

***Okein Fight* Jairus Ifoki Book: 7-84; #58**

I'm going to tell a story about the Okeina people. Buna Doboia Wanigela, that's the one I'm going to say. Maisin people don't know Buna Doboia. They don't know. Okeina Ambotofo they also don't know. Okeina Ambotofo and Yeo Arifama, they used to fight there and we used to hear about it. They used to kill each other. They used to take their villages. It went on. They used to hear about it. Their name used to come here and they heard about it. Maisin people stayed here in their village. Yeo Arifama were fighting there. When they were fighting at Yeo Arifama were fighting there. When they were fighting at Yeo Arifama, Kare, Kanviniafiti, Baruga -- they chased all of them and they are coming this way. They came and they are headed towards Maisin. What's happening? Buna Doboia is coming and I'm not staying properly, because they are killing my people so I'm coming this way. Let's kill them and eat them.

They came past Daiya; they came past Talama and stayed there. There was no food, so they wanted to kill humans and eat them. So they came down to Miniafi and killed them. Vona Navarari they killed. They used to kill people. Small kids they would pull by the legs and take them down and eat them. They stayed till the morning and then they were coming this way. They came up to Aiyuwan, past the point and came up. As they came along they met a Wanigela man who had gone fishing. When they saw that Wanigela man, they said, "Don't let that man go. If he goes, what will we eat." So they killed that man. They took him up the beach, butchered him and ate him.

They slept there and the next morning they came across to Wanigela beach. They slept at Wanigela beach. They called on the beach and they faced eastwards and were eating their left-overs. While they were staying there, Kuvi Oyan -- all the women and children were frightened and ran away into the bush. All the women and children went into the bush and only the men were staying in the village. They were sitting on the canoes eating the left-overs while the village people got frightened and ran right down. A Maisin woman got married at Wanigela and was staying there. She got up and she thought about her people so she came down this way. She came to Bonando Pt. and got the conch shell and started blowing it. Woooo!. When the Maisin people heard that, they said, "What's happening? What's happening?" The message came and the Maisin people said, Buna Doboya came. They came to Wanigela and are staying there. "Ari! Don't come quick, we have to get our feathers."

They tied their feathers, then they got their spears danced and went and said, "It's o.k. I can go in." And then all of them got up and went across Bonando Point, went into the bush. They didn't follow the beach they went behind where those trees are. They are going under the trees called Ute and Garandi. As they came, more Maisin followed them. It went on and on until they came to Yuayu. They went across Yuayu river and then went up across Mongasi River. Then they came to Fofu village. When all of the Maisin were there they said, "It's o.k., I'm going to show them."

When those people came to Wanigela they finished all of Wanigela people. They all ran away. Okeina Ambotofo came up and took the village. All the people took to the bush. All their fighting men were there staying at Wanigela.

The Maisin people went to the Tekwakwan and from there they led the way. They went down to the beach and lined up there on the beach. When those Maisin went down to the beach, it was just like the darada tree standing on the beach. The Maisin people stood on the beach and saw the people at Wanigela. And the Wanigela people stood there and saw the Maisin people. There was a river and one group was on one side looking across and the other was on the other side. They were staying like that. Those people looked and said, "Oi! Bush people coming." They didn't say Maisin. Maisin people were saying, who is going to pass me a spear. And they were saying, who will pass me a club. They were talking amongst themselves: Wondi, Joba they said, "You pass it." "Wondi, Joba, pass the spears." Then a man called Sovera, "I'm going to pass spears." He got his spears and checked his spear and he said, "I'm going to throw my spear (in Maisin = 'pass')." So he got his spear, came forward quietly. When he came to the river, he let go the spear. His spear went

through Okein Ambetofu. When the spear shot them, all of them ran and came to Fofu River. They were going here and there. Some of them dived into Fofu River. All the Maisin people shouted "Yah!" And they threw their spears. "You people are not keeping away from our spears."

Yeriso said, "My chief friend, they are not getting away from the spears." He said to Beremu, "Our friends are not getting away from the spears. Waiko, your friends are not getting away from the spears." From there the Maisin people were really hot. Buna Dobayo used to get up and swing his head. Ume-Rerebin, Gafi-Simboro. No! We are going to come across! Buna Dobayo used to shot and stand in one place. Ume-Rerebin, Gafi-Simboro were shooting and going forward. The Maisin went forward and came down to the river. The water was as deep as their stomach. There they were still fighting. They went forward and went to the other side. When they went up to the other side, Jinongi -- a man grew and he was really a bad man. They wanted to go with him, but he might stop the fight, so they left him behind. His name was Yamu. If they go with Yamu he might stop the fight, so they left him.

They went down. They were seeing it. They were going. They went onto the beach. Then he came back and told the son, "Kava! If you stand here will you get the man. Come let's go up." So he took him up to the end of the mangroves. From there he swam with his son. While he was doing that those people were still fighting. They were fighting and saying, "These people came to get the village, so we must fight with them." They kept on fighting. That old man swam across. He went up. Vona fuesi went on the beach. They said, "Are you fighting here? People went across the river already." Then that man went across and went. Yamu was staying when Dava said, "Yabi there is a spirit man coming up. Daddy this is not a human being, it is a spirit man coming up here. Daddy, he is shooting!" He missed and then he got up again and shot. He said, "jinogau!" When the people saw with their own eyes that this man had shot someone, they fought much harder. He had speared a man.

From there the Maisin really spoiled everything. They killed all of the people. They killed all the Okein Ambetofu, just like they were pulling a mat. Maisin boys shot them and then cut their heads. They threw their heads in water. They went on until they killed all the people there and that beach was filled with dead people. Those people who came were all wiped out. Only the people who stayed back survived. Those people who got frightened, they went back and they are staying there. They didn't forget about it, but they are still thinking on it.

Recorded by John Barker

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