

The story of Noubwehwe and The daughter
of Kuribaba.

When Beiamatekai was a man he lived at Busariki, and he had a slave named Noubwehwe, whose work was to cook fish. And whenever he burned his fingers he was beaten until his head was broken. When he had had his bellyful of beating he was sent away and given to eat of the bellies and heads of fish, for that was all the food he got.

Noubwehwe had a tree on the eastern beach, a 'ren' tree where he used to sleep. And one night as he slept he dreamed a dream of a woman who came in a canoe from the East. And when he awoke he saw the woman coming to him. She stood before him and asked him, "Is there a well here, for I would draw my water?" He answered, "Here it is", and he went with her. Then he said to her, "You are Nii

Nunianoa. I dreamed your name. I wish to marry you and you cannot refuse me." And Mui Nunianoa was astonished when Noubwebe knew her name, but he had known it before he saw her because he had dreamed it in his dream. And this was the reason of his dream - he had often thought how he should get him a wife and strong children; he never ceased to dream about it. So he married Mui Nunianoa. They lay together. She was great with child. She was brought to bed. But lo, no child came forth; only wind. She was again great with child. She brought forth the girl Mui Uamurimuri. And she had another child, Namikaina, and another, Tau Tabutoa, and another, Mui Nono.

Then there came the day of fishing for the 'maebo' which is King's meat, and Noubwebe went to cook the food for Beiana Tekai. And as his habit was he burnt his fingers and sucked them.

passing sore, so they broke his head for him and sent him away with the bellies and the heads of fish for his food. So he came to his children and they said to him, "Whence come you?" He answered, "I came from my masters in the north, over there. But don't begin to make a noise, for they are a dangerous folk, and if my head is broken don't complain unless you wish to be killed. And don't say "What an evil thing is this!" So his children said, "What shall we do? Certainly they are a perilous folk." So Nonwebeve said, "What can we do? Thus it has been from the beginning." So his children said, "It is enough, let us go and find another place to live in."

Then Nii Numanoa died, and Nonwebeve with his children took the craft *Teakabutoatoa* and sailed away to Kuria and Aranuka. But behold *Beiamafekai* heard where he

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was. They launched their craft *Trakabeia*
and sailed after him. They came to
Abemama, but word came to *Norobelwe*
that they were near so he fled to *Noronti*.
But they could not make the island because
of the wind and current. Behold they
were swept away to *Banaba*. Then the
eldest son tried for *Noronti*; but he was
beaten back. And the second son tried,
but he was beaten back. And the third
son tried, but he was beaten back. So
they said to their sister "Try". She tried
and so they came to the south end of
Noronti. They hauled their canoe
high and dry. So they came to the place
called *Bareatan* and they slew the
people in the village. They slew the chief
whose name was *Tabaka*: he died; and
Tabuta married his wife and they
all lived at *Bareatan*. And *Beia ma*
Tikai heard that *Norobelwe* had gone
again to *Noronti* so they followed him.
But when they arrived at the islet of

Nonumatong they were recognised from land by Tabutoa, and all the children of Nonbwebwe said, "They never cease following us". And Tabutoa said, "They have nearly reached shore", He had hardly spoken before he fell dead, and Beia ma Tekai arrived. All of them cried before Beia ma Tekai, and he asked, "Where is the man who is forever talking?" Nonbwebwe said, "Behold he is dead, because he is forever talking." Beia ma Tekai said, "Who is the woman sitting at his head?" They said, "It is Nei Teweia". He said, "Whose wife is she?" They said, "Tabutoa's wife". He said, "I will take her", so Teweia did not refuse but went with him. But she was already great with child of her first husband; and Tabutoa also got her with child; and Beia ma Tekai also.

After a time Nonbwebwe ran away from Nonanti and went to Tabitene. And when Beia ma Tekai

said "Where is Noubwebwe?" Nei Teueia answered, "Lo, he is gone with his children." So Beia ma Iekai said, "It is enough. We will follow them to Tabitenea."

Now when Noubwebwe came to Tabitenea he and his children slew all the people of Temanoken and Kabubuarunga. And Obaiia was there at that time, but them they did not slay. Only Noubwebwe, and his children, and Obaiia were left in that place. Then Beia ma Iekai with his wife Teueia came to Tabitenea and were gathered together with Noubwebwe and his children and Obaiia. And lo, Teueia was about to be delivered. She said, "Lo, I am about to be delivered. I beg you to take me back to Bem, my home." And they took her to Bem, and lo she gave birth to a son, Janintoa. But lo she again gave birth, but she died, for the child brake forth from her skull. So Beia ma Iekai went back to Temanoken. And he said to Obaiia, "Where is the woman

Kirirere", and Obaiia said, "Here she is."

Beia ma Tekai said, "I beg you to give her to me." Obaiia said, "Here she is."

Beia ma Tekai said, "Woman, what is your will?" She answered, "It is good." They married: they lay together: she brought forth a child Teboi.

The histories say that Teboi went to Onotoa where a very powerful chieftainess was spoken of. Her name was Komao. And

Beia ma Tekai heard of her and sailed with his fleet thither. And he ketch'd Nii Komao to be the wife of his son Teboi. And she had a son by Teboi whose name was Tekiari and a daughter, Tabiria. And Tekiari married and had a son called Matakobu the King, whose son was Totamibia.