

People lived in a very big village. It was dry season — a *baimara* time. All the boys, girls and men went into the bush to sleep and make sago. They built their houses there. They put their things in the houses, and the boys went hunting. They killed pigs, brought them back, butchered them and ate them. A man named Koriokario came after. When he saw his brothers he did not join them; he went right inside the bush to build his small house. He put his things there, got his axe and went to cut the sago down. He made sago and brought it back to his house. He left it there and went out hunting with his dogs. He killed a small pig and brought it back to the house. He butchered the pig, smoked some of it and cooked the intestine to eat with the sago. He was eating this. He put his *bosa* aside.

At that time his wife was pregnant. She was staying back in the village. While giving birth to the baby, she died. The people in the village buried her. Her spirit took the intestine of her body and put it in her stringbag along with a black palm *foke*.<sup>1</sup> With these she set off in search of her husband. It was night when she was on the road. She was calling,<sup>2</sup> “Koriokario, where are you staying? I am looking for you!” She was calling as she went. The boys and girls at the big camp were making fun in the night. She was calling and going to them. All of them went to sleep. One man woke up to hear that woman calling, “Korio!! Korio korio korio!!” He came back to the camp and woke the others up. “You listen to this. What is crying? A bird or what? I don’t know.” While they listened she came close to the camp and called out, “Korioooo! Kioriokoriokorio!” They all heard it and kept quiet. They were afraid. One man called out, ““We came with your husband. We told him to stay but he made his own camp. He is making sago there.” When the woman heard that she quickly ran down there to kill him. She was called out again, “Koriokariooo! Where are you — I’m looking for you!” Her husband heard this. He called all his dogs. “Your mother died and her spirit is coming. If she tries to kill me all of you must bite her. Don’t stop if she tells you to — she is already dead. That is a spirit.”

While the lady was going down, all the people at the first camp were frightened. They packed their things, made a fire and went back to their village in the night. When all those people went home, the lady went to her husband, got out her intestine and put it down near her husband’s *bosa*. She said, “You come here. Come and I’ll tell you.” He came over. She said, “I went to the first camp. Your brothers speared a pig. There is a share for you, so I brought it down for you to eat.” She gave her intestine to the husband. The husband took the *bosa* and the intestine and sat down. There was pig meat in his sago, so he ate that. He pretended to eat the intestine while actually he was feeding it to the dogs. Those dogs were eating too. She said, “Why are you giving them to the dogs? You eat them.” The husband replied, “They are just sitting around me.” She repeated, “You must eat it yourself. Don’t give it to the dogs.” But he had already given it to them and they had finished it.

When they were finished she called out, “You come to the house and we will sleep.” So he got up and went to the house. Both of them lay together. The man was not sleeping — he was frightened. But the woman had come a long way and was tired; so she put her arms around her husband and fell asleep. In the middle of the night the man thought she was fast asleep so he tried to move his body. She grabbed his body really tightly, so he just lay down again. When he tried a second time the same thing happened. A third time the same thing happened.

The fourth time she was fast asleep. Her hands were loose about the man. He was still lying down. When he moved his wife did not grab him. So he slowly moved across and got on the ground. He took a *karafi*.<sup>3</sup> He made a fire and put the *karafi* on it to warm it up. Then he went up

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<sup>1</sup>A heavy tapa mallet.

<sup>2</sup>In the Baruga language.

<sup>3</sup>A basin used to gather rubbish or hold sago.

to the house and put that *karafi* beside the woman. He thought that the people at the first camp were still there, so he called to his dogs and ran there. But no one was there when he arrived. "Oh! Why did you people go? I thought about you and came here, but why did you go? You should wait for me and all of us would go together." Then he started running for the village. He ran and ran and ran.

The woman woke herself up just before the dawn was to break. It was time to kill her husband with the *of*. So she struck the *karafi* and smashed it. She said, "Oh! Where did you go You can't get away. I am going to kill you." She came down from the house and ran after her husband. She came to the first camp and said, "Friend, I'm going to get you." That man was running with his dogs. He called to them, "When your mother comes and says 'Stop!,' you won't stop — you will try to bite her." The dogs followed their father. The woman was a spirit, so she was really fast. She came up to the husband and said, "Aha! Where will you go?" She was trying to hit her husband. He cried to the dogs, "Bite her! Bite her!" They turned to bite her. He ran very fast towards the village. Those dogs were biting her. She called, "Why are you going? You tell the dogs to come after you." But he just cried out, "Bite her! Bite her!" The dogs left her and ran after their father. She chased him until they came to the garden. He jumped over the fence. He made it to the village where he fell unconscious. She saw him there and said, "Oh, you have already died. I should have killed you before. Now I will go back."

All the village people saw him lying down when they came down. They chewed *moso*<sup>4</sup> and spat on him to drive the spirit (*waa*) out. He opened his eyes at last and they took him up to the house. When it was getting dark that woman came up again. She was calling out as she came. All the people were frightened and went up into their houses and blocked their doors. She brought the black palm mallet. When it was getting dark she went to the first house, banging on the door in an effort to get in. She then went from house to house in the village, beating and crying. She did that until morning came. Then she went back. The next night she came back again. She was doing that and the village people were not sleeping at night.

One day all the village people sat together and said, "What will we do to get this woman to leave us alone? She comes every night and we are getting no sleep." Those people made plans. They said, "Today we will fish." They went out and were catching fish. They caught a turtle. They came back, shared the fish and ate them. Then they butchered the turtle, took the intestine out and tied it with a string to the man's door. They told the people at the next house, "When you hear the woman coming up, call out: 'We killed and ate your husband. For you share we left this intestine!'"

That night she banged on the garden fence. They heard it and said, "Oh, that woman is coming up now." Not long afterwards they heard her crying as she came up. When she came to the first house the people there called out, "We already killed your husband. We butchered and ate him. Your share is at your house." When she heard that she began to run around and around the village. She did not get the intestine. She went for good. The next night they said, "Oh, she is gone for good. She will not come again."

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<sup>4</sup>A kind of medicine from a certain tree bark.