alone. I want you to lie down and we will both sleep together." So they did that and the girl fell asleep. The girl was fast asleep because she had been working at the garden and was tired. The chicken got up and saw that she was deep asleep. The chicken got up and pulled all her things off and put them on the girl so that she became a chicken just like the sister. When the girl woke up she saw all the feathers from her head to toes. She said, "What has happened to me?" When she said that the sister said, "My brother came the first two times. He told me to come this time and to do this. You will not come with me. I will take these bananas to my grannie. My brother will come and tell you."

So the girl flew and flew. She came to the place and said, "Biyoki Jiwo, staying?" "I am staying." She told him. He said, "Tomorrow you must go and see the girl." The sister said, "I did what you told me to do. I did not tell her when you would come, only that you would."

Meanwhile the two rooster brothers on the tree were watching. The older one said, "Do you see those two, what they are doing?" The younger said, "Yes. Can we do that?" The older one said, "It is easy to do that."

So they slept and the next morning the brother went out to see the girl. His sister asked, "Are you O.K. to go?" He replied, "I told you to do what you did, so I am going to see her." So the brother went and sat on the verandah. When he saw the girl coming from the house at first he thought it was his sister because she looked just the same. "Come?" "Staying? You cook food and we'll have some taro." When the girl was cooking the food, Biyoki Jiwo said, "I came to take you back to my village." The girl was silent. She was upset. She was leaving her

²*An ai mon itei akumomon – "do not your mind different thinking"*

house, her garden, her things, her *kerefun*. She was upset. She thought of these things and was very sad. She just sat and said nothing. Biyoki Jiwo asked, "Why do you feel unhappy? I came to get you." The girl said, "We will go, but I feel sad because I must leave all my things – my garden, my house – all my things." The boy said, "Do not feel sad for your things. I came to get you and we will go." The girl asked, "But how will I go?" "You will know it later," he replied. "You go up and get your *etota*³ and come with me." So the girl went and brought her *etota*.

They both went to the end of the house and from there they flew. They flew and flew. When they came down to the place they became human beings. Biyoki Jiwo called, "Biyoki susuki, you get up and see us. When we came and landed here we became human beings. Wake up and get up and you will become a human being too." The two biyoki in the tree saw that they had become humans. The younger one said, "Brother, do you see what they are doing?" "Yes, it would be very easy for us to do that." When the sister woke up she was a beautiful girl – just like her brother's wife. The sister asked her brother, "Are you all right?" "I told you to do it, so you did."

He left his wife with his sister and went to see his grannie. The sister and the wife were sitting down. Biyoki Susuki said to her in-law, "We will exchange places and see to whom my brother goes when he returns." So they moved to where the other was sitting. When the brother came back he looked at them and wondered which was his wife. First he came to his sister. But then he went around and sat with his wife. His sister thought, "Oh, my brother knows what he is doing." Biyoki Jiwo said, "All right, we will go and grandmother will see us." All of them got up and went to see their grandmother. When they got to the house they called out, "Staying?! Come down and see us." His grandmother came to the door. She saw Biyoki Jiwo. She was thinking and said, "Biyoki Jiwo, you already got a wife." Biyoki Jiwo said, "Abu, I wanted you to come out and see her. That is why I told you to come out." She said, "It is all right. Whatever you want to do go ahead."

All of them went up onto the verandah and slept there. It changed while they were sleeping into a really big house. It had three rooms. One was for Biyoki and his wife. The grandmother was in the middle. Biyoki Susuki was at the far end. In the morning when they woke up, Biyoki Jiwo went out and sat on his own verandah. His grannie came out and sat on her verandah. He did not see his sister because her verandah was at the very end. Then Biyoki Jiwo's wife said, "It is not the right way." "Why are you saying that?" "She is living at the end. This is not good. She might feel upset. So I want your grandmother to live at the end and her to live between." The wife continued, "She must be beside us so we will see her each morning and she will be happy." So the next morning Biyoki Jiwo moved his sister and grandmother. His wife said, "Yes that is what I want. She must be happy all the time. The other way was not good. But this is truly good with her close by us. She must stay happy all the time. She must stay in front of us and we can see her too."

³A small stringbag like a *yaati*.

They were staying and staying. The sister told her brother, “It is not good to live like this. Your wife is thinking about her house and garden. She feels upset.” Biyoki Jiwo said, “Yes, I know. I am going to do something about it later.” So that night when they slept his wife’s house and garden came there. In the morning the wife was surprised to see her big garden, house and *kerefun* were now all with her. In the morning Biyoki Jiwo and his wife went from one end to the other end of the garden. Biyoki Jiwo asked, “Is it all right.” “It is all right.”

They were saying there and the enemies on the other island looked across and saw the smoke. They said, “Ah, we went up and killed that boy. Who is making the smoke? All right, we will go up again.” They got in their canoes and came. The grandmother looked out and saw them. She said, “Biyoki Jiwo, all of these people are coming to kill you again.” When the people came to the beach, the two roosters cried out, “Biyoki Jiwo. Today is our day. We will fight.” So they came down from the tree and stood together. They were dancing there. All those people came up to kill them. They saw the two brothers. They left all of their fighting things and watched them. One man came up and said, “That one on the left is my daughter’s husband.” Another man came up and said, “That one on the right is my daughter’s husband.” Meanwhile the brothers were saying, “Come and spear us!” The people said, “We did not come to kill you, we just came up to see.” The two boys continued to dance. The people did not want to kill them although the boys insisted they try. The people said, “We will go and come back again.” They pulled down their canoes and went back to their village. Their wives asked, “What happened that you came back?” “When we went up we saw two really handsome boys. All of us will come up and you will see them.”

When all of them went down, they decorated their girls. Those two men who had spoken decorated their daughters too. They took them down to the canoes. Those two boys knew about the two girls and were expecting them. All of them went down to the canoes and came across. The boys saw all the canoes and said, “They are coming up.” Those boys came from the tree and stood at the same place. The people stood around. The man took in his daughter and asked the boy, “Do you want this girl.?” He did not speak so the other man took in his daughter and said the same words. But the boy did not want her. It went on until all the girls except those of the two men who had promised their girls were left. They then brought their girls out. They stood. One called out, “The man on the left, this is your wife.” The boy said, “Yes, that is mine.” So they took the girl and left her beside the man. The other man called out, “Man on the right, this is your wife.” So they did the same thing and left the husband and wife together.

All the women and girls were cooking and baking. Those boys and those girls had the same bodies and the same faces. After that they told them, “We will go in there.” The people called out, “Ari! Look at those people – they have the same faces and bodies. No differences. They are all the same.” They sat and ate food together. All those people became friends. Those boys told the people, “When you go down, do not come back quickly. If our wives give birth to babies we will send the message and you can come up.” So those people were given pork and food. They went to their canoes. They went to their own village.

Those two brothers slept and went around with their wives. When those two girls came up, their faces changed. Their faces were the same as their husbands'. They stayed and stayed. One became pregnant; the other too. The elder brother's wife gave birth to a chicken. It was not black or red, it was white. The younger brother's wife gave birth to a black chicken. It went on. The elder wife gave birth only to white chickens and the younger gave birth to black ones. They sent a message down, "All right, come across. Come up and see your daughters." When the people got the message, they go on their canoes and came up. When they came up the brothers cooked food and killed pigs for them. Then they said, "We are going back." So the brother said, "We married your daughters and they are staying here. We sent the message and you came up. So you take all these white chickens with you. Take them to your place. Send some to your left hand side and some to your right hand side. Send them away. I will send the younger one's chicken to the west." So they sent the black ones to the west. Today you can see black ones. Today there are some white ones mixed up. If you go to the eastern side, they are all white.

So when they took those chickens away the grandmother was old. She said to her grandson, "I am going to leave you people." So she died. They are staying.

cf. Keva story – splitting of types west and east at end; proofed February 7, 1995
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