

There was a big village. They had one kawo tamati. That chief would tell them and they would look after that village. They would get fish, pig and food and have big feasts in the varo. They were staying in the village. The chief's wife was going to the garden she had to cross a big river. They had built a bridge across it. She would always pause there and say, "Aree! I should eat a big fish from this river!" Then she would get food from the garden. On the way back she would stop and say those same words.

One day the chief's wife went to the bridge and called out again. Then she went to her garden. She was working in the garden. While she was there, a yun tamati (eel) climbed out of the river. He collected sticks and cut them to make a fire place. Then he built a platform on top and lit the sticks. He climbed on top, butchered himself and started to be smoked/cooked.

The woman put taro in her stringbag as the sun came down and headed back to the village. As usual she paused on the bridge and said, "Arree! I should eat a big fish from this river. I should eat that fish with this taro I am carrying." When she crossed the river she saw the smoking platform with the eel in it. She cried, "Oh! Why did you run away? Come back and give me half of your fish." But there was no answer. She put down her stringbag and waited. She thought a man would come to give her the fish, but no one came. Eventually she went to the pot and ate the tail. It was very sweet, so she had a piece of the middle of the eel. When that went down into her stomach it joined up with the tail. She kept eating until she finished the whole eel. As she ate, all the parts joined up and that eel was lying in her stomach. When she finished, she picked up her stringbag and went home.

When she was coming that eel ate all of her intestine. As it did this her stomach swelled up. All the people saw and said, "Oh, the kawo tamati's wife is pregnant. She would stay in the house after this - her husband going to the garden and coming back. She stayed like that for a long time and people began to wonder what was wrong with her. She was very ill, lying in the house. She began to sing: someone should give me medicine from the big mountains. I would rub these on my stomach and feel good. (sings). The husband would come home and leave in the morning with the rest of the people. When he was gone, the snake would come out through her mouth. He would take the yuku and mat to the verandah. When he left her body, she was dead. Then he would go back up and into her mouth. She would revive then and go to the verandah to lay on the mat.

She was lying on the verandah. She thought, "I really should have some coconut juice." The snake went out and up into the coconut tree. He took one down and husked it; then lay it beside her dead body. Then he went back inside. She got up, made a hole and drank the coconut juice. It went on. Every time the husband was in the garden the yun tamati was doing that.

One day the kawo man felt tired, so he stayed back. He was checking the coconuts and betelnuts around his house. When he came to the one closest to the house he saw that only young ones were left there. When he saw that coconut he said, "Oh, who is stealing my coconut?" So the husband went up and slept.

The next day he said to his wife, "Yesterday I stayed here all day so today I'll get my betelnut and mustard." So he got his axe and knife and pretended to go to the garden. Really he stood at the back of the house. The woman was sweeping the house. She said, "I am very hot." The

snake said, "You open your mouth and I'll come out." So she did this and the snake took the mat and yuku to the verandah. Then it went back into her stomach. The husband was watching them from the back of the house. The snake came in and she went out to lie on the verandah. Then said said, "I want coconut juice." so the snake came out and got it for her." The husband saw this.

Then the husband went to the garden, got his mustard and returned to the village. When the husband came the eel quickly came out, took up the mat and yuku and then returned to the woman. She got up and went into the house. It got dark. The kawo man went down and put a fire in the varo. All the village people and their wives came. Because the women were there he said nothing; they talked of fishing and hunting. In the middle of the night when the women and children had gone, he told the people. "There is a big eel lying in my wife's stomach. If she wants anything, that yan tamati will do it for her. When she is hot in the house that eel will take the things out for her to lie on the verandah. In the afternoon, it will take the things up into the house and then go back into her stomach and she will go up. That eel is doing this, so I made the fire to tell you people." So all the people said, "It is up to you." So the chief said, "Tomorrow all of you sharpen your axes and spears and pretend to go to the garden. You should wait around at the back of the house."

Early in the morning the people got their axes, knives and spears and pretended to go to the garden. They waited behind the chief's house. Then that eel came out of the woman's stomach, took the things out, came back and she went out to sleep on the verandah. She then wanted coconut juice. The eel came out, got the coconut and began to husk them. The kawo man said, "O.k. we'll go." He was the first to go in and he threw his spear right through the yan tamati's head. When the eel rolled over, it broke that spear. All of the men came in. They threw their spears until the snake died. They tied a rope to the head of the snake and dragged it to the river. While they threw the snake away, the woman in the house died.

When they came back to the house the kawo thought the wife was all right. But all the people saw she was dead. So they all wept and took her away to bury her. nene

John Abel says that this story is well know from Kewansasap to his village. At Gofe the eel comes out of the woman's vagina.