

A boy lived with his father and mother. They stayed on and first the father died and then the mother. The boy stayed on by himself. He didn't have any sinan to help him. He was alone up in the house with a big sore on his leg. He had no food to eat or water to drink. He stayed on and he was very hungry. He cried, "Iau! I should eat taro." and "Are! I should drink water." He cried out, "Iau! My father died, but why did you die. You should stay and look after me." All the time he would cry and say, "I should eat taro, I should drink water. I am so very hungry." But no one in the village helped him. He was very hungry and kept on crying for food. He kept saying again and again, "My father died. My mother should be here to help me; why did she die?"

The next morning the boy was still crying. A girl came by and stood there listening. The boy at that moment cried out, "I should eat taro and I should drink water!" When the girl heard that she went back to her house, got a pot and went to the river to fetch water. She gave the pot to the boy and said, "This is your water to drink." Then she went back to her house and cooked food and brought it to the boy's house. She said, "Get up and eat this food." The boy got up drank and ate and then the girl washed his sore. So every morning and afternoon that girl looked after the boy by giving him food and water and caring for his sore. She looked after the boy until he was better and his sore was dry. When he got up the girl said, "You got better and it's nene. My friends is going up in the house to put tattoo, so I too will do that." She told him, "In the other village people are going to dance. You mustn't stay here but go and dance. I'll go up and put tattoo."

So early in the morning he got all of his nomo down, scraped coconut and decorated himself with his nomo. When all the village left for the other village, he went with them. When they came up all the people danced in the varo. The people said, "Who is this boy who is dancing. He is very good." All the girls were talking about him, but one in particular really wanted him to be her husband. They danced until the next morning. Early in the morning the people in the village prepared food. They said, "You must eat and have a rest." The boy said, "I am not going to rest, but I must go back." The girl knew that he was going so she put her things into the stringbag and came after him. She ran and ran and ran. When she came close she called out, "O, wait for me." So the boy waited and the girl came up. She said, "I want to come with you." But the boy said, "Aga! I am benon teiti. If I take you to my place your mother and father will come after me. I am benon teiti, my father and mother have died. If they come after me what will I do? I'm benon teiti, so you'd better go back to your village." But the girl said, "Ah! I don't want to go back, I want to go with you." The boy said, "You'd better go back." But the girl didn't want, so they went together. He took the girl to his village and they slept in his house.

Back in the girl's village, her father and mother were looking for her. She was not there, so the father told the wife, "You go to her Koei's house and see her. She must be there." The mother went and asked her Koei, but the koei said, "She didn't come with me, she stayed back." So some people came and told her, "A young boy came here and danced. He is the one who took her back to his place and married her." The father and mother were very cross and said, "Why did he take our daughter. He is benon teiti and he has no things. We must go and bring her back from there." So the parents and their people went to that village. They walked and walked and walked until they came in. The mother went up and told the girl that she must come back to the village. But the girl didn't want. She told the mother, "I got married here, so I won't go back." The father was very angry and called out, "You are benon teiti; you have no things and what will you give. Why did you take our daughter and bring her here?" But the boy said, "I did not bring your daughter. I was going home and she came after me. I told her to go back but she would not." The father was still very

cross and was talking for wi jobi. So the boy said, "O.k. You wait here, I'll go into the bush and come back." So the boy went into the bush and there he found a big fat pig which he brought back to the village. He told the village people, "Tie this pig and give it to the girl's father." So his village people did this and put the pig in front of the father. Then the boy went up into the house and got the kerefun which belonged to his father. He left some of it and brought the rest down to the father. The father was still talking, but when he saw these things he stopped. Then he said, "It's o.k. You may now keep my daughter." So they took the pig and went back to their village.

The girl who had helped him with food and water had her tattoo put on. She was decorated and came down from the house. The people told her, "That boy you helped went and got married to that girl." The girl was very cross, "He is already my husband; why did she come after him?" She told her father, "I'll go and see that boy, talk to him and come back." But her father said, "No, I don't want you to go." "But I won't do anything, I'll just talk to him." The father didn't want her to go, but she was talking too much so at last he agreed that she could go. The girl went in and started arguing with the wife. "Why did you come in here? When he was sick you weren't the one who helped him. You must go back because he is my husband." She was still arguing so the father said to his wife, "Go and tell that girl to come back. What is she doing over there so long?" So her mother went and said to the girl, "What are you doing here? Your father wants you to go back. You must go back." The daughter said, "Why should I go back? I can't go back. I am not a boy. I can't stay in my father's house. I won't come with you, I'll stay here." But the mother said, "Aga! You are not going to stay here." So the mother came back and told the father. The father was very cross and said, "I'll go and see her." He went in and called out, "Benon teiti, you have no things. The first parents came and you paid them. But what will you pay me?" Benon teiti replied, "I didn't take your daughter. I was staying and she came here." When he said that the father was still talking about the wi jobi. So the boy did the same thing. He went into the bush and found a big pig which he brought out. Then he went up into the house and brought down the rest of the kerefun. The father was still talking but when he saw the pig and the kerefun he said, "Nene. You gave me the pig and these things so you may stay with my daughter."

So he married two wives and stayed in that village.