

Babaruga Jiwo¹ lived in the village. He was a strong man. When there was a fight he would lead the people and they would go out fighting. His wife would go to the garden to get taro and bananas while her husband was fighting. She would cook the food and take the skins (*kosin*) to her father-in-law saying, "Stinky eyes (*Mata maraz*), this is your food." She always gave her *rawa* these *kosin*. He always put it in the corner until the rubbish mounted up. When he was hungry he would go down under the house and eat the food the woman left out for the pigs and dogs. Then he would go to sleep.

The son went fighting and came back. He sat down and thought, "I never go to see my father so now I must go up and see him." He stood on the verandah and called, "*Yabi! Kutauke-yin!*" The father called, "Who?" "I am Babaruga Jiwo." The father called again and the man repeated, "I'm Babaruga Jiwo."

The father said, "come up and see me." He went up to the house and the father said, "My son, you see this corner? This is the food your wife gives me to eat. Those *kosin* are for me. When I'm hungry, I go under the house to eat the bits of taro your wife leaves for the pigs and dogs. Then I go back up slowly to my place."

The son was really upset so he didn't go out to fight again. He went up into his house and slept. When he woke up he got his decorations, put on a new tapa cloth, put neclaces and tied his feathers. He got his *kain* and dipped it in the river. A big storm then came and that river flooded. A *seyo* banana grew beside the river. It was swept away into the flood. So Babaruga Jiwo got his spear, jumped on the *seyo* and floated down the river. At the bottom of the river was a big village. They were his enemies. His sister had married in that village and given birth to many sons.

All the boys from that village were bathing in the river. The first born son of the sister was named Babaruga Jiwo. When they saw Babaruga Jiwo coming down they all were frightened and ran to the village. But the little Babaruga Jiwo hid under a tree with his brothers, watching their *yaa* come down. The boy recognised him and said to his brothers, "That's our *yaa*, my *nombi*, coming." So they called out, "*Yaya*, why are you coming to this place?" Babaruga Jiwo jumped up and asked, "What is your mother's name?" They told him and he knew that it was his sister.

They said, "Uncle, these people are really bad. Keep on the river, don't come in here. When these people chop firewood, they say, 'Babaruga Jiwo is firewood.' When they fetch water they say, 'Babaruga Jiwo is water.' When they pull leaves they say, 'Babaruga Jiwo is leaves.' So don't come in here. When these people get those things they say, 'We should eat Babaruga Jiwo!'"

The small boys took their uncle. When they got to the *soa*, they told him they were at the boundary. He hid himself there, while they went up to their house. They didn't play. The sun went down and the mother came back from the garden. As she came in, she saw nobody there. So she asked, "What has happened? Usually when I come back from the garden these little boys run and greet me. They ask for sugar cane or papaya." She went up and opened the door. She saw her four sons lying down. "What happened to make you lie down?" She kept asking but they did not want to tell her because they were worried about their uncle who was hiding behind the house.

Late in the afternoon as the sun was setting, they said to their mother, "Take this rubbish to the *so*. When you get there you will see a banana. Throw it there." "Why should I go?" she demanded. But the children replied, "Go and throw the rubbish there."

So the mother went all the way to the *so*. When she was about to throw the rubbish she saw her brother there. "*Yau!* Why did you come down? The people have always talked about you. Why did you come down?"

¹Babaruga is just a name with no significance.

He replied, "Your *wivi* was not kind to our father so I came down." So when it got dark, the sister took her brother back up to her house. The sister told her brother and he lay on the *fana*. She got a mat to hide him.

The husband was with some other men in the *varo*. They were telling stories about fighting. He came home to his house. When he opened the door he found his wife crying.

"Why are you crying?" he demanded.

"I thought about my father, so I'm crying."

"If your father was living by himself we should go and see him. But he is with your brother. Your brother is not good so we cannot go and see him," the husband replied.

The wife continued crying. The husband said, "Why are you crying?" She didn't answer but gave him his food. As she continued crying, he asked again, "Why are you crying? What happened?"

"Your *kawara* came here and is lying on the platform. His wife was not good, so he came here."

So the husband cried out, "Oh! Tell my *karawa* to come out and sit here. We will eat together. Come and sit down. Why are you lying there? I look after this village."

So the wife pulled off the mat and Babaruga Jiwo came out. The husband said nothing but thought, "This is the strong young man who killed so many of our men. This is our enemy."

After eating they all lay down to sleep. On one side of Babaruga Jiwo lay his *nombi*; his sister was by his legs; the other boys were on the other side; and the husband lay apart.

In the morning when the rooster crowed, the husband woke up while Babaruga Jiwo lay fast asleep. The husband got up quietly and went out to tell the people. After he went out, the eldest son got up and closed the door. He woke his brothers up. "Get up. Our father went to tell the people. When they come back they will kill our uncle. So you two brothers must guard this door. I am the eldest and his *nombi*, so I will stand beside him and fight."

The husband did wake the people and they armed themselves. But when he came back he found the door was barred. "Open up! Who did this?" he called out. The two brothers guarded the door while Babaruga Jiwo and his *nombi* climbed up on the roof.

Then the two brothers opened the door. As their father came in, they speared him.

Then the fight started. All the people tried to get to the house, but the two on the bottom were spearing and killing them. The two on the roof threw spears and kept the people away. They wanted to set up onto the house but couldn't and said, "Keep out of the house!"

They fought until the sun was going down. Babaruga Jiwo said, "*Nombi*, your aunt is no good so I came here to die. If I wanted to fight these people they would all die. But I want them to kill, butcher and eat me. So I came. When they kill me all my ornaments and necklaces are yours. Take them. Then these people will butcher me. When they butcher me, take my intestines and go to the river. Don't take them to the big river, but the small one and was them there. The next morning you will see something there."

So they killed the uncle. The *nombi* got his decorations. After they singed and butchered him, the *nombi* took his intestines to the small river. He washed them there. He came back and slept with his brothers. When he came back in the morning he saw red flowers in the river called *barubaru*. They came from Babaruga's intestines. They went back, got their mother, and went to see their grandfather. They lived in his village. He died and they buried him.