

Their parents died and there was no one to help them. Those three brothers used to take care of their sister. They took her out to the garden, worked there and came back. Then they would go out fishing. At that time no one would cook for them, so those three brothers did the cooking. One would peel taro, the other fetched water, and the other chopped firewood. They worked together and ate together. They stayed by themselves. No one looked after them and no one gave them food. The people in the village made their big gardens, but they never gave food to these children when they returned home. These brothers and sister never went when the villagers held feasts and dances. They just stayed in their house.

One morning after they got up, the elder brother told his younger, "It is just us. Our parents died and these people never help us. When they go fishing they never give us fish. So we must cut basowi string and make our fishing net. Then we will go out and throw it." So after eating food, the three brothers went to the bush and cut basowi. They cut the basowi down and came back to the village. They started to peel and take the strings out of the basowi. When they finished this, they ate and slept. The next morning they got up and continued working at pulling out the fibres. As they were doing that, the youngest brother told the others, "You work on this basowi. I'll go with our young sister to the garden and get some food." They went to the garden. The boy quickly collected taro and cut banana. They carried them back to the village. When they came back they cooked food and ate together. Those three brothers went nowhere, every morning they sat there and worked on that fishing net. When they finished they went into the bush and cut kifa. They cut out the middle part for the float (goato). They tied them on and then collected gorago shells and tied them on for the weights. When they finished it was getting dark, so the three brothers cooked food again and ate. When they finished, the elder brother told the youngest one, "In the morning, you and I will go out to catch fish. The second born will go with our young sister to the garden."

So the next morning the eldest and the youngest brothers went out fishing while the second born and the sister went to the garden. In the garden, the second born cleaned the place, planted new taro and weeded. When it was afternoon, the brother got taro and bananas, put them in a string bag, put it over his shoulder and told the sister, "It is time to go back." So they started back to the village. When he came to the village, he went up into the house and started cooking food. At that time, his brothers came back with plenty of fish and began to cook them. After eating they slept.

They kept doing that -- two brothers would go out fishing while the other would go to the garden with their sister. Then they would cook and eat together. They were doing that when the village boys and girls put on a big party. They were all dancing. The girl was big enough and so said to her brothers, "I'll just go and watch." The boys agreed but said, "You must come home early." When she went the big girls saw her and said, "Everytime we perform manguvia here your three brothers do not join us. Why is that? They always stay put catching fish and making gardens -- looking after and feeding you. Why is that? When you are big are they going to marry you? Is that why they don't come to manguvia?" But some other girls said, "Don't say that to her. They do not have a father or a mother to look after them. They have to make the garden, hunt and fish to look after their small sister. Don't say that." When the small girls heard that she ran all the way to the house and called out, "Yeiye, when I went to that place all those girls asked me, "Why do your brothers never come to manguvia? They always stay and make gardens, hunt and fish. When you grow big are they going to marry you? That's what they said to me. After they said that, other girls said, 'Why are you saying that? They have no father and mother and so they have to do all this work to look after their sister.'" The brothers got up and said, "If you want to dance you can dance. You know how. But we have no father and mother and so we have to make the garden, hunt and fish

in order to look after you. When you are big enough we will go to the manguvia. Why did they say that to you?"