

## Kuiyecoke and Puka Puka

In the first days of the world, there existed the very first two females. The first two women – the mothers of our world. Their names were Puka Puka and Kuiyecoke. Now they didn't live alone. They had a husband each who happened to be twins. And their husbands had been formed by the great creator God Kiuya who had taken earth and molded it into forms of humans. And then, after a small incision into the side of his body, had put some of his own blood into the mold and created these two people.

Kiuya had existed for all time. In fact, Kuiya had existed before time itself. And at one point for some reason or another, Kuiya gathered up all of the things necessary to create the planet Earth. And then he planted a massive tree whose branches rose up so high that they became the heavens with the starry fruit. But Kuiya didn't create any trees that bore fruit that the humans could eat. In fact, Kuiya didn't create any food on the planet Earth. No plants that made food, no animals that provided food for humans because the humans didn't need it. Kuiya provided everything that they needed. He lived along side of them. In fact, on this planet – uhh, let me start again. Heh heh – Okay.

In the earliest days of Earth, there lived the first women, Kuiyecoke and Puka Puka. Now they didn't live there alone. Their husbands were formed by Kiuya, the creator God, who had taken up earth and molded it into a human shape. Then, some of his blood inside of it, they had come to life. Kiuya had always existed. Before time itself, Kiuya was there. And at one point, Kiuya decided to create the Earth. And so, made it, and then planted on it a massive tree whose branches grew so high that they formed the heavens filled with all of its starry fruit. But Kiuya didn't create fruit trees on the Earth, fruit trees that the humans could eat from. He didn't create plants that humans could eat from. He didn't create any animals that the humans could eat from either. For he provided everything that the humans needed.

So Kuiyecoke, Puka Puka, and their husbands lived on the planet. And they lived on a planet without seasons, without death, without change at all. And you know what? They were bored. They were bored, and they would sit around and complain to each other. Especially Puka Puka and Kuiyecoke. They would say uh, this world! It's so still. It's so calm and peaceful. There's no excitement! There's no adventure! And they wouldn't confine their complaining just to themselves – no! They would go straight to Kuiya and they would tell him – Oh! Kuiya! What is this world? We are so frustrated with us. Why did you create us people with the ability to do when you do everything so we can do nothing? Kuiya, it's terrible!

This went on and on and on. And Kuiya began to grow so weary of hearing these complaints, and hearing this moaning. Finally, he said enough! I'm leaving. And so he called his two sons, the twins towards him and he said to them listen. I can't take the complaining of your wives anymore. I'm leaving here; I'm going up to the heavens. But, I just want you to know that at some point or another, I would like you to join me. The two sons didn't understand what he meant by this.

They went back and they told their wives and they were all discussing it, trying to figure out what Kiuya was trying to say when suddenly, something happened for the first time. The air which had always been still began to move. They felt the first winds on their face. And on these winds rode on strange fluffy objects. We know them as clouds, but they had never seen the clouds before. And these clouds gathered above until they grew so thick they covered the entire sky. And then thunder burst out for the first time. Lightning struck down and water fell. The first rains in all of existence fell from those clouds and it fell harder and harder and harder. And soon, it fell so thick that the air was filled with it and you could hardly see anything which is exactly what Kiuya wanted.

Kiuya knew that him leaving the Earth would be very, very difficult for his children. And he wanted to make it as easy on them as possible, so he created the rains to hide him. When he left they couldn't see it with their own eyes. But before he left, he went around the planet digging holes and planting eggs everywhere. Finally, when he felt like he had done enough with this, he stood very still. And soon a spark appeared on his forehead. And the spark grew and grew and bright light shown forth. And the light kept becoming brighter and brighter and brighter until it completely engulfed him. Rays of this light expanded outwards and became like massive wings which flying on them, he flew up past the clouds, through the rain and up into the heavens where he became the Sun. Now, he got up there and he said, uh, at last! Some peace and quiet. No more of that moaning and complaining! And everything was fine for a bit, but he became a bit lonely. And he knew that his sons, the twins, would come up and join him. But he wanted some other companion so he created the moon.

Back on Earth, three days the rains fell. And finally at the end of those three days, Kuiyecoke and Puka Puka one morning came into their hut to find their husbands, and found them dead. They couldn't understand what was happening. They had never seen death before. They tried to wake them up but they wouldn't awaken. They were screaming and yelling at them and they started to cry, but nothing would work. They didn't understand what could have possibly happened to their souls? But then they remembered the words of Kiuya and they thought, perhaps they have gone up and joined Kiuya in the heavens. And indeed they had. Kiuya had lifted them up. He placed one son in the east and another in the west and had given each of them ropes which were attached to Kiuya's body.

And so the son in the east would pull and pull and pull. And the son in the west would pull because they loved to have their father near them. And so, when the Sun was rising in the east, the one in the west would pull the Sun over towards him. And he was so excited when he got there that he would take out his flute and he would play a tune. And the son in the east would hear this and he would pull Kiuya through the other side during the night time and raise him up on the east. And the cycle would continue over and over and over. Now it was some comfort to the wives that their husbands were up there with Kiuya, but they still missed them sorely. But this was only the beginning of their problems for soon, they started to have these strange feelings in their stomach that they had never experienced before. Feelings that were dull aches and soon became sharp pangs. Ohh, they were hungry. Mmm.

And that wasn't it, there was still more because their stomachs started to feel funny and grow bigger and bigger and bigger. They were pregnant as well. The very first pregnancy. And this was still not the end of the newness for one morning they left their huts and they found surrounding them rows and rows of plants. Plants that they had never seen before, all over the place. Not knowing what these were, they went and explored, looking around. And Kiuya was looking down. He was happy that he could provide them with food now that he had left, but he wanted to explain to them what this was. So from the highest branches of that heavenly tree, he sent down a bird whose face was like a human and wings were like snakes. The bird flew down and explained to the two wives what these plants were. How to take care of them. How to harvest the food from them. How to prepare that food and also, how to save some of it so that they could plant it again for the next year.

The wives followed these instructions as closely as they could, and before too long, they had the very first harvest. And after that harvest, they gave birth to the very first children. They seemed to have gotten exactly what they had wanted. They had plenty to do, there was lots of activity. There was all sorts of excitement. Their time was occupied by farming and raising children, and things worked pretty well for them. In fact, all around them, people started to hatch out of those eggs. And so the excitement of meeting new people and forming friends, and their children forming friends – it was wonderful. They began living together in a community. And everything went very very well. Except, when Kiuya had been going around planting those eggs, in his haste to leave the planet, he had ended up planting too many eggs in one place and hardly any in another. And so, as more and more people started appearing, there was too many people in one place.

At first it wasn't too bad, but increasingly, as the years passed, this became more and more of a problem. The children of Kuiyecoke and Puka Puka grew into adults and they began quarreling with other people saying this land, you can't use this land. We need this land. There's too many people around. And they would fight back and then the fighting spread out into other areas. They would talk about no no no! You can't grow this food here, you have to grow that food. And then they would start comparing each other. No, my hut is bigger than your hut. And the fighting spread from strangers to neighbors to friends to family members. And everybody was fighting. And Kuiyecoke and Puka Puka, who were now old women, they looked on sadly, remembering a time when things were far more peaceful. And they tried to tell everybody, you need to calm down, you need to work together. You need to stop fighting. But no one would listen to them.

One day it got so bad that everybody in the village was out. Everybody was yelling at each other and screaming at each other. A few physical fights even broke out. When suddenly, the air grew chill, and the light, the light was growing dark. Someone looked up and screamed Kiuya, Kiuya! The Sun – he's growing dark! A shadow is engulfing him! Everybody looked up and they stopped their fighting. What's happening? Is this a sign? What does this mean? And as darkness took over all of the Earth around them, they looked around. And Puka Puka stepped forward and said finally! Now, will you listen to us? All eyes turned to the first mothers, and Kiuyacoke said, your fighting, it's like a

disease. First, it starts with a couple of you, and you feed it and make it grow bigger. And then it spreads to more of you and more of you. And look, now even the Sun and the Moon have caught this disease and they are fighting amongst themselves.

The people were afraid. They looked up at the Sun and they started yelling to Kiuya, stop fighting, stop fighting! As if they were trying to break up the fight. And it seemed to work. For a few minutes later, there was a flash of light, and the shadow passed. Kiuya returned to his fullness, but this didn't make the people feel very good at all because now they knew the Moon and the Sun were on bad, bad terms. And they were afraid maybe fighting would break out again. So immediately, one group of people ran to all the crossroads where they knew Kiuya liked to look. And they placed their forked sticks upon which they put offerings of food as if to say Kiuya, look! Here are gifts! Feel better! Don't be so upset! And other people ran back to their huts and they brought gifts to give to their neighbors and to their friends to make peace.

And soon, peace did come about. And in that peace, Kiuyacoke and Puka Puka sat down with a big sigh of relief saying – ahh, finally, a bit of quiet. And then they smiled and they said, this must have been how Kiuya felt all those years ago when we were the ones making all the noise, and we were the ones complaining. And the other wife said, yeah! It must be nice up there where it's so peaceful up in the heavens. And with that, they went back to their huts and went to sleep. Next morning when their children came looking for them, they found their mothers dead.

Around the same time, two new stars appeared in the sky, or so it seemed. One in the east at the morning time, and one in the west at the evening time. It seems that the two wives had fulfilled their destiny. Not only as the first mothers of the Earth, but in the meaning of their name, for Puka Puka means early morning, and Kiuyacoke means afternoon. The morning star and the evening star. Now, their wish had been granted and the world was no longer static. There were changes and there were cycles. And so the same with the peace that had come into that village. It passed out of existence. There was again fighting. There was again quarreling and violence among people. But, when it got so bad that even the Moon and the Sun began to fight and there was an eclipse, the people would remember the words of the first mothers, and they would immediately stop their fighting. And they would make offerings to Kiuya and Coke at the crossroads. They would give gifts to each other, and they would make peace. And for, if even just a little bit of time, they would stop thinking only about themselves. And they would think about the community at large.