

People lived in a big village. They were staying in the village and it was flooded (*geiti*). The river was blocked. So all of the people decided to dig out the river so it could flow out. So all the people decided to dig. They got their *ka* and went out to dig. They dug all the day and then went back to the village to sleep. The next day they came again. They were doing that.

In that village were two brothers whose father had died. They lived only with their mother. They didn't help those people. They just went to the garden. In the evening they would come home and ask their mother for food. She said, "Aga! Every morning you don't help those people so I will not give you food. If I give you food you won't help those people." So the two brothers said, "If you want us to help them we can, but we are busy making our garden." So they slept without food. The next morning they went to their garden. That evening when they came back they again asked for food and their mother said the same words. The two brothers were very sad. They said, "We really like our mother but she doesn't like us. So we must go and help those people."

So early in the morning they husked coconut, scraped it, got betel nut and *roron*, they brought them back and went up into the house to put on their tapa and decorations. When they finished they got down their *koefi*. The mother saw them so she went up to the house and got two more *koefi* down for them. She said, "When you finish working you can put on these two dry ones." So the two brothers got their *yaati* and *sambia* (clubs) and went out to help those people who were working.

They walked all the way. When the people saw them coming they said, "Who are these two boys who have decorated themselves so nicely?" All the people watched them until they came up close. They put down their *yaati* and got their clubs. They told the people, "You come down and we will dig." So the two brothers started to dig. The people said, "When you are digging watch out for the river for it might start flowing down." When they were halfway the people said, "Stand sideways so that when the river comes you can jump up." But the two brothers stood forward. They did this because their mother didn't love them.

page 2

They went forward and dug. When the river started to move there was no place for them to go, so the river carried them down. When they were flowing down they turned around and waved at the people. The people started to cry. That big river was washing away all the taro and bananas down to the coast. Two boys were dead and flowing down to the coast. When they reached the coast they flowed right down to Goodenough Island.

So all those taros and bananas went to Goodenough so now they have plenty of these things, as you can see if you go there.

Recorded by John Barker
spell check: May 3, 1995