

The story of the canoe of Bakanaonku I  
assisted n.b.o.

He came from Mone,<sup>on</sup> the western side of heaven, and the people of his canoe were Nei Ketowa, and Nei Kororana, and Nei Bunginas, and Nei Taorabea, and Nei Karemakuna, and Nei Batangitang, and Jainibakarokars, and Ba-n-onouti, and Ba-ni-Karikiriki. [They landed by the village of Tabiang].

Nei Kororana stayed on the shoal in the sea. And Ba-n-onouti with Ba-ni-Karikiriki stayed on the beach. And Nei Batangitang stayed under the shelving rock, and Bakanaonku stayed on the rock pinnacle facing west. And Nei Ketowa, and Nei Karemakuna, and Nei Bunginas, and Nei Taorabea, and Jainibakarokars were taken up eastwards into the village of Tabiang. And this was the ~~habit~~ of that company: They visited with sickness the people who passed near them, for they visited them with boils and sore eyelids. And so they lay with none in wedlock, by reason of that habit of sending sickness. And so they remain until these days; their bodies remain as stones.

Only Bakanaonku's body is not to be seen nowadays. And (as for) the habits of that man Bakanaonku, he was different from mortal men, for when he went to fish, he carried no line and he carried no hook. Indeed, he walked westwards, striking westwards ~~among~~ to the edge of the net, to lie there; and when a shark or a stingray passed over him he ~~wound~~ <sup>strung</sup> it on his string of sinnet, and carried it eastward to his dwelling-place. After that he hewed the

firewood for his meal. <sup>-2</sup> And all the people heard when he was busied with the firewood, and they said, "Your friend Bakananoku has got a meal, for he is again busy with his firewood." And after that, his fire smoked, and it was seen by the people. And again, his fire burned, and ~~the burning of the fire was also~~ ~~the smoke was also~~ ~~seen~~ ~~seen~~ When it burned, the burning of his fire was like the lightning, and not in the likeness of true fire.

And the next morning (the people) went to see that place, and it was indeed true that the barbs of stingrays and the teeth of sharks were there; and if you would pick them up you could not, for they clave to the rock. And in these days, the place where they were is called Ao-ni-Bakananoku.\*

That man Bakananoku was once seen by a woman: she was sleeping; it was night, and she dreamed that Bakananoku was ~~walking before her~~ coming out of the west. And he spoke to her, for he loved her, and desired to <sup>lie</sup> sport with her. And as for her, she awoke, and she saw that man, for he stood before her. He said, "I love thee, and I shall sport with thee." And that woman refused, for she was afraid, for she thought that he looked like no mortal: <sup>indeed</sup> he was like ~~coal~~ water on the reef, and his head, she thought, was

\* The pinnacle of rock where Bakananoku is said to have dwelt is still there. Until lately, the petrified similitudes of shark-teeth and stingray barbs, referred to in this tale, were also to be seen. But Gilbertese visitors have chipped them from the bedrock, and removed them secretly, for purposes of magic, without a doubt.

stinging) like a jellyfish, and his genitals were surpassingly big, perhaps ~~|||||~~ a fathom long. That was why the woman was afraid; so she refused to <sup>lie</sup> sport with Bakanaonoka.

And Bakanaonoka had a child, though his wife was not known. And his child stayed in a cave facing west, and he is like a doll to see.