

? written down c 1995-97

## Spirit Story

Once in a big village a spirit man come out during the night, walking from end to the other. One night he was doing when a little boy was crying for veri. "Mommy, I want to eat veri," She said, "~~There is~~ ~~is~~." "Where are you going to get veri." While she was talking, the spirit heard and move closer to the entrance. He asked, "Why is he crying out?" "He is asking for veri." "Yes, here it is. Come out and get some to eat." Then the old man ~~of~~ peeled off his skin and gave it to the mother who gave it to the boy and he ate. The spirit kept wandering about. Towards dawn he returned. "Where is the skin I gave you? Hand down my skin so I can go." They wondered "Oh, this not a real human but a spirit. He told us a lie. He gave us his skin and the boy ate it. So his father went down, speared and killed the spirit. He left him lying dead near the garden road where you go to or to go to garden. The people seeing him lie could either pass to the right or the left. He was lying there until it was almost midday. A boy covered with sores saw ~~that old~~ was walking that way and said, "Mom, why is that old man lying around and all the people pass him to the left or right?" So he had to

return to his father and said, "The old man was killed in the night. He is lying near the rocky beach. Can you help me bring him to the canoe so I can take him to the ocean and dump him out there?" So his father helped him carry the old man to the canoe platform. They pulled the canoe down. The boy got his paddle. He paddled and paddled to the middle of the ocean.

That old man began stretching. His hands and legs were moving. The boy said, "Ara, I was just bringing him out and he started stretching." The old man opened his eyes and said, "Do you see that island over there? Paddle me to that island and let me stay there." The boy said, "Ara! I thought he was dead but why is he getting up and talking?" While the boy thought this, he repeated, "Take me to that island and leave me there." That boy paddled and paddled and at last they reached the island. He pulled the canoe partly on shore. They both went and settled under a ganga tree. They cleared the place and settled there until dark and then they ~~at~~ slept. In the middle of the night, a big storm came and shook the place. As this happened all

the eggs, betelnut, coconut, the house all appeared. The boy awoke during the storm. He wonders, "Am I safe?" This ~~was~~ thundering continued until daybreak. The next day the boy looked around and saw all of these good things. He was very surprised to see betelnut, and all these ~~other things~~ coconuts and eggs. That morning the grandfather said to get their things and move into the house. So they moved in and settled there. They were there until dark. The next morning this boy went out and looked around the place. There was plenty of food. The plants were so heavy they hung away heavy with the crops, all ripe.

They were having this good time and the boy said, "Abu, we have stayed here a long time and now I should return to my ~~to~~ mother's father." The spirit said, "Oh, alright." So he ~~got~~ cut and made him a piece of bark for the back of the head and wrapped it up. The old man said, "Take it up." He said, "This is mine - take it." After you get back, whenever you want something, speak to this and I will hear you." So he took that and paddled and paddled back. His ~~late~~ mother's father said, "We thought you were gotten lost and died at sea. But you were alive and you

have returned home?" "Yes. I took my grandfather to  
dump into the ocean but he asked to me to go to one island  
so we stayed there. In the night a huge garden appeared.  
I had had a good time eating and drinking these things  
and now I have returned to the village." They said, "Oh."

The Uawo of that place had a daughter so pretty that  
you would not be able to keep your eyes off her.  
Nearly all the young men in the village were dying for her.  
But the chief told Dajari, "You will marry my daughter."  
The spirit man had said, "You are going to marry  
this girl." He had turned his heart so that she  
really loved this boy despite his sores. One night  
Dajari wandered near the girl's house. She came down  
the steps. She married him and they went up. The  
next morning, "Are you staying? We were all after this  
girl but she married this crippled." Others said, "Oh,  
who said that? We were all after her and ~~she~~ now  
she had married?" That night he took the girl, got  
his canoe and they left for his grandfather's place. They  
said, "Oh, can a boy like that marry a girl like her?  
We were all dying for her and now he will marry her?" They  
decided to talk further the next day.

Next dawn all the young men in the village got their  
paddles and got on to a big canoe and they all went

While they were coming, the old man could feel enemies coming. So he told his grandson and his wife, "Are you there? Enemies are coming! Village people" They were paddling paddling. The couple could see them ~~in~~ out there. They said, "Here they are!" ~~The old man said~~ just like the old man said they would. They came up to the shore. They were coming up and the boy said, "Ahu! They are coming up!" Eh, let them come. Let them come." Just then the villagers walked right through the place. He said, "m m m m m m". As soon as the old man stretched up and said they, they got frightened and ran away. Their roofs were falling off! They just ran naked to the water threw themselves in, pulled out their canoes, got on, paddled etc. back to the village.

All the village people asked, "What happened? Did you get her?" They said, "No, ~~because~~ the old man stretched out - we got scared and came back." The people said, "Oh, what old man chased you off?" An ~~old~~ <sup>the</sup> woman said, "Oh, you ~~had~~ <sup>had you from</sup> and didn't get the girl. Tomorrow we will go and bring her back." The rooster crowing, <sup>she wove</sup> they got up, got on a big canoe and set off. ~~to the old man's~~ The old man already knew they were on their way. So he.

is you wife

called out again, "Coying! This time women are coming down. They saw the canoe on its way. They said, "H. They are here". The canoes came to shore, they got their clubs and weapons and went up. That old man did the same, stretching and making angry sounds. This time the women were so frightened they dropped their suits as they ran back to the canoes & paddled back to the village.

what happened?

They people asked, "Did you get her?" "No, we couldn't." Again the people said, "Ay! You couldn't do it." After they left, the boy and his wife stayed in the grandpa's place. They had a good time, eating and drinking. The girl's father and mother thought of them and said, "We must go and visit them." So they got on their canoe, got on it and went off to the island. They came and lived with them for some time and then returned home again. The old man said, "I have had enough of being with you. You must take me out to the middle of the ocean and drop me. Then go backwards, wait and see what happens." He advised them of what to do when they got to the ocean. His grandpa took him to the canoe, on platform, paddled right down to the ocean. He threw him in the ocean.