

A girl named Yaa Susuki lived with her father, but he was a waa tamati. The father never ate fish or pig; he always went out to villages and killed small children. He would take those back to his people and eat those. He would tie them up and bring them back. When he got close to the village he'd leave the children there and go down to the river to catch small fish and prawns for the girl to eat while he ate all of the small boys and girls. He would butcher them, cook them up and eat them while Yaa Susuki ate the fish and prawns.

In another village a man and his wife gave birth to a boy. He grew up. He never listened to his parents but they were always telling him, "You can't go out and get married to Yaa Susuki." The parents were always talking to him about this. One day when they were in the garden, the boy climbed up a coconut, took some nuts down and scraped them, decorated himself with his new Koefi. He got his miisi (club) and walked all the way to where Yaa Susuki lived.

That morning Yaa Susuki's father said, "This time I won't go to a near village because I have eaten all the children from around here. I will go over two mountains -- far away -- and look for children there. I might come back in the afternoon."

The boy walked all the way until he came to the village. He went in and told Yaa Susuki, "I came to see you." So Yaa Susuki asked the boy, "Why did you come here? My father is not a human being, he is waa tamati. If he finds you here he will kill you and eat you. Why did you come here?" The boy said, "I live far away, but the people always talk about you living here. So I came to see you." The girl said, "Why did you come to see me?" Then the boy said, "I came to marry you." The girl said, "Wait for me down here; I'll go up to my house and bring down all of my things." So she went up into her house, got all of her things put them in a string bag and came down. Both of them then went together across the river. When they got to the other side, the girl said, "Pull out this bridge and throw it away. Then go and cut down a pawpaw tree and put that down for the bridge." So the boy went in, cut down the pawpaw tree, pulled it out and put it down for the bridge. While he was doing that, the girl used her magic for rain so a big rain came and a flood came out.

While they were doing this, the waa tamati caught all of the small boys and girls, tied them up and brought them back to the village. When he came to the river, he went down and started to catch fish and prawns for his daughter. When he finished he took all of the fish and prawns up to the house. When he came to the house he saw that his daughter was not there. So he said, "Oh, you can't go away anywhere." So he went up and left all of the prawns, fish and children on the verandah and went out looking for the daughter. He looked around the house and couldn't find her. He said, "Oh, Yaa Susuki you can't run off anywhere." So the waa tamati went down to the river. Yaa Susuki saw her father coming and told the boy, "You go and hide in the bush." He hid in the bush. When the father came closer he called out, "Yaa Susuki what are you doing there?" Yaa Susuki said, "Asese akawassi - I just came here to walk around." (going to the toilet). So the father said, "Come across quickly." But Yaa Susuki said, "I can't cross because a flood came and took the bridge away. I cut down a pawpaw tree. So you come across and get me." The old man replied, "But I might fall." She said, "You come across and get me." "But it might break." But Yaa Susuki said, "You come across, it won't break." So the father walked slowly across. When he came to the middle, the bridge broke. He fell down into the water and floated down. He tried to swim but the river was too flooded. So he drowned and died.

So Yaa Susuki called to the boy, "Come out. My father already died. We can go to your place." So they started to walk to the boy's place. They walked and walked and walked. They walked until they came to a big river and they sat down there. They chewed betel nut. Yaa Susuki looked and saw a woman carrying her pot to the river. She said, "I can see a woman coming to fetch water." The boy said, "Look at that woman. If she is tall, she is not my mother. But if she is short, then she is my mother." Yaa Susuki said, "This woman is short." And the boy said, "Oh, that's my mother come to fetch water." The woman came to fetch water. She saw the son sitting on the other side, so she swam across. The mother said, "Who is this girl?" He said, "All of you people in the village were always talking about Yaa Susuki so I married her and brought her back." Then the mother said, "It's o.k. but my daughter in law won't swim across; she will sit on my back and I'll carry her across." The son told Yaa Susuki, "My mother wants to carry you across the river." But Yaa Susuki said, "I am not a small girl. I will swim across on my own." So all of them swam across the river.

When they got to the other side, the boy's mother carried the water. They walked and walked. When they came near the village the mother said to the son, "You stay here with your wife. I'll go in and put down the water and come back. We'll all go in together. So the boy stayed back with Yaa Susuki. The woman carried the water up to the house. She went up and got her stringbag full of tapa cloth, brought them down and began to place them in a line through the varo to the place where the boy and girl were standing. The village people saw this and wondered, "Why is this woman putting down all of these embobi?" She put all the tapa cloth until she came to where the son was. She said to Yaa Susuki, "You walk on this tapa cloth up to the house." So the boy and girl walked along the tapa cloth, while the mother followed, folding up the emboboi as she came. The couple went up on the verandah and the people said, "Who is this young girl?" So all the people went and got their entota (yati) and went up to the boy's house. From there they knew that it was Yaa Susuki. They sat down there chewing betelnut. Their kawo tamati got up and said, "If your wife gives birth to a baby look after it properly. When it grows up we will see what will happen."

They stayed on and the wife became pregnant. She gave birth to a boy. When the boy was big enough, the parents told him, "You are big enough so you can go to the garden and look for betelnut." When the boy went to the garden all of the green leaves around burned up-- this happened as he was going because he was Yaa Susuki's son and his body was very hot. He kept on doing that - whenever he went out to the bush everything burned up. His father was very worried; "When he grows up he may still be like this. Whenever anyone comes near him they will burn up. I don't want that." So the father told the wife, "you'd better bathe our son. It's not good - everyone and this village may burn up." So the wife went to the garden and got some leaves. When she came back she said to the son, "Today I'll bathe you with these leaves." So she bathed the son with the leaves and told him to go to the garden and come back. When he went into the bush nothing burned up. So when he returned his mother said, "It's o.k." All the people said, "That's all right." From then on they lived happily.