

Wakeke Jiwo Naomi Watava
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Wakeke Jiwo lived with his small brother and sister on a big island. Their parents and all the people died. They were alone in that village. They had no garden so they would not chew sugarcane or eat anything. They only caught and ate fish. Every morning the two brothers went out with the net and the sister took a *foga* (basket). As they caught fish they put them in the *foga*. At the end of the day the brothers carried the net and the girl the *foga* and they came home. They would take the fish to the river, remove the intestines, then take up the fish, cook and smoke some and eat a few. That's all they ever did.

In that village there was no fire but the one they had. So the always collected a lot of firewood and made a big fire so that it would not go out. So each morning they had fish for *bosa* and they went out fishing again. First they got the wood and made a big fire.

One morning the elder brother told the younger, "Get wood and we'll go fishing." The younger brother this time only got a small amount of wood. While they were out fishing the wind came up and blew out the fire. They went out catching fish when the elder brother, "Aga! We have lots of fish for so few. We'd better go back and see about the fire." So the brothers took the net and the young girl got the *foga* and they went. When they got to the house, the elder brother took out the nets to dry while the younger brother took the fish to the river to gut them. The sister went to check the fire. When she blew on it, there was no spark. It had died. She called out, "*yeiya*, the fire died." The elder brother called out, "We are all right, but we are worried about you. The fire died out and all the people died here and there is no place to get fire. We are o.k. but we are worried about you. The fire died out and we will all die from the *baimara*."

So they sat there wondering. The elder brother said, "We have no fire so we'd better put these fish in the sun. When they are dry we can eat them." So they left them in the sun. When one side was dry they turned them over to do the other side. They sat down waiting. The small sister said, "*Yei*, I'm very hungry." He replied, "Yes, but what can we do with no fire? *Nene*, I'll go and eat one of these fish. If it is good you can eat it." So he went down and broke one of the fish and began to eat it. He finished it and told his small brother, "Get this fish and eat it, Wakeke Jiwo, otherwise you will die because there is no fire." So the elder Wakeke Jiwo went and got a fish and threw it up to his younger. (From here on no mention of the sister).

So his small brother ate the fish and said to the elder, "*Nene*. I'm no longer hungry." The sun was going down so they went up into the house to sleep. When the sun came up they put more fish into the sun to dry. When all the fish were dried they took them up to the house, ate some and left some. The next day they did the same.

They finished all those fish and went out fishing again. As it got dark, the elder said, "We'd better go back because the sun is going down and we have no fire." So the elder took the net and the younger the *foga* and they went back to the village. When they got back to the house, they put the fish in the sun, looking after them and turning them until the sun went down, when they took them up to the house. The elder brother took out some fish and they ate them, leaving some for *bosa*. Then they went up to sleep.

In the middle of the night the spirits of their mother and father came and told the small boy, "Tell your elder brother when you wake up to go and climb the tall coconut. When he looks out he will see something out in the sea." When the parent told him that he went to sleep. Early in the morning when the birds were crying he woke up the elder brother. "Last night our parents came and spoke to me." "What did they tell you?" "They said that early in the morning, we should go to the tall coconut. You should climb up and see." So the elder brother said, "*Nene*. I'll climb and see what is out in the ocean." So they went. The elder climbed up the tree. He cut a string and used it to climb. He climbed and rested and climbed and rested until he reached the top. His young brother watched him. When he looked out to the right and saw water. On the left he saw an island. "What is this, an island or a floating log?" He watched it, got his string and climbed down, down, down, down, down. He said to the small brother, "We'll go to the house." When they got to the house they put a mat and sat down. The elder said, "Our

parents told you but I didn't see anything." When he said that the younger said, "Well that's what they told me to say to you." "Oh, that's all right. We'll put out the fish now." So they put out the fish in the sun to dry. When the sun was going down they ate some fish and put the rest on the *fana*.

That night the parents came to the younger brother and said, "Tell your brother to climb that coconut again. He will see a big island. He should climb down and then both of you should go and stand on a big rock. We will come for your brother in the form of a big wave. When we come up he should jump into that wave and we'll take him to the island. There he will get the fire and we'll bring him back. You will wait meanwhile in the house." Then the parents went away. Early in the morning the elder brother was trying to go to the ground. The younger said, "Don't go to the ground. Stay back and I'll tell you what our parents said to me. They said that you must climb a big coconut and see the island. After that we will go and stand on a big stone. Our mother and father will come as a big wave and take you to that island so that you can get fire from it."

The elder said, "It's true. I saw an island but didn't tell you. Is it true that they are helping us. They may be lying and I will die and leave you alone. I'm worried about you. Who will look after you if I die?"

So early that morning they got their *bosa* down and ate it together. They finished it as the sun came up and the elder said, "We must go now where they said." They came to the rock and stood. The elder was very sad, crying and held his brother. "Every time they only talk to you. I'm worried that I might die and who will look after you? I don't know if I'll come back or die there. You can stay. If the sun goes down and I'm not back, you will know that I am dead. Or if I come back in the afternoon you will know that I'm alive. If it is dark you will know your brother is dead."

So they both stood looking out to sea, waiting for the parents to come in. The younger brother climbed on the rock and saw a big wave coming up. "You stand there. I see a big wave coming and it must be mom and dad." So it came, came, came. When it was about to break on shore the elder brother dived into it. When he dived in his mother and father held him by the hand and took him to the island. The younger brother looked out expecting to see the brother come up. He didn't but the brother wasn't worried because his elder had told him not to worry. He saw nothing so he went back to the house and put the fish in the sun to dry. He waited and waited. When the sun was in the middle he went down to the rock to see if his brother was coming back or not. He saw nothing so he went back to the house. He wondered to himself, "Will my brother come back, or is he dead? The sun is in the middle. What is he doing?"

The sun started to go down and so he was very sad. He walked to the big rock. "This is the place we came this morning and stood together. From here he left me and went away. Now I don't know if he is going to come back or not. If I was with lots of people, I shouldn't feel sad. But there are only two of us. I feel very sad. Soon it will be dark. Who will I sleep with?" It was *radan* so he went and stayed in the house.

The elder brother and his parents ran and ran and ran. When they got close to the big land they became waves again and threw him upon the beach. He got up and stood. His parents called out, "Wakeke Jiwo! Listen. If you go on this beach you will find a young girl. She will come to the beach and make a fire and stay with her small sister. When you see her go and get the fire. When you are telling stories there, her boy friend will come up to kill you with his *go'ji*. We'll still be waiting here. So you run down and jump in. We'll carry you back." So the boy walked and walked towards the village. In that village that girl's elder brother and wife were going to the garden. So her *wivi* said, "We're going to the garden. So you take the children and look after them. Take them to the beach, make a fire and they can swim." So when they went to the garden, the girl got her stringbag, food and the kids and started off for the beach. Her boy friend called out, "Where are you going?" "We are going to the beach. These boys and girls are going to bathe there." "Nenate. When you go you must cook my banana (*we*) and I'll come in the afternoon."

So she went to the beach with the children. They got to the beach and saw a good shade (*ka kainunki*). She sat down there and started to bake the taro and bananas. She made a big fire while they

swam. They would run up and she gave them food and they ran down. Wakeke Jiwo saw the fire and said, "Oh, now I see the fire. I must go there." He walked and walked. He stood under the *gangassi* tree and said, "Oh, this must be the girl my parents told me about." He hid himself there. The kids played. They ran up, got food and ran down. The girl's boyfriend little sister was swimming with them. When she ran up she saw the boy under the *gangassi* tree. She called out, "*Yei!* I can see a boy standing under that tree. He is very handsome - just like my brother."

The big girl said, "Aga! If that is your brother he is not *toton*. He should stay with us. Why is he standing there?" The small girl said, "I don't think he is my brother. He could be from somewhere else. You get up and see this boy."

So she went up with the small girl and saw the boy. "Why are you standing here? You come from another place. Come, we'll sit and you can tell us why you came. You tell me so I can help you."

So all of them went and sat beside the fire. They told stories. The girl took the taro she had baked for her boyfriend and gave it to Wakeke Jiwo. "You eat this." He ate it. When he finished the girl asked, "Where did you come from?" "I live in a big village on the other side of the water. Our fire died so I came here for fire. I walked a long way. When I saw the fire I stood under this *gangassi* tree. So they sat down and told stories. The girl said, "If you go I want you to take me and marry me." "I can't do that. My village is very far away. My parents died and I live with my small brother. If he agrees, I'll come back and marry you."

So they sat there and made fun. The boyfriends small sister saw that the girl gave away the taro and that they were being fun so she ran back to the village. Her brother had gone and bathed. He was decorating himself when the small girl came up. "Why did you come? I'm about to go see you and your *yei*."

"Don't go, a boy just like you came from another place and is sitting with my sister. When I saw him I thought it was you. But he is a bit different. He is still there telling stories with my sister."

"You go and play with your friends here. Don't follow me." The boy went up to the house and got his *go'ji* and made his way to the beach. When he was going Wakeke Jiwo said, "I can feel that your boyfriend is coming so I will go." "No, don't go. I don't want him, so stay here and he will see you."

The boy came slowly through the bush and then broke onto the beach. He was about to throw the *go'ji* when the father and mother came up in a big wave and Wakeke Jiwo jumped in.

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The girl didn't want him to go. She grabbed him and as he struggled she cut him with the axe she was holding. Then he jumped into the water and his parents took him.

The girl's boyfriend thought the boy was still there so he hit the waves with his *sambia*. "You are really dead. When the waves come up they will wash you in." The girl started to cry because she thought it was true. She was still crying when her boyfriend came up, "Where's my food? I want to eat." He kept talking but she wouldn't say anything. She got up with all the children and started back. He followed. He wanted to talk to the girl but she wouldn't. She was angry. Back in the village the boy came in the night and she said, "I don't want you. You did the wrong thing. This boy came from far away. You should have greeted him but instead you went and chased him away. When you did this you did the wrong thing. His parents died and he and his small brother were left alone on the island. The fire died, so he came here. I gave him the fire and we were telling stories. But you chased him out. So from now on I don't want you here. I won't marry you."

So the boy stayed away from the girl and didn't see her again. The parents took the son, running, running, running. The second born went to the place where he and his brother stood. "Oh, this is the place I stood with my *yei* and he left me." Then he saw the wave rolling towards him. "Oh, my parents told the truth and the wave is coming back!" He stood watching the wave. When they came up, the parents threw up their son onto the land. The *fin* ran down and hugged his *yei*.

"My parents took me all the way. I brought the fire back so we will now go up and cook all of the fish." They made a big fire, baked and ate the fish. Every day they made up the fire so it would not burn away. They would get up in the morning and go out to fish. They ate in the afternoon.

One night while they slept, the parents came. They told the *fin*, "Early in the morning you tell your brother that on the beach you will find a big canoe decorated with *kasiro*. Inside will be paddles and poles (*kun*). When you see that canoe, pull it up. Take all of the *kerefun* out of the house and hang them all around the sides and the outrigger. When you finish, get one *yati* of *Wakeke* and put it in front for your brother, and one *yaati* at the back for yourself. When you finish, pull the canoe down. Paddle it across to where you got fire. When you get there you will see a village. Go up and ask for your *iyon*. Your grandmother married there and so you will have a place to stay. You can marry and die there. So go to your *kawo nombi*." Then the parents left.

Early in the morning the elder woke up first. He shook his *fin*, "Wakeke Jiwo, are you still sleeping?" "No, I am thinking of what our parents said."

"Get up and tell me." The *fin* said, "Our parents told me that our canoe is on the beach. We will decorate it with our *nomo* and paddle it to where you got fire. They said to get a stringbag of our *nombi*. Yours will be at the front because you are older, while mine will be at the back because I am younger. So when we finish we will sit down and our parents will take us to where our *koei* went. She had no food here, so she pulled her *kairega* down and went there. She has plenty of sons and we will go and stay with them. We are *Wakeke Jiwo*, but our grandmother married there, so *Wakeke Jiwo* are also staying there. We are not alone. We will go and see our brothers."

The elder brother said, "It's o.k.. We'll do what our parents said." So when they went down they saw a canoe with *kasiro* and *siosoneson* decorated all around. They were very happy. They ran down and pulled that canoe up on the beach. They went up to the house and got all the *kerefun*. Then they went up and got all the *Wakeke* into two *yaati* and decorated the canoe, front and back. They went up and got all the smoked fish. They pulled down the canoe and went and sat down. They didn't paddle. They sat and ate fish while the parents took the canoe. Running, running, running. They went until they came close to the island.

The elder said, "Can you see that river. That's where my parents left me, I got fire and came back. Can you see that tall tree. I sat there with the girl and the boy came and chased me. That side is their village, so we won't go in. We will go to the village on this side of the river."

They went up to the end of the village. They pulled up the canoe and then put on all of their decorations. Then they went up under the tree and ate their fish. The children came down to swim. They saw the canoe. The sun was going down and it caught the *Wakeke* in its light.

"What's that?", said the little boys and they ran to see. They saw the bright red *Wakeke*. They said, "Don't touch them because the people with this canoe will come back." So they stood and stared at all the *nomo* on that canoe. "We don't see this in our village. This canoe came from a different place." The *yei* saw them and said to his *fin*, "You go down and ask them if *Wakeke afukiki* lives here. Then we will go and see them."

So the *fin* came. The boys saw him and they were afraid. He said, "Don't be afraid. Wait for me." So he came down. "Do you know *Wakeke afukiki*?" "This is one of their sons."

So he took that boy up to his *yei*. "Who is this boy?" The *fin* replied, "This is our small brother. They showed him to me and so I am bringing him up." The *yei* asked, "Is our *yei* in the village?" "No, they are in the garden."

"O.k. You go and tell them that their *finse* have come from the island. They can then come and take us to the village."

So the small boy and his friends ran to the village. All of the people had gone to the garden except *Wakeke Jiwo's* grandparents. They said, "*Abu*, two *yei/fin* came up from the island. They decorated their canoe with *Wakeke* all around. They say that they are *Wakeke Jiwo*. They are staying right at the end of the village. We were playing on the beach and saw their canoe. They came and told us so we came up."

"All right, go to the garden and tell *Wakeke Jiwo* to come out and meet *Wakeke Jiwo rora terei*." The small boy ran all the way to the garden where he saw his two brothers. "*Yei*, we went to the beach and saw a canoe decorated with *Wakeke*. One came down and said that they were *Wakeke Jiwo* from the

island. They want you to take them. They are waiting down at the beach." (They said this in the garden house.) "When I came to the village I saw my grandfather and he said to tell you to go and bring them to the village."

The two brothers got their axe and knives and came home. They went to the grandfather and said, "*Abu*, tell us properly about these *Wakeke jiwo*."

The grandfather, "Those people lived on an island. It was *baimara* and many people were dying. One old lady pulled down her *kairega* and came here. She married and I was born. So we all come from that island. We are the same *iyon*. That's why they knew that they belonged to this place. They came and sent a message, so you can go and get them."

So the two brothers walked until they came to the canoe. They saw the two brothers sitting there. They greeted each other and cried. Then they went to the canoe. The elder stood with the elder at the front, and the younger with the younger at the rear. Then they paddled to the village. All the people came down. They talked about all the *Wakeke*. The people went down and pulled the canoe up on the beach. They took the two boys up to the house and put the mat.

The *kawo tamati* spoke so they cooked food. While they ate the people talked of how they had come from that island. In the evening the people returned to the villages. One *yei* said, "I will look after this *rora* from the island while you stay and look after the *tere*."

So they stayed in the village. When one *rora* was going hunting, fishing or to the garden the *rora* took the *rora* and the *tere* took the *tere*. They didn't take the *nomo* off the canoe, so the *kawo* man took them and some went fishing and some to the bush. They brought the pigs and fish. They started cooking and took all of the *nomo* off of the canoe.

#75: They put the *nomo* together. *Wakeke Jiwo* said, "We brought these from the island so you may take them. But the *yati* with *Wakeke* belongs to *Wakeke Jiwo rora* in this place and the rear one belongs to *Wakeke Jiwo tere*. AS for us we will keep on the ones we already have on." So that is the way the people shared the *Wakeke*. All the people took the *nomo* to their places. Then the *kawo tamati* got up and said, "These two brothers brought their *kawo* from their island and gave it to us. Men, women, boys and girls - we now all have their *kawo*. WE can use their *kawo* when there is a big dance. So these two can use the land to make garden; they can cut sago; they can plant betel nut and coconuts. I don't want anyone to get cross. They gave us their *kawo*. They can make gardens and in *baimara* they can make sago. WE won't talk of that."

One morning the *yei* said to the *fin*, "We will show our brothers the garden." So they went up to the garden and had a rest in the *dobu*. Then the elder told the elder, "This is your garden and you can begin working in it." The younger said the same to the younger. So they stayed there and worked together - *rora/rora, tere/tere*.

Wakeke Jiwo rora from the island then married a girl. She gave birth to a son who they named, *Wakeke Jiwo*. And then they had a girl called *Wakeke Susuki*. The younger one got married but had no children.

The boys from that place said, "Our brothers got married so we must too." So they married girls from that place. They had a sister who got married but had no children, so someone gave her a boy to care for.

This sister was the one who looked after the boys from the island. She made stringbags for her sisters in law when they got married. She raised big pigs for their bride price. They stayed on and then the younger brother paid the bride price. The sister gave a pig.

They stayed and worked together with their wives. The *kawo* said, "Go to the bush to get string. Tie up and repair your old canoes. Then go to the gardens to get food. WE will go across the river to that other village to visit our friends." So they tied their canoes. Then some hunted and some made sago. They put the food on the canoe and said, "We must visit our people across that big river." When they were ready they went down and got on the canoe. All the *Wakeke Jiwo* went with their wives. When they got there the people of that place pulled up the canoes. They cooked and ate and were dancing.

When they came to the village, that girl saw Wakeke Jiwo and recognized him. "This is the boy who came and I gave fire." She looked and saw the place she had cut him with the knife. She decided not to greet him. The boy too recognized her and decided not to greet her.

They slept there. In the morning their *kawo* said, "This morning our women will go to the garden and get food. Our friends have stayed here two days and they must now go back."¹

When they got all the food from the gardens they said, "All the boys and girls will bathe in that big river and then go back to their place." So they went and bathed in that river. They all swam together to the other side of the river to bath. A girl and her cousin from that village didn't cross because the rukaman said, "I won't cross, we'll stay and bathe here."

Sop these two cousins bathed and the 2 *Wakeke* jiwo followed them. When they came to the river the older said to the younger, "You cross over and have your bath. But the younger said, "I'm always with you wherever you go. Why should I cross? I'll stay and we'll bath here." So the two brothers had a bath there. The cousins were bathing at the top and they saw the boys. One said, "That is Wakeke Jiwo. You stay and I'll go and see them." Her rukaman said, "You go and see them, I'll have my bath here. When our friends come back we'll go to the village."

Wakeke Jiwo dived in and came up. He saw the girl there and put his head down silently. The girl said, "Don't be ashamed. I came to talk to you. When you came here you greeted all the people - boys and girls - but you didn't greet me. Are you the one who came and got fire from the beach?" "Yes, I was the one." The girl saw the mark on the boy's shoulder and asked, "What happened there?"

"The time I came to get fire you cut me with the knife." They told stories and the boy said, "I'll go to my village and when I come back I'll marry you."

"Aga!" said the girl, "I'm frightened of your wife. We might argue and fight. So I won't marry you."

"My wife is good. She won't get cross. When I go out at night to play with girls she says nothing. She won't be cross when you come." She said, "Tomorrow all my people will go back to the village. When I come back for you I won't come to this place. I'll go to the place where I got fire on the beach. I will come after 2 days."

After that the girl went to her rukaman. All the boys and girls swam across and they all went back to their village. At that time all of the village people had cooked food. They all ate together. When it was dark the *kawo* tamati put the fire in the varo. All the boys and girls came together and danced until the middle of the night. Then they said, "We won't dance all night because tomorrow our friends will go back." So the boys of that village slept with the girls of the other village and vice-versa. They all went up into the houses to sleep together.

The next morning they took the food and a village pig and paddled back to the village. When they got there, they shared the food, ate and slept. In the morning the younger and older Wakeke Jiwo — from the island and the beach — said to their wives, "We'll go to the garden and plant all the taro tops that we got from that place" They got ready and when they were about to go the elder island Wakeke Jiwo told the others, "I'm not feeling well. We worked very hard to go, so I am tired. I'll not go to the garden. You can take your *kawara* with you. I'll sleep and come after you tomorrow morning." So the other three and their wives got their things and went to the garden. When they came to the garden they put the things and worked. When the sun went down, they went to the garden house.

Wakeke Jiwo told lies. He wanted to get his new wife. He took taro out of the house and gave it to his sister to cook. He said, "Cook this for me and I will go." The sister asked, "Where is your wife?" "She went to the garden with all of her *kaakiki*." The sister said, "That is not good. She shouldn't go by herself. You should go after her."

¹ end of first session — 2nd part recorded July 5)

The sister baked the taro. The boy said, “Tomorrow, I’ll take the taro and go after them.” He was just lying. Early in the morning, he got his taro, spears and knife. He was walking, walking, walking... He came to that river and swam across.

That morning after she woke up, the girl told her brother’s wife, “I’ll stay back to look after all of the children’ So she was staying. When the brother’s wife was gone, she chopped wood, fetched water and came back to cook the food. When it was cooked, she left some for her parents and her brother and wife. After she fed the children, they slept. So she told the parents, “They are sleeping. You look after them. I’ll go and fetch water and come back.” “All right, go and fetch water for your brother’s wife. You will save her some work.” So she got the pot and the stringbag, swam across and began walking, walking, walking...

Wakeke Jiwo was waiting at the place he had gotten the fire. The girl came up to that place. He got the girl and they walked, walked, walked. When they got to the village, Wakeke Jiwo said, “We won’t go in until it gets dark.” So they sat under a tree and ate their *bosa*. When it was getting dark, he said, “We can go in now.”

That morning the sister had gone to her parents, “Where did Wakeke Jiwo go? Did he go to the garden?” “We didn’t see him. Did he go to the garden?”

The sister said, “Yesterday, he asked me and I baked his taro for him so he could go to the garden.” “We didn’t see him. He must have gone.”

They came up to the sister’s house and Wakeke Jiwo said, “Wait here and I’ll knock.” When he knocked his sister’s husband said to his wife, “Open the door. I think it is Wakeke Jiwo. He didn’t go to the garden and now he is hungry.” The wife said to her son, “You go and open the door to your *yaa*.” When the little boy opened the door he saw the girl standing behind Wakeke Jiwo. He ran back to his mother and said, “Wakeke Jiwo took a new wife and brought her here.” When the sister heard this, she started yelling, “Oh, you did this! You told lies! Why? She is not like my *wivi*. Why did you marry her? You should have married the big one I saw. Since you didn’t I won’t talk to her or greet her.” She kept talking and the husband said, “Why are you talking like this to your brother. Tell him to come in and sit down. We can talk about it later.”

So the sister put the mat down and told them to come up and sit down. When the wife came in, the sister said, “Oh! This is the one I was talking about. I thought that she was different and so I was angry. I want this girl. You both walked a long way and need to rest, so I will cook for you.” So the sister cooked them food.

The wife and three brothers waited for him in the garden. When he didn’t show up they said to the small boy who had met them, “You go and see what is taking him so long to come up.” The boy went to the village and found the elder brother’s door closed. He went to the elder’s sister’s house and saw his brother sleeping with his new wife. He turned around and began to run. The sister saw him and ran after calling to him, but he wouldn’t stop. Before he got to the garden, he went and said to his parents, “Wakeke Jiwo told lies. He didn’t go to the garden, but went to the village to marry a woman there.”

The old people then starting to argue amongst themselves.

He ran to the garden. The women saw him first and called out, “What happened to your small brother that he should run all the way back from the village?” The bothers saw him and called out, “Stop there. Don’t come close. What happened? He is our only elder brother and we left him in the village.”

“Our elder brother went to the village we visited. He married a woman there and is staying with our sister in the village.” The three brothers said, “*Gugubi-so!*” “No, he did this. I saw them and came back.” The three brothers talked, “Why did he bring her here? She is not like our *kawara*. When we go down, she must go back to her place. We must not say this, though, because they came from the island. We might make them sad and they will leave because they have no other *sinamme* in this place. He wanted to marry her, so it is all right — she can stay in this place.” So they worked. The three brothers helped the *kawara* to plant the taro tops. They had a bath in the afternoon. Then they go betelnut and went back to their house. They gave the woman the betelnut and said, “Take this to your husband. We’ll come after.” So she started off.

Wakeke Jiwo left his new wife with the sister and went to his house. His wife and the little boy came up. She put down the stringbag and asked, "Wakeke Jiwo, where is your wife? Why did you tell us lies when we went to the garden? If you told me what you desired I should have waited and greeted her. Instead, I went to the garden. Where is your wife? Bring her and I will sit with her. You wanted to, so you married her. Bring her here. I am not cross. Why is she staying in your sister's house? Your brothers gave me mustard and betelnut. So bring them here and we will chew together."

Wakeke Jiwo felt ashamed. He lay in the house and would not come down. The wife knew this, so she went up to the house, put on a new *embobi* and got her stringbag and then went to see the sister. As she came up, she called out, "Wivi, why do you keep my *wowosi* up in the house? Your brother wanted to marry her, so I am not cross. We worked together and he wanted a new wife. So bring her down and I will see her. Take the mat and put it on the verandah so that we can sit and chew betelnut. My husband is feeling ashamed and is sitting up in the house. He will come later."

Her *wivi* closed the door. She thought the wife was telling lies. So she gave a new *embobi* and a *godji* to the second wife. Then she opened the door and the wife came down. When the first wife saw this, she said, "Aga! Wivi, why did you do this? I brought tapa cloth and a *yodi* for her. She will put them on and we'll sit. IN the afternoon we will go and cook food for her *kawara* as they come back from the garden."

So the *wivi* came down from the house and took the *embobi* and the *godji* away. The first wife then helped her put on the new *embobi* and *yodi*. Then they sat down together. They sat and ate *bosa* and chewed. Wakeke Jiwo came down, went behind the house and then sat at the end. The first wife said, "Why do you sit there? You wanted to marry her so sit beside her. Sit between us and eat the *bosa* we left for you. So the husband sat in the middle, ate the *bosa* and chewed betelnut. Then he said, "We had better go back to our own house." So they all got up and went. The sister left them at Wakeke Jiwo's house. The sister and husband went back. It was getting dark so the two wives cooked food together. They put pots on the fire and sat on the verandah to chew. His brothers came back and saw them. They said, "Oh, then it is true. And his wife did not get cross. She is sitting with them."

They saw them coming, so the wife said to the *wowosi*, "They are coming, so put the mat and you can sit together with your in-laws." They came up, sat down and greeted the second wife. When the food was finished, the first wife told the second, "You get the food and shared some with your *radawa* and your *kakiki* so we can all sit down and eat together." So together the two wives helped.

They never argued or fought. They worked with their husband. They always helped whenever there was a party.

The first wife had a son and a daughter. They grew up big. They used to take them to the big garden. The said, "When we take them to the garden we can't carry lots of food because we have to carry them. We should leave them with their parents." But the other Wakeke Jiwo said, "Don't do that. Seeing these children makes us happy for our own wives are barren. We will carry them."

One day, when they went to the garden, they left the small girl and boy for the little *yabi* to look after. They were playing in the *varo*. Wakeke Jiwo had a small spear and he went to the end of the village. The little boy and girl followed him. The *kawo* man saw them and called out, "Whose son and daughter are those?" The small boy said, "They are Wakeke Jiwo's. They went to the garden and I am looking after them." The *kawo* said, "Bring them here for me to see. They were small last time I saw them." So the boy took them to the *kawo* man. He got his *yamme* and rubbed it on the boy's head, pretending to greet him. The he said, "All right, take them back." So the boy took them away and played with them. When the sun was going down, the three younger Wakeke Jiwo said to the elder's wife, "It is getting dark so we should go back to the village. We left our small son there and we would like to see him." When they came back, the small boy and girl came to their parents. One after another they carried them, kissed them and put them down. All of the parents and the *wowosi*. Then as the children played, they cooked. They ate and it became dark. The girl went up to the house to sleep while the boy played. Eventually he went up to sleep beside one of his fathers. His head started to hurt. He opened his eyes and said, "Yabi, my head hurts." Then he started crying. All of the brothers and wives came together and asked, "What is happening?" "My head hurts." They all said, "You are our only one. We are always happy to see you."

Now what is happening? When you were born, we were delighted. We would go hunting and fishing and give you food so you could keep going. Why did your mother leave you in the village so that you got this sickness?"

He cried until the next morning. They took all the *kain* and rubbed it on his head, but his sickness just got worse. When the sun went down, he was close to death. So the father went up to the house and got a very long *Wakeke*. It was as red as fire. He went to the *kawo* man's house. He saw the man building a big fire. He thought, "This is the man who touched my son and made his sick." So he knocked on the door and gave the *Wakeke* to the *kawo*. He said, "Whatever you have done, take it off. You are the one who touched my son and made him ill." But the man said, "It is not me. I did not do it." "It was you! My little brother was looking after him. You were the one who touched him on the head." But the *kawo* insisted that it wasn't him. *Wakeke Jiwo* replied, "In this village you are the only one who keeps *yamme*. It was you indeed who did this." So the *kawo* man said, "It's all right. I shall see your son." So the *kawo* man went in, put out the fire, and washed his hands. He took his medicine down and walked to the boy's place. He gave medicine to the boy and rubbed some on his head. He told *Wakeke Jiwo*, "Your boy will now get better." So he returned to his house. They bathed the boy and put him to bed. After this he recovered.

That *kawo* man had used strong *yamme* on the little boy. The fathers hunted and fished but regardless of what they did, the boy lost weight and became thin.² When the *Wakeke Jiwo* saw this, they said, "This old man told lies. He made the boy better but slipped in another *yamme*." When they realized this, all the people went to the *kawo* and talked about that sickness. The *kawo* man said nothing. They brought him betelnut, coconuts, and *Wakeke*, but still the man did not give them the medicine they sought. All the *kawo* and *iyon* went to that man and said, "You must not do this. They came from the island and gave us all their *kawo*. Everyone got some, from the children to the widows — every person. Why are you so angry?" They pleaded but the *kawo* would do nothing. The brothers gave the boy all of their *kain*, but still he lost weight.

One day they said, "We must take him to sleep on the beach. Perhaps he will be able to eat fish." They got their things down to the canoe and paddled, paddled, paddled. They saw a good spot on the beach. The wives took care of the sick boy there while his fathers took their nets and went out fishing. They got food together. The wives cooked the fish and the vegetables. They gave it to the son. He could eat it all, but still he lost weight.

They were staying there when the son fainted. The *Wakeke Jiwo* said, "We can't stay here. We must return to the village. We know that we are not from here. Our grandmother came to this place and from her all of us were born. So we must return to our own place. If we stay here, our small boy may die and that would be bad. It will be all right in the house, but not outside on the beach like this."

So when they finished eating, they took their things to the canoe and paddled all the way back to the village. They arrived in the night. They made a fire and stayed close to the house to help the boy. As the sun was rising the next morning, the small boy died. They took the conch shell and blew it. The people asked, "What is happening?" The others said, "*Wakeke Jiwo* came and married here. He had a son, *Wakeke Jiwo*. That is the one who is dying." "Oh, this is very bad talk. They came from another place and gave us their *kawo*. Yet we do not respect them and we did this to their son." So all the people, and the boys and girls, came together crying. The *Wakeke Jiwo* *iyon* decorated the boy in *Wakeke* and wrapped up the body.

They kept crying until the sun was going down. People said, "We must bury him. He died in the morning. To keep him this long is not good. They are crying because it is their son. We must bury him for them. They came a long way, gave us their *kawo*, and we did this to them." So the people went up to get the son and took him away for burial. When they returned they boiled hot water and bathed all the four men and their wives. After this they stayed in their houses and didn't go out to the garden because

² *wa funa tafa ka ifen timosa* — "throw the body away".

they were sad about their small son. They stayed there for one month. Only one would go to the garden, so they had something to eat. They ate only that little bit. They didn't go anywhere.

No one was in the gardens, so pigs ate their taro and birds ate their bananas. They stayed until a second month went by. The sister then said, "You must not do this. He was only a small boy. We have left the gardens and now birds and pigs are eating up all of the food. All of you stay here. Only the second wife goes out and looks after the garden. All of you must not stay back. Your *kawara* will make sago. We will eat together and after that you all can go anywhere."

So the next morning all of the Wakeke Jiwo went to the garden except for the two brothers who had come out from the island. They stayed back. The rest went and worked in the garden. They came back, ate and slept. The next day they did the same. The younger said to the older, "It is all right to take the little girl anywhere she wants. You can take her to the cemetery to see her brother's grave. But you must not leave her alone." So the girl, the father and the younger brother went to the grave. When they got there they cried and threw themselves on it. When the sun descended, they called out, "Wakeke Jiwo, we came here and you were born. Now you have died, so we must return to our place." When the little girl heard that, she began crying and they had to carry her back to the house.

They told the daughter, "We came here and you were born. We gave the bigger of our *Wakeke* to the people. But now we will take the small *Wakeke* back to our own place — we won't leave them here. At any party you will see the people wearing the big *Wakeke*; but not the small ones, because we are taking them back." They gave some *Wakeke* to the daughter and told her to stay back, but she said, "I will come with you, back to your place. I won't stay here. If I grow up here and get married, who will I say 'ro', 'yei', or 'fin' to? I have no relatives here and all my aunts are *eero*. I am your daughter, so I'm coming with you." But here fathers said, "You'll stay back. When your fathers and mothers come back from the garden tell them the whole story. We came here but the people were not good to us and your elder brother died. So it is best for us to leave this place."

They told the daughter, "We will take you to where we looked after your brother and he fainted." So they went to the place where they ate fish with the son. They rolled on the beach and wept. The elder brother said to his daughter, "You see those two waves?³ Those are your grandparents. I and your father must go into them. But you are too small and so must stay on this beach." The small girl said, "No, I will go with you." Then she cried. They felt sad, and cried too. The waves were waiting but they could not go because they were crying.

At last the fathers said, "You wait here too long and your fathers and mothers are waiting." She looked around and at that moment the brothers dived into the waves and were carried away. When she looked back they were gone. She threw herself down on the beach and wept and wept. She dived in the water thinking she would find her fathers, but she could not. She cried all the way back to her house.

In the afternoon, her mothers and fathers came back from the garden and saw the girl sitting down.

"Where are your fathers?" She started crying and said, "They took me down to the beach and then went away to their own place. They took only the small *Wakeke*, leaving the big ones for us." So all those *Wakeke Jiwo* spoke. "When your fathers came here they gave me and your father *Wakeke*. We stayed and made gardens together. We hunted together. Your two fathers married first. You and brother were born but our wives were barren. Your brother died. Why should they go now? They should stay back. All of us worked together. We never argued. This is very bad. They told lies and went away."

They said, "*Nene*. Just because your brother died, your two fathers left us with these big *Wakeke*. We won't see the small ones because they took them to their own place."

They took them down and so the ones they gave to their daughter are the ones we use today. Just the big ones. We do not see the small ones anymore. We decorate and tie the big ones now, the ones that they gave to their daughter.

³ waves = *boriman*

Recorded by John Barker in Ganjiga village
Spell checked May 15, 1995 (requires proofing)

Notes 27 Oct 1986, Naomi [P21]

She heard the story from Cecil Abel at Uve—doesn't know if others know that sotry. The story belongs to those Uve people; it was told by their grandparents and passed down. Cecil Abel worked in Lae and it was there that he told her the story. It took them three nights to complete because she had to get up early.

Just heard the story that one time.

There is nothing wrong in passing the story on and telling others
--had told it to others in the village before me

On the tape is Stonewigg and Deacon Russell also on the tape—in the middle and then goes on