

## A LITTLE INGENUITY

Omatie and Kisson were married for almost ten years. Things were fine until Kisson started liming with the fellas on the junction. Every night he would come home totally drunk and would never fail to find an excuse to beat her and sometimes even chase her out of the house. Omatie often had to spend the night by her neighbour Phoolo. It was here that Omatie met Phoolo's cousin, Tara who told her about this *ojha* (obeahman) in Tola Village. Tara said this obeahman could fix up something so that Kisson would stop drinking and change his ways. Tara also volunteered to take Omatie to the obeahman.

One bright Friday morning when Kisson left for work Omatie took a taxi and went to Tara's house. From there they went to the obeahman. Omatie related her plight to the obeahman. From her manner of speaking the obeahman realised that Omatie was a hot-mouth woman.

The obeahman said, "I goin to help you, but you going to have to bring one white fowl, one bottle of puncheon rum and forty dollars" Omatie replied, "I go willingly give you what you ask for if you help me."

The obeahman then told Omatie, "Come next week Friday with the ingredients and also bring some dirt from the four corners around the house."

The next Friday when Kisson left for work Omatie hurriedly got everything and went to the obeahman.

The obeahman took the fowl, the rum, the money and the dirt and told her to wait. He went inside and after a few minutes he came out and told her, "When you go home listen carefully take the dirt and bury it behind the house, you have to follow my instructions to the letter, you hear."

*ojha - obeahman*



THE OBEAHMAN TOOK THE FOWL AND THE RUM.

The next evening when he came from work he brought flowers for Omatie. She believed that the spell was really working. Daily Kissoon changed his habits and everything was going well once again.

Omatie returned to the obeahman and thanked him for his services. He said that he was here to help. She offered him another twenty dollars, but he declined.

“Don’t worry *beti* everything go be alright.” As she left, the obeahman laughed and said, “It takes two people to make a quarrel.”

*beti - daughter*

Recorded with:  
Denesh Sathoo, born 1905  
at Cunupia.