

There was an old man who was dagari (crippled) who lived with his two wives. He never went to the garden or out fishing. His wives would get food from the garden and they would eat together. All the time they were doing that: going to the garden, filling the string bag, cook the food and eat. That old man would spend the entire day sitting in the house near the fire. The two wives would make the garden themselves, bring food home and feed their husband.

One day those two women came back from the garden with food. At that time they were eating only taro. No meat. So they said to their husband, "Tomorrow morning we will go out and look for shell fish. You stay in the house. We will be back in the afternoon." "That's good. All the time we eat taro, so you go look for shellfish," the husband said. So the next morning the women cooked up taro and shared it. Then they put some on the upper shelf saying, "Here; you eat this this afternoon. We're going out to get shellfish." So those two women got food and water, pulled down their canoe and began to paddle. They came into a good place for shell-fish. They collected shell-fish and then returned to the village. They greeted their husband. One wife cooked taro and the other cooked the shell-fish. Then they served their husband taro, the shell-fish and the soup. They ate.

In the morning those two women went to the garden. They brought back the food and they ate together. The old man said, "Eating taro alone is not good. Tomorrow you'd better go and look for more shell-fish." So the next morning they pulled the canoe down. They went and collected shell-fish and filled a big stringbag. When they returned, again one cooked the shell-fish and the other the taro. Then they all sat down and ate the shell-fish, taro and the soup.

The next morning they went to the garden brought back food. After they ate the wives said, "It is not good to eat taro alone. Tomorrow we will look for shell fish." The husband said, "That's right. I am no longer young enough to hunt or fish." They said, "That's right. You stay back and we'll go look for shell-fish."

So they pulled the canoe down and went to the same place to collect shellfish. When they had gone the husband went down to the river and threw off his body (funa ka kakosi). When he did this he became a young man. He hid his body. He went up to the house and got his spear. Then he climbed up a betel nut in front of the house and took a few nuts. Then he got mustard. He decorated himself with feathers. Then he pulled down his canoe. He began to fishing, floating towards where his wives were. He speared plenty of fish, filling up his canoe. He came close to his wives and called out, "Looking for shell-fish?" They replied, "Coming?" He came close to their canoe and said, "Come and get your fish." So they came down and got all their fish from him. When they took the fish the young man stayed. They sat together on his canoe chewing betel nut and making fun. Then the sun was going down and the young man said, "I have to go to my village and it is really far away." He sailed off saying, "Come later I'm going."

He sailed off quickly. He went to the river near the village. He got his body, put it on. Then he went up to the house and sat down by the fire. Those two women came back. They came up to the house and saw their husband lying down. They greeted each other. Then they cooked and ate all of those shell-fish and fish. They ate all the food. The next day they went to the garden and later ate only taro. The next day they did the same. They said, "We are eating only taro. We'd better go and look for shell-fish."

The next morning they cooked food, gave some to their husband and then took off to look for shell-fish. When they were gone, the husband did the same thing. Fully decorated, he came after them fishing. He speared plenty of fish. The two women saw him and said, "That young man is coming again." "Come down and get your fish," he called out. So they did. They sat on the platform, chewing and making fun. When it was getting late the man said, "I must go. My place is far away." "That's all right. We'll come later." So he got on his canoe and left that place.

When the man was going to the house the two women pulled out the betel nuts and looked at them. "These nuts look like the ones in front of our house. Who is this young man? Maybe he is our husband." The other one agreed, "Yes, they do look like the ones in front of our house. We must find out." They said, "This must be our husband. Each time we come here, he comes after us. We must find out." After this they paddled up to the village. They found their husband lying in the corner by the fire. So they quickly cooked up the food and ate it. After they ate they went to bed.

Early the next morning they cooked food and gave some to their husband. They left some for the afternoon and went to the garden. They worked until the afternoon. Then they said, "We'd better go home because we never spend time with our husband." So they picked up their stringbags and headed back. They greeted their husband as they came up. They cooked the food and then they went to sleep.

In the morning they said to their husband, "Eating taro is not good alone, so we will go to get shell-fish." When they came to the river one said to the other, "This is where we will find out if our husband is coming after us. You will stay here and hide while I go on." So one left and the other hid. The man slowly came out, shed his body, went up to get betel nut and mustard, decorated himself and then came down to the canoe. His wife then saw him. "Oh, he has been tricking us. This young man is our husband." So she left that place and ran to where her sister was. So she ran to the other woman, "I found out that it is our husband. He is telling lies all the time and he is coming here. (gugubi). I saw him getting that betel nut, taking mustard from the house. He got his spear and now he is coming this way." When he went out fishing, he got plenty. They saw him and said, "It is the same man, our husband." He called out, "Come and get your fish!" So they ran down again and joined him on his canoe. He gave them the betelnut. They were making fun together. When the sun went down he said, "I must go, my village is far away." They said, "O.k. We'll come later." So the man got on his canoe. They got their shell-fish quickly and came home. One asked, "Is it really our husband." The younger one said, "Yes, I saw him." So they came up to the house and saw their husband stretched by the fire. The one said, "It is not true." But the other said, "Yes it is. I saw with my own eyes." The husband asked, "What are you talking about." "Shell-fish," they said and quickly set about cooking.

In the morning, they cooked all the food again. They said to the husband, "We are going to the garden again." When they came back that afternoon they cooked and ate. So they said, "Tomorrow we will get shell-fish." The husband said, "That's good because eating taro alone is no good." So the next morning they cooked food. They pulled the canoe down. One went while the other hid in the same place. She was standing there when the man did the same thing. He pulled off his body, got his spear and left in the canoe. She went down, took the body and threw it in the river. It floated away. Then she ran to the other wife and said, "He is coming." When they were collecting shell-fish they said, "He is coming now." He came up and told them to get their fish. They sat together until the late afternoon. He said the same thing, "I must go. You come later." Then he left. When he was going the younger one said, "That is our husband. If it was a young man he wouldn't come all the time. It is our husband so he follows us here." The other asked, "Did you

throw his body away?" "Yes, I threw it in the water and it floated away." The first one said, "Good, then when we go back we will see him."

The husband went up to the river. He looked for his body but couldn't find it. He went up and sat on the verandah. When the wives came back they saw him sitting there. So they grabbed their stringbags and ran up to him. They threw down their stringbags. They greeted him but he didn't reply. Then he said, "Where did you put my body. If I don't have it I cannot stay here and live with you - I must leave this place." When he said that the woman said, "We already threw it into the river." "Why did you do that? It was my body that you threw away." From that point he would not talk to them or look at them. He kept his head downward. So they quickly cooked the food, but still he wouldn't speak to them. He got up and told his two wives, "You threw away my body so I will not stay in this place." He got his spear and jumped down. "Stay back! Stay back!" they cried. But still he went on. He went and followed the beach all of the way. He finally came to a village. He asked the people, "Do you eat human beings?" "No, we do not." So he kept on walking and walking. He went to another village and asked them. "We don't. But, if you ask at that next village they will know." So he went to the next village and they told him to go to the village around the next point.

So he walked around the point. In that village the people were all really small - like little boys. He went and saw the two chief men. He came up to them and asked, "Where did your parents go?" They cried out, "Ohhhh! Why do you ask about our parents. We are chief people. All of the village people went to the garden and we are staying back looking after the village. Why are you asking about our parents. We are chief people." So one chief man ran up to the house, got his conch shell down and began to blow it. UUUUUU... When the people in the garden heard it they said, "uh what? What happened to those chief people in the village that they are blowing the conch shell." So the young man took their spears and ran back to the village. They came to the chiefs and asked, "What's wrong." "This man came and asked us, "Where did your parents go that you are staying alone in this house. So we got cross and blew the conch shell so you will kill this man. So kill him."

These people were like small boys. The man was sitting there chewing betel nut. They threw their spears at him but still he sat there, chewing away. They kept on using their spears and axes until he died. They butchered him, got all the pots down and started to cook him. The women started cooking the man. In the afternoon the men said, "You'd better open up the pots and we'll eat. He is already cooked." But when they opened the pot he was still not cooked. So they poured out the water and put in new water and cooked it again. The second time, the same thing happened. It was little girls cooking so they called out, "Mommy! Mommy! What has happened. This man is not cooking." So the mothers came up. They did the same, poured out the water, put in new and tried to cook him again.

This went on and on and still the man would not cook. Finally all the village put him into a big basket and threw him into the salt water. They didn't eat that young man.