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TOPIC: RESPECTInvestigator: WillieInformant: TAITUSI KOROIWAVEA of Nakini, Naitasiri.

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Respect is part of our daily life. For instance if I go to a village, as soon as I approach the first house I would do the TAMA (traditional greeting). As I will come near a house I would call out in a very polite manner the word DUA! Oo! The people who may be present in the house after hearing my voice would reply Ho! DUA! They will know at once that the person outside is a visitor to the village. The people inside invite and persuaded me to enter the house.

When I will be visiting a village, I should have some YAQONA in my hands, I should have some YAQONA and as soon as the people invited me inside the house, I would initially present the YAQONA I got to the people inside the house as my SEVUSEVU or MATAKIRAWA. This is the tradition presentation ceremony of welcome. What I am doing shows that I have respect. The people of that village would also show their respect by also presenting YAQONA to me as their SEVUSEVU or greeting ceremony. This is an exchange of respect between them and I. This is a kind of respect which should be used when you are a visitor to a village.

In the early days, you can not call from one house to another. You can not stand outside and call someone who is inside the house. You can not shout aimlessly in the village. If you will do this: you are showing no respect. The term for doing this

non-respect is term as DARAMA. If you want something or speak to someone, you should enter that person's house before speaking to him. If you want to borrow something from a person, you can not stand outside the house and speak out of your need. ~~you~~ You should go inside the house, sit down and inform in a polite manner of your need. Hence you are showing respect by doing this. Also respect in the manner you talk to the other person if you speak in a respectable manner, you should always use the word SAKA(sir) especially speaking to the elderly or chiefly ~~people~~ people.

If there is a ceremony to be held in a village, the women are asked to take their children away from the place. The children should not be a nuisance during a ceremony. The ceremony is a respectable occasion.

If there is to be a chiefly visit to be done in the village, clothes and everything hanging on the clothes-line should be taken down and kept nicely. This shows respect when the chief visits the village.

This also apply when a chief enters a house. No clothes should be hanging in the house. All should be brought down. Even if your coat is hanging on the side of your house, it should be taken down. This shows respect, when the chief will enter that house.

Another respect is shown between the brother and a sister. What ever the brother brings from the garden, the sister would not touch it or eat it. This shows the respect of the sisters ~~an~~ to the brother. The cooked food of any sort which is brought by a brother to the house, his sisters would not eat it. This same sort of respect applies to a man and his sister's children

Whatever food the man is going to bring or cook, his sister's children will not eat from it. The man's clothes are not even touched or worn by his sister's children. This shows respect of the children towards their uncle.

The sister or her children are not allowed to wash the clothes of her brother. This is their respect. If they will not observe these rules; it is a shame.

Another respect is shown in the making of the chiefly YAQONA ceremony. Everything should be done well. The people making the YAQONA-mixing, the guards sitting besides the TANOVA, the rope of the tanoa and the cup bearer should be thoroughly perfect. When the chief drinks, we should clap our hands after he has finished, this shows our respect. Only in the drinking of the chiefs is where the clapping of the hands occur. But today, anybody would clap as he wishes.

- You mentioned about the respect between a brother and a sister. Could you tell me more about this?

As I have mentioned before, the sister will observe many TABU just to show her respect towards the brother. For example, the sister can not wash her brothers' clothes. If some food like dalo or yam is brought by the brother, the sister can not eat from that food. This shows respect.

- I heard that respect between a brother and a sister is a very respectable one. I heard that they could hardly talk to one another.

For instance, the olden days, if a sister enters the house and saw her brother sitting there alone, she would not enter the house. She would call another girl or someone so to accompany

her when she will enter the house. While inside the house she would not open her mouth to speak. If she brother may speak out saying something good or bad to her, she would not reply. She will remain silent in the presence of her brother. This is respect for the sister.

- I wish if you could tell me about the respect between the people of the village and their chief; for instance the way they talk and sorts of other things.

In our place over here, if a person wants to speak up to the chief, he would clap his hands first before speak. When speaking he would speak in a very polite and respectable manner and also using the respectable word 'SAKA' or sir. That is respect. After that the person had spoken, he would clap his hands again to show his respect to the chief.

- Thank you I wish if you could tell me how will I express myself during a conversation with a chief, would I be acting funny or lift my voice or hands anyhow?

- In speaking with a chief, you should not forget the word 'SAKA' or sir. It should fit into your conversation every now and then. Chiefs often like people to keep them happy during conversation. Chiefs really like people sharing jokes with them. This type of people, the chief always want to be their side.

- I heard that respect is shown when the chief finishes his eating. I wish if you could tell me more about this.

Yes. There is respect for the chief after he has finished his eating. The people would clap their hands to show their respect when he finishes eating. Only for the big chief present in the

feasting table would clap their hands to show their respect. Nobody else. Every one present in the house would clap their hands.

- I heard that if somebody wants to take ~~your seat~~ something from a higher place; where at the same place someone is sitting underneath or nearby, I heard that the person should clap his hands. Could you tell me more about this respect?

Yes, that shows respect. If you are going to take something from a higher place, you should inform the person sitting nearby of your intention. If that person agrees to your request, you should clap your hands first before standing up to take what you want. As you stand up and stretch your hand to reach you should say out TULOU.....TULOU.....

After you had the things you would come back and sit down properly on the floor and clap your hands again. That shows that you have respect.

Another respect is shown when you shall enter a house. You cannot walk into a house with your back straight. To show respect when you shall enter a house, you should lower your back and head when you walk up to take your seat. If the house seems to be full of people, you can not walk pass anybody to take your seat. That is not respect, you would have respect if you would crawl pass the people to take your seat.

Secondly, if there is a ceremony in a village, everyone knows exactly where to take his seat. Chiefly people are seated on the top always and rest sitting at the rear facing them. If you know that your seat is beside the TANOVA then you might as well remain there. If you know that you should be outside as

a guard, then you better be there. You would be showing respect if you are at the right place if you are at the right place, at your right seat in any ceremony.

- You mentioned TULOU is a respectable word. Could you tell me the meaning of this word?

As for as this word is derived from, I have no idea of its meaning. But I know that the word is used to show respect. For example if you are walking past someone in the house or trying to get something from a top shelf, you would show respect by saying the word TULOU.

- Thank you very much. You mentioned that if someone enters a village he should TAMA (greeting) by saying the word DUA! O! is showing his respect. Is this respectable traditional greetings used by the woman too or.....

The woman will not call out any TAMA (greeting) as she enters a village. She will only call out her greetings when she will be at the front of any house, especially at the chief's house by saying DU-A! DU-A! These words shall be spoken in a very polite manner. Hearing these greetings words the chiefs would invite the women or visitors to enter the house. If the chief is present in the house, he is the only one to respond to that greeting and invite the visitors whoever it may be.

- If there is a visitor, the visitor will enter a village in the night without seeing someone, the first house he would come across he would call out in a very polite manner saying SA BOGI SAKA (it's night sir). The people who will know at once that a visitor is outside and they would invite ~~and~~ him to enter the house. This type of greeting is especially known for

visitors coming into the village during the night. This shows the respect of the visitor entering a village.

- Is the TAMA used by the women too during the night?

I have not heard of it. This is especially for men. The women have their greeting during the day but I don't know whether they got one for the night or not.

- I heard that if a woman meets a chief on the way, she would clear the way and sit on the ground to show respect to the chief. I wish if you could tell me more about this?

Yes, that is true. The men would also clear the way when he meets the chief on the way. But he will not sit on the ground. The man who will approach his chief on the way will at first call out the TAMA (greeting) before shaking hands with the chief. After shaking hands, the man should sit on a lower himself to the ground and clap his hands. That shows his respect when meeting the chief on the way.

As for the women, they would remain seated on the ground until the chief turns his back to leave. This is also the sign of respect shown to the chief by the women.

Another respect shown to the chief is when you are accompanying him. In the olden days, a commoner could not walk side by side with the chief. The commoner would show his/her respect by trailing behind the chief and also keeping a distance away from him. It is unrespectable to walk and talk with a chief side by side as we are doing it today. This is not respect. Keeping your distance is the sign of your respect.

- I heard that there are also some respect to be shown while you are inside a village. Could you tell me more about this?

If you are inside a village, you would show your respect by not putting anything, especially towel on your neck. You are not allowed to wear hats inside a village. The girls are not allowed to dress carelessly while in the village. These are all part of respect. The dressing type which is known as KANAIWALA (i.e when the top of the breast and chest is showing) is really forbidden in the early days. This is an unrespectable way of dressing in the village. This shows that you are not respecting the village and the people in the village.

Your respect is shown easily by the way you act inside a village. If you act inside a village the way expected, that shows respect. If you do not observe these simple rules, the people would know that you have no respect and they know that you have little respect or not respect at all. Your background is thoroughly guessed by the people criticising your unrespectable behaviour.

- Thank you. I heard that it is unrespectable to shout in the village.

Yes, that is true. People who shout aimlessly in the village shows that they have no respect. People who have respect will not shout or be a nuisance in a village.

If you do such a thing, you would have someone at the spot correcting you. You will end up in a shame atmosphere. You are not respecting your chief by shouting inside a village.

- Thank you. If you want to tell me more about anything about respect you are free to do so.....

Often we do not have much concern for the unrespectable people, because they bring shame to us. If he is wet outside, some people

