

**NAOMI'S DREAM OF A VISIT TO THE HOLE Naomi Vatava Sakai #151**

17/6/83

Tape 72: 2

typescript

cf. 61. 93, 103, 142

A man came to the village and said to his wife, "My wife, I want you to come with me and go hunting. I will kill a pig so that we can take it back to my sons." When the husband said that the women got up and got her things. She took her two dogs, Willie and Spider. She got those two dogs and went with the husband. They walked all the way into the middle of the jungle (*to bejii*). They walked and walked and walked. The wife said, "You told lies. We have come too far. I am worried about my daughter. She is staying by herself in the village. I might die here in the middle of the land." But her husband said, "You will not die. We'll keep going and I shall kill a pig so you can take it back to my sons."

They walked all of the way until they came to a big river. That river was coming out of the hole. When they got there, the two dogs saw a pig and gave chase. But the husband didn't kill it and then he came back to the wife. He said, "My wife, sit down here and have a rest with the dogs. I'll go into the bush, cut all of these trees and make a raft." So the man went into the bush, cut the trees down and carried them out. Then he went in and cut string, took it out and began to tie up the raft. He worked at tying the raft. Then he went in and cut another stick to make a paddle. Then he said, "My wife, get on the raft with the two dogs and we will paddle down." So his wife got on the raft with the dogs and they started down.

The husband started to paddle and they went into the cave from which the river was flowing. The woman was frightened, and asked the husband, "Where are we going?" But the husband only said, "Don't be frightened. We're going through this cave. When we are right underneath the blood will start coming from your nose and ears. When that happens don't be scared." And so they started inside. When they right underneath, the blood started out of the wife's ears, mouth and nose. The husband saw this and said, "Don't be frightened. You will not be hurt. You are bleeding because you are not dead. I am a dead person, so I am not bleeding."

When they reached the bottom, the blood stopped pouring from the woman. They left their raft there. The husband said, "Do you see this place? This is where our ancestors lived. You will not stay here but I'll take you across to the big village where our ancestors are living." Then they started walking all the way. They walked and they walked. The wife heard people talking. So she asked, "What's this sound? It is like people talking." The husband said, "We are going there."

When they came to that village she saw that the people were all very busy. Some were peeling, some were cooking. Meanwhile their husbands were tying a ladder. When the food was cooked, the women got them down and told the different *iyon* who were working on the ladder. They ate together and then the men returned to the ladder. They were very busy. Some women went to the garden and got all of the bananas and taros. They put these all into one house. The husband said, "Can you see all those women putting those things in the house?" The woman said, "Yes, I see." "All of that food is being used for the men who are making the ladder." At that time they killed human beings, butchered them up and ate them with the rest of their food. The husband showed her everything in that village and then they went into the village itself.

When they went in, they went to the wife's grandmother. The grandmother went up into the house, got a mat and put it on the verandah. The wife went up and sat down with her husband. Her

grandmother came out and, "Agao! Why did you come to this place? Why did your husband bring you here? You didn't die. Why did you come here? You will die here and who will look after your sons?" Then the grandmother said, "this afternoon when they bring that pot here you mustn't eat out of it because you didn't die. When your husband is eating you must eat the cold food (*bosa*) that you brought with you."

When the food was all cooked they gave some to the men who were building the ladder. They also took one pot to the husband. But his wife didn't eat this food. She ate her own cold food. After eating, they brought sugarcane. The husband chewed sugarcane, but his wife did not.

It was getting to be afternoon and the husband said to his wife, "We will sleep here." The wife said, "I am worried about my small daughter." But she slept there with the husband. That night the men finished the ladder.

Next day early in the morning they called the first *iyon* to go up. So the first *iyon* got all of their things -- their dogs, their chickens and everything else -- and began to climb the ladder. They climbed and climbed and climbed. When they got to the top, they called for the second *iyon* to come. So the second *iyon* got everything -- dogs, pigs and chickens -- and climbed up. When they were going up, the husband said to his wife, "This is the second *iyon*. When they get to the top, they will call for the third *iyon*. We will join them because they are our *iyon*." So when that second *iyon* got to the top, they called for the third one. The husband and wife joined them.

After they reached the top, they called for the fourth *iyon* to climb out. So those people got their things and began climbing up. As they climbed, the people on top called out, "What are you people bringing up?" They said, "If we come out and you people hit our children or do something wrong with us, we won't use our hands or sorcery (*wea*), but we will kill you with our eyes." So the people on top said, "Oh, we don't want them up here! Use the knife to cut the ladder off." When they cut the ladder, those people fell down and landed at the bottom. They made a noise like thunder. The wife asked, "What is that noise like thunder?" The husband said, "It is those people hitting the bottom. We don't want them to come up because if they do the community (*tauk ramara* -- living conditions) will be no good. So we cut the ladder." The people still in the cave called out, "All right. We all wanted to come out, so we worked on that ladder day and night. But you people don't want us up there and so you cut the ladder. We will live down here, but our language will be different from yours."

After that, the husband said to his wife, "You must now go home. I brought you here to see this, not to kill pig. Now you must go back. I brought you here to show you how our ancestors came from the hole." The people who had come up were cleaning the place and planting coconut and crotons (*babaga*). As they did that, the husband took his wife back to the village. When they came to the village, the wife went up into the house. The man went down to the beach, pulled out his canoe and paddled away.