

Dopa piamanopa, anda tange dokonya endakali dupame naima kondo kaeyapala, mapu lopao mandyoo, naima kutao epeami-pyaa. Epeaminopa, enda wanakupi dokaitame nakau minatae anda kambu dokonya mee kateami. Kateaminopa, naima andakoteaka paliu alemandi jiama. Dokopa enda wanakupi dupa pateaminopa, naima elyakalao mapu dupa nyoo neama. Mapu napeamanopa, yuu tange dupame naima kondo kaeyapala kapusa mendapu lyao diami. Dopa piaminopa, naimame kapusa dokaita mandyoo, kaitini andaka peama.

By that time the family of the boy's uncle felt sorry for us and went out looking for us to give us the sweet potatoes. But the women and girls were still standing by the door of the house holding the stinging nettles. So we just stayed inside the house until the afternoon. When the women and girls finally left, we quickly went outside to get the sweet potatoes. When we had finished eating them, the boy's uncle felt sorry for us and gave us some cabbage from his garden. So we put the cabbage in our bags and started back home.

Nakauwame Yangamana Leamino Doko

The Stinging Nettles

Enga, English
Enga Province, Papua New Guinea



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Awa mendatupa pateamopa, naimame endapi, wanakupi, dupa lamaiyoo, “Naima mapu lopo pyumuna, nyakama pupa” leama. Dopa leamanopa, enda wanakupi dupame lao pituu, “Nyakama mapu nanalamino. Naimame nyakama nakauwame yangatamano doko, nyakama mapu nalaminona” leami. Dopa leaminopa, naima mapu nanao awa mendatupa andakote dokonya paleama.

After a few hours had gone by, we said to the women and girls, “Go away! We're hungry!” But they said to us, “You will not eat anything until you let us hit you with the stinging nettles.” So we continued lying down inside the house for a few more hours.

Peamanopa, endapi, wanakupi, dupame naima nakauwame yangamana latala, watao epeami. Epeaminopa, naimame enda anda mendenya kaita doko kalupala, andakote kolandeama. Kolandatala kaita pai latala, andakote paleama. Paleamanopa, endapi, wanakupi, dupame kamaka katapala naima langyoo, “Nyakama nakauwame yangamana, kamaka pyakalyalapa” leami. Dopa leaminopa naimame dokaita lamaiyoo, “Naima nakauwame yangala naenge. Naima nakau paka kaengena” leama. Dopa latala, naima awa mendalapo andakote paleama. Mapu yaoweami dupanya nanao paleama.

As we ran away, the women and girls chased after us to hit us with the stinging nettles. But we broke down the door of a house and went inside. Then we closed the door and lay down inside. As we lay there, the women and girls stood outside saying to us, “Come outside! We are going to hit you with the stinging nettles!” But we said to them, “We do not hit people with stinging nettles. We are afraid of them.” And we spent a couple of hours lying down in the house without eating any of the sweet potatoes that the men of that place had steam cooked for us.

Gii mendepa wane kole mendeme naima wane kole longo pitaka langyoo, “Nambanya apange Surunki tange dokonya anda yangi akukamaiya monana” lea. Alemandi mendenya, baame kate basa mendenya naima wane kole longonya sambekea. Basa sambateamopa, naima baanya apange dokonya anda yangi akukamaiya Surunki peama. Surunki pateamanopa, anda tange dokome neepi, mapupi, dupa yangekea. Naima nee napala yuu kuiyamopa, wane dokonya apange dokonya andaka paleama.

One day a boy said to me and some other boys, “Let's go to my uncle's house in Surunki and pull some grass for him to build a roof.” So one afternoon, this boy paid the bus fares for all of us to go to Surunki. When we arrived in Surunki to pull grass for his uncle's roof, his uncle cooked vegetables and sweet potato for us. After we ate, it got dark outside, and we slept in the man's house.

Yuu yongeamopa, kakasa ee mendakaita yangi akukamaiya peama. Gii longo naima yangi akuu kateamanopa, yuu alemandi jia. Dopa piamopa, naima anda yangi dupa soo, anda yame pyakamaiya peama. Yuu tange akali dupame anda yangi toma mapu yaoweami-pyaa. Naima mapu lopao namana latala, malisoo peteama. Malisoo peteamanopa, akali yuu tange dokaitame mapu lopeami.

In the morning, we went out to the forest to pull grass for the man's house. We were there pulling grass until late in the afternoon. Then we carried the grass on our shoulders and went to build the man's roof for him. The men of that place were steam cooking some sweet potatoes for us in the ground as payment for our work. So we sat and waited until the sweet potatoes were ready, and then the men of that place removed the sweet potatoes from the ground.

Yuu dokonya nakau lenge ita yakane mende katenge. Nakau dokome embanya yonge dupanya watandatamo doko, eteteaka popo pyoo tanda pingi. Ee lapenge jingi. Akali yuu tange dupame mapu lopeaminopa, endapi, wanakupi, yuu tange dupame naima nakauwame yangamana latala, nakau dupa lakao yalo piami-pyaa. Naima mapu lopao namana latala peteamanopa, nakau dupa nyoo ipupala, naima yangalanya wateami. Wateaminopa, naima paka yuu londati mendakaita peama. Mapu dupa nanao paka peama.

A small tree that has stinging nettles grows in that area. If someone hits your body with the stinging nettles, it is extremely painful. It is enough to make you cry. While the men of that place were removing the sweet potatoes from the ground, the women and girls of that place were breaking off branches of the stinging nettles and hiding them so that they could hit us with them. So as we were sitting there getting ready to eat sweet potatoes, they came with the stinging nettles and chased after us to hit us with them. So we ran far away without eating any of the sweet potatoes.