

Fiyongori Horofati

Horofati ma iteri teberihara
worobeiri panangirim.

The Story of Horofati

Horofati is the name of the cross brace
that is part of the framework under the
thatch on a roof.



Tobi Island 1972: Santos's New Roof [Photo: Peter W. Black]

**Mere huhau teberiha euru feiteng ifiri
sehe panangi ewee X.**

**There is one on each side; it is made of two poles
forming an X.**

Ehapouh panangikae ba ebe pou.

They help to hold the whole roof together.



Tobi Island 1972: Santos's New Roof [Photo: Peter W. Black]

Horofati ma iteri maree.



Horofati is also the name of a man.

Ifiri me efas Horofati nga matamar esoh ba ebera isobures.



When Horofati was born, his father announced that he was leaving on a long journey.

Ehangar ma hir ba ebe henee ma raur ren
tahahuhep etawai [ren] tahahumat.



Efah mere uruterihari nga Horofati esa mour
tarapari moar.

He told his wife be sure to only give our son his
food in the bottom of the coconut shell, not the top
half with the eye holes in it.



She did this every day and Horofati grew bigger and
stronger.



Sahari nga ma sin emaruhehi esa henee ma raur ren tahahumat.



[Photos: Barbara W. Black 2015]

Ifiri menachah nga ma raur esa heken me tamar ma nitawarae.

[Drawings by children of Tobi 2014]

One day she forgot and gave him his food in the top half of the coconut shell.

Suddenly the boy could see his father, far far away.



Nga Horofati sa hangar ma sin, “irou bira iyohar papai meihara.”

Horofati esachuh nga ehas yar uwasei hosorfeie.

Then Horofati told his mother, “I will go to my father now.”

Horofati started off carrying with him a knife made from the barb of the sting ray.



Ifiri ma Horofati efefeter wor yourung esa heken samara toh esuwehita yawar.

When Horofati was walking on the reef, he looked down and saw an open clam.



Tobi Island, Northwest Reef, 1972 [Photo: Peter W. Black]

Esahas meyar hosorfeie esa touhorongo ren Yawar esa ramaram, “esa sohu ba mir ba fauhum.”

He used his knife to punch a hole in Clam saying, “Clam from now on you will always have a hole in you.”



Horofati esabar feterecha saroh, saroh esawah huhamarih.

Ihara samar ra Tefitef ra eroh ngara ihara samar ra Tahuwo ra etoroh.

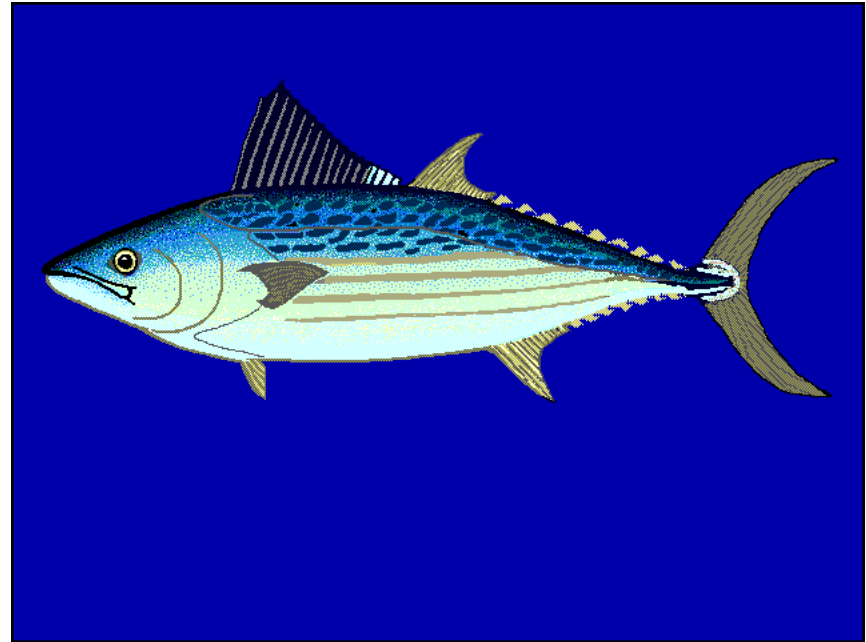


Horofati efohoh Tahuwo ba etoroh esahas pachari Tefitef sa herie tahuwo ba pachar.

Esahangar Tahuwo ba, “her ma hauhuhurah ih ma retepi.”

Horofati continued his voyage until he encountered two fish.

One was Boxfish who was the fastest fish in the ocean and the other was Tuna who could only swim very slowly.



Horofati took pity on Tuna who was so slow and gave him Boxfish’s tail.

He told Tuna, “now you will be the fastest fish in the ocean.”

Esagas we pachari Tahuwo sa herie Tefitef ba pachar
esa hangeri ba “meihara hobe chawachaw riir.”

Horofati sabar feterichah saroh saroh era birongo
wosewo faruh.

Then he gave Tuna’s tail to Boxfish and said, “From now on you
will swim very, very slowly.”

Horofati continued to travel and reached another island.



Tobi Island South End, 1972
[Photo: Peter W. Black]

Esa wehah pahur moar hahasusu fare.

There he saw some old men making a canoe house.



Tobi Island: Moving Santos's Roof [Photo: Peter W. Black]

Esa mototuh sa meehih.

He sat with them and watched.

Ifiri ma mousuu hesa fatat nga ferewe esa chapachapatiho.

When the roof was almost finished and the men began to attach the thatch, the top of the canoe house shifted and the whole thing collapsed.



Tobi Island, 1972: Isauro thatching Patricio's house [Photo: Peter W. Black]

E hasabar beisaroh yosokawe ma teberihakawe hasabar hasuutafarie.

They untied all the thatch and started over by reassembling the stringers and the rafters.

Marakawe hasahahateh ba Hebei fatat, nga wor ferewe esabar chapachapatiho.

Once again the men climbed up to start work on the thatch, but the whole thing fell apart again.



Tobi Island 1972: Thatching Patricio's house [Photo: Peter W. Black]

Ifirimena ma Horofati sa hangerih ba, “Houbito ba hoube puhuyera fariworuworu ba sibehasita ma yai teberiha.”

Now Horofati said to them, “Come with me to the forest and I will get my poles.”



Tobi Island cross-island path 1972 [Photo: Peter W. Black]

Urteh hasa puhuhoroh ba hebei hasito fayu teberiha.

Everyone went to help him find four good poles.

Ifiri ma hasa mour hasito teberihawe nga Horofati sa hanangarih ma hebe fauhungar worobeiri sehe ma sehe panangi.

When they came back Horofati showed the people how to make those poles into cross braces one for each side of the roof.

Meihara maesachuh ba hebehangangi fereye.

This time they were able to finish the roof.

Eira ma yari Horofati worobei ehapouh fereye sara waterengir!

Since then Horofati braces have made thatch roofs very strong!



Tobi Island 1972: Santos's New Roof [Photo: Peter W. Black]

In February 2010 in Koror Isauro Andrew told this story to Peter and Barbara Black in English and then in Tobian. Isauro then recorded the story in Tobian. The illustrations in this version are primarily photographs made by Peter W. Black on Tobi Island 1972.